LITERATURE REVIEW

Purpose

A literature review places each theory, approach, intervention and study in the context of how it contributes to what is known, or not well understood or known about a subject

A literature review identifies new ways of interpreting previous research

A literature review points the way forward for further research

Features

A literature review requires that you have read widely, and have critically evaluated each relevant theory, approach, intervention and study, in consideration of other theories, etc.

For literature reviews, it is better to use primary sources (original) of information

There are different approaches to literature reviews depending on your purpose, and it is advisable that you consult your lecturer or subject outline before you proceed.

How many studies, etc. are included in the literature review depends on your purpose, and, if part of a coursework assignment, lecturer's requirements and time allocated

Structure

Introduction	The Body (is a synthesis of your findings on the included studies, which allows you to make comparisons (explain the similarities and differences). This then tells us about a topic, and In doing so, identify our knowledge gaps)				Conclusion
Introduce the topic 1. What is the research topic about? 2. How have you narrowed this area to a particular topic? **Establish a context** Why is your topic important?	**Theoretical Base** What are the theories? Report different theoretical approaches: 1. Is there a clearly stated research question? 2. Are there hypotheses? and, are they clearly stated? 3. Are the relationships between the main characteristics or values explicit and reasonable? 4. Are the hypotheses testable and the results interpretable? 5.Can you describe the differing research in a new and insightful set of categories?	Research What research has been done? **How does this research validate (support) or conflict with the theoretical base? This step is very important.** 1. Where does the research fall within the broader theoretical base? 2. What type of research has been conducted? (surveys, interviews, etc) 3. Is the research qualitative or quantitative? 4. Are there proper controls for the characteristics or values (variables) tested? 5. Could the design be improved? How? 6. Are the reliability and validity measures discussed? Is the choice of measure appropriate? 7. Is the population appropriate for the research question being studied? Is the sample specified and appropriate? Can the results be reasonably generalised on the basis of this sample?	Results & Discussion (Validation &Justification Does the research support or conflict with the theoretical base? 1. Is the data appropriate for the study? 2. Are the statistical techniques appropriate and adequately described? 3. Are the control variables adequately handled in the data analysis? Are their other control variables that were not considered but should have? 4. Are the conclusions of the study consistent with the results of the statistical analyses? 5. Are alternative conclusions that are consistent with the differing kinds of research discussed and accounted for?	**Limitations & Implications** 1. Are the theoretical and practical implications of the results adequately discussed? 2. Are the limitations of the study noted?	'Step away' from all the ideas you have reported. 1. What is your overall assessment of the adequacy of the study for exploring the research problem? 2. What can you say about the advancement of the theory and research in your chosen topic area? 3. Can you see any gaps or areas that need to be explored further?

Academic Language

Academic words for reporting and connecting ideas

To introduce an additional idea

In addition, another reason/ aspect/example, furthermore, moreover, besides, also

To introduce a similarity

There is consensus/agreement, the writers/authors/researchers agree, commonalities include

To introduce an opposite idea or contrast

On the other hand, in contrast, in spite of, Although, still, nonetheless, instead, compare this with, alternatively, otherwise, on the contrary, rather

To give an example

For example, for instance, an example of this is, a further instance of this is,

To list ideas in order of time

First, first of all, first and foremost, second, more important, most important, more significantly, above all, most of all, concurrently, an additional

To introduce an explanation or make a stronger statement

In fact, indeed

To introduce a result

Accordingly, as a result, as a consequence, consequently, for these reasons, hence, therefore, thus

To point to evidence

It can be seen that, the evidence is that, in support of this

To make a tentative statement

Studies suggest that, perhaps, it would seem that, it tends to be the case that, studies indicate

Hedging Expressions

It should be the case that..... Viewed in this way......

It might be suggested that.... There is every hope that...

It may be possible to obtain.... It is important to develop....

It is useful to study........... It is not known whether

One cannot exclude from.......   It is/it is not difficult to conclude from...

Discipline Examples

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https://www.jcu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/123169/jcuprd1_073108.pdf

Psychology

http://writershelp.bedfordstmartins.com/ebooks/helphandbook/pdfs/Hacker-Charat-APA-Psych.pdf

Useful Links

Writing a Literature Review

https://www.jcu.edu.au/library/learn/online-information-skills-training/writing-a-literature-review2

Editing

http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/c.php?g=162354&p=1064659

Manchester Phrase Bank

http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/

Education: Literature Reviews

http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/c.php?g=162332&p=1064592

Researching http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/c.php?g=162349&p=1064636

Endnote http://libguides.jcu.edu.au/endnote

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Redman, P. (2006). Good essay writing (3rd ed.) London, England: Open University Press.

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