



# Research Writing and Literature Review

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## Body of a Research Paper

Abstract

Introduction

Literature Review

Methodology

Findings

Results

Conclusions

## Literature Review

What is it?

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Why is it important and necessary?

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What are the different types of Literature Review?

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Characteristics of a good literature review – the broad parameters.

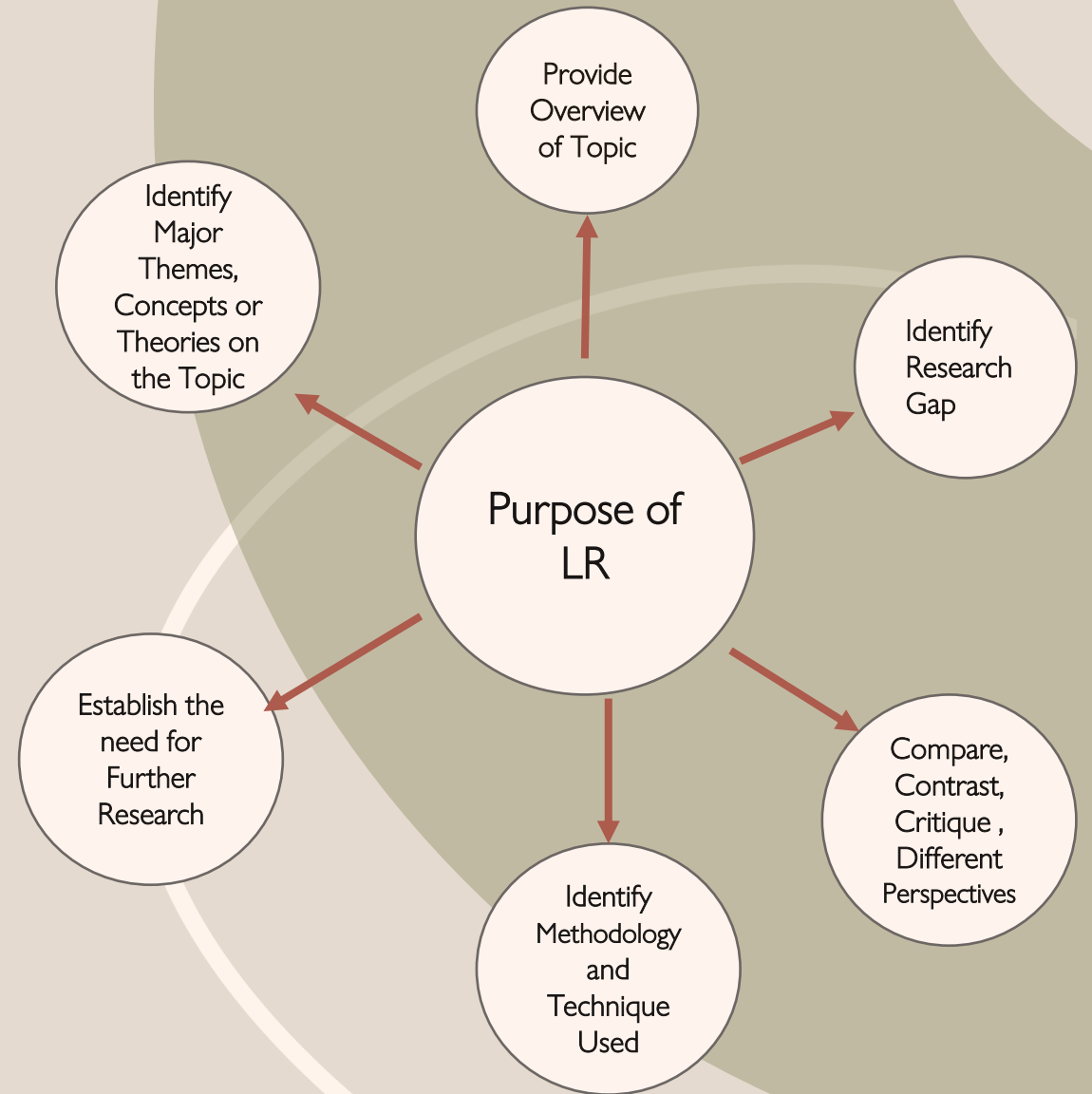
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How to do it and what should be its length?

