

Journal 10/22/18

What is something you HAVE TO research to understand more before making a hypothesis?

Explain why it is essential

Unit 2: Research Methods

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Writing a Literature Review

Abstract

Introduction/Purpose

• **Literature Review**

Hypothesis

Methodology

Analysis

Conclusion

Literature Review

- A literature review is a critical analysis of published sources, or literature, on a particular topic.
- It is an assessment of the literature and provides a summary, classification, comparison and evaluation.
- The literature review is generally formatted into sections focusing on relevant topics.
- It is not a list like an annotated bibliography in which a summary of each source is listed one by one.

Why Write a Literature Review

The purpose is to demonstrate your understanding of the past published research (literature) on a particular topic.

Show your understanding by analyzing and then synthesizing the information to:

- Determine what has already been written on a topic
- Provide an overview of key concepts
- Define key vocabulary/jargon
- Identify major relationships or patterns
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Identify any gaps in the research
- Identify any conflicting evidence
- Provide a solid background to a research paper's investigation

How to Write a Literature Review

Make a list

- Before researching or writing, make a list of everything you think you know about the topic and what you think you need to find out
- Work out what you need to address in the literature review.
- What are you searching the literature to discover?

Verify or debunk your current assumptions

- Fact check your assumptions
- Everything should be backed up with verifiable evidence

How to Write a Literature Review

Do an extensive search of the literature

- Find out what has been written on the topic

Select appropriate source material

- Use a variety of academic or scholarly sources that are relevant, current and authoritative.
- An extensive review of relevant material will include — books, peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, government documents, and conference proceedings.

How to Write a Literature Review

How many resources?

- The number of sources that you will be required to review will depend on what the literature review is for and how advanced you are in your studies.
- For this project you will need 10 resources

Note the bibliographical details of your sources

- Keep a note of the publication title, date, authors' names, page numbers and publishers.
- These details will save you time later.

How to Write a Literature Review

Read the literature and take notes

- Start by reading the abstract, if relevant continue with the article
- Critically read each source, look for the arguments presented rather than for facts (your assumptions may be wrong).
- Take notes as you read and start to organize your review around themes and ideas.
- Consider using a table, matrix or concept map to identify how the different sources relate to each other.

How to Write a Literature Review

Analyze the literature you have found

- In order for your writing to reflect strong critical analysis, you need to evaluate the sources.
 - What are the key terms and concepts?
 - How relevant is this article to my specific topic?
 - What are the major relationships, trends and patterns?
 - How has the author structured the arguments?
 - How authoritative and credible is this source?
 - What are the differences and similarities between the sources?
 - Are there any gaps in the literature that require further study?

How to Write a Literature Review

Write the review

- Start by writing your thesis statement. This is an important introductory sentence that will tell your reader what the topic is and the overall perspective or argument you will be presenting.
- Like essays, a literature review must have an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

Structure of a Literature Review

Introduction

- Your introduction should give an outline of
 - why you are writing a review, and why the topic is important
 - the scope of the review — what aspects of the topic will be discussed
 - the criteria used for your literature selection
(e.g.. type of sources used, date range)
 - the organizational pattern of the review.

Structure of a Literature Review

Body

Each section should deal with a different theme that is relevant to your topic.

- You will need to synthesize several of your reviewed readings into each section, so that there is a clear connection between the various sources.
- You will need to critically analyze each source for how they contribute to the themes you are researching.
- Title each section

Structure of a Literature Review

Body

The body could include paragraphs on:

- historical background
- methodologies
- previous studies on the topic
- mainstream versus alternative viewpoints
- principal questions being asked
- general conclusions that are being drawn

Structure of a Literature Review

Conclusion

- Your conclusion should give a summary of:
 - the main agreements and disagreements in the literature
 - any gaps or areas for further research
 - your overall perspective on the topic.

Assignment: In your notebook

Literature Review Prep

- Make a list of everything you think you know about your topic that will need to be verified
- Make a list of everything that you need to research further
- Once you have at least 10 items total, compare with your team

Part 3: Literature Review

- 15 points
- 1250 word minimum (not counting the reference page)
- 10 credible sources minimum
- 12pt font, double spaced
- Includes introduction, body with labeled sections, and conclusion
- All sources must be cited within the text using APA formatting
- Reference page must be included