## 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>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)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduce the Topic</strong></td>
<td><strong>Theoretical Base</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. What is the research topic about?</td>
<td>What are the theories?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How have you narrowed this area to a particular topic?</td>
<td>Report different theoretical approaches:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Establish a Context</strong></td>
<td>1. Is there a clearly stated research question?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why is your topic important?</td>
<td>2. Are there hypotheses? and, are they clearly stated?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Are the relationships between the main characteristics or values explicit and reasonable?</td>
<td>3. Is the research qualitative or quantitative?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Are the hypotheses testable and the results interpretable?</td>
<td>4. Are the relationships between the main characteristics or values explicit and reasonable?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Can you describe the differing research in a new and insightful set of categories?</td>
<td>6. Are the reliability and validity measures discussed? Is the choice of measure appropriate?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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/is it not difficult to conclude from...

References

Discipline Examples
IA2013
https://www.jcu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/123169/jcuprd1_073108.pdf

Psychology

Useful Links
Writing a Literature Review
https://www.jcu.edu.au/library/learn/online-information-skills-training/writing-a-literature-review2

Editing

Manchester Phrase Bank
http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/

Education: Literature Reviews


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