# What is a Literature Review?

- All knowledge is a cumulative endeavour
- To locate your own research within the context of existing literature is the purpose of literature review
- Research essentially develops a new argument in which literature review puts the focus on the question that seeks an answer
- In order to come to a research problem, a review of literature related to the area of research is necessary
- A good literature review highlights the difference between **what we know** and **what we want to know**.

# Importance of LR in Research



# Types of Literature Review

- ❑ Theoretical or Conceptual Review: Focuses on key concepts and theories which are relevant to the study
- ❑ Narrative Review: Summarizes/ synthesizes what has been written on a particular topic/ author
- ❑ Systematic Review: Structured and unbiased approach; rigorous examination of literature on a topic
- ❑ Meta Analysis: Combines data from various independent studies; uses statistical method to analyse data to draw general conclusions
- ❑ Scoping Review: Examines the extent, range and nature of research in a particular area
- ❑ Critical Review: Evaluates strengths and weaknesses of existing research to highlight limitations
- ❑ Integrative Review: Synthesises qualitative and quantitative evidence for a comprehensive understanding

# Steps to Write a Good Literature Review

- 1. Define Research Scope** – (a) Write as you read. (b) Provide a clear statement of the topical area. © Generate a list of references after conducting a survey of available material.
- 2. Be Comprehensive** – (a) Cover a broad range of materials. (b) Keep updating your list of references. © Go through the works cited lists of those sources which you feel are important, for additional resources. (d) Include both types of materials, those that agree and disagree with your point of view.
- 3. Be Thorough** – Your Literature Review should demonstrate that you have examined the breadth of knowledge in your field of enquiry.
- 4. Be Relevant** – (a) Revise your research scope. (b) Make your research question more specific. © Maximise the relevance, originality and impact of your research.

# Steps to Write a Good Literature Review (Cont.)

**5. Be Critical** – (a) Compare and contrast different views. (b) Synthesize the sources depending on the coverage, methodology and authority. (c) Categorize depending on their relationship with other works as conforming or differing with an eye to defining the research question. (d) Limit the bias- be objective.

**6. Categorize the Resources** – On the basis of (a) Chronology (b) Theme (c) Methodology (d) Theoretical Approach

**7. Summarize** – Strengths and weaknesses of the study

**8. Choose Your Citation Style** – MLA 9<sup>th</sup> Ed. For studies in literature; APA 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. For studies in social sciences and Chicago Manual for the sciences.

**9. List Keywords**

# Writing a Literature Review

The Literature Review is divided into 3 parts

- 1. Introduction** – (a) Background Information  
10% (b) Central theme/ organization pattern  
© State objective
- 2. Body of the Review** – (a) Discussion of sources  
80-85% (b) Categorize and collate  
© Critically evaluate
- 3. Conclusion** – (a) Pin point the research gap  
5-10% (b) In which direction might the study/ discussion proceed



# Common Pitfalls

- Failure to connect with the conversations
- Lack of clarity – eg. Read too much and don't know what you want to say
- Presumption – (1) taking a dismissive approach to prior research  
(2) thinking no one thought of it before
- Confounding ideas – read more

# How does a Literature Review Help

- Framing the Research Question
- Framing the Aims and Objectives
- Framing the Hypothesis
- Framing the Scope and Limitations
- Framing the relevance of the research
- Projecting the scope for future research

# Resources and Online Platforms

1. Camarinha- Matos, Luis M., 'Scientific Research Methodologies and Techniques'. [cam@uninova.pt](mailto:cam@uninova.pt)
2. Deshpande, H. V., 'Research in Literature and Language: Philosophy, Areas and Methodology', Notion Press, 2018
3. Griffin, Gabriele. 'Research Methods for English Studies' (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Edinburgh University Press, 2013
4. Kothari, C. R. and Gaurav Garg. 'Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques' (5<sup>th</sup> edition), New Age India International Publishers, 2023
5. Sinha, M. P., 'Research Methodology in English', Atlantic Publishers, 2004
6. Google Scholar
7. JSTOR.org
8. Semantic Scholar
9. Inlibnet
10. Shodhganga
11. National Digital Library (NDL)
12. Worldcat (Catalogue of books)



thank you

DIG DEEP FOR GOLD

