Literature Review

Easy Steps Toward Success

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9/12/2016
Literature Review: Helps You to...

- Understand the research topic
- Develop your analysis
- Identify key problems, gaps, concepts, different opinions
- Connect relationships between studies
TELL A STORY

A good “literature review” provides a reader with a clear story on that specific topic by delivering the background of the scholarly published evidence.
**Focused Topic: Tip #2**

**Test Hypothesis**

- Once you have a research topic, a good practice is to **test your hypothesis** and conduct a few preliminary searches.

- You will emerge with a better understanding of the issues surrounding the topic.

**WHY TEST?**

Search: seminal or key works identified in the field of study.
Literature Review: Databases

- **Medical**
  - PubMed
  - MEDLINE
  - ClinicalKey

- **Multi-discipline**
  - Scopus
  - Web of Science
  - Google Scholar

- **Subject Specific**
  - SPORTDiscus
  - PsycINFO
  - ERIC
Search Like an Expert: Good Place to Start

- Citation databases include references of articles that have cited that document.
- Very powerful research tool to help locate the most highly cited as well as seminal articles on your topic.

✔ NEW: find more recent articles
✔ OLD: trace back to see how/when a theory or intervention was first implemented.
Literature Review: NOTES

When taking notes...

- **DON’T:** Create a verbatim transcript of what you read to **avoid plagiarism**.

- **DO:** **Critically interpret** and highlight the elements that link to your research topic.
Literature Review: *Interpret*

When analyzing articles:

- **DON'T:** List a *summary* of each article. Remember – this is NOT an annotated bibliography.

- **DO:** Provide your own *interpretation* of the major concepts and draw your conclusions based on your analysis.
Literature Review: Patterns & Organization

- **DON’T:** Just read the abstract. You will need to review the full-text to extract information.

- **DO:** Skim the article and organize by patterns, relationships of concepts
  - Statistics/Epidemiology
  - Definitions of concepts
  - Methodology
  - Results/Conclusions
  - Quotes
RESEARCH QUESTION: EXAMPLE

- What are the health concerns of diabetic adolescents developing eating disorders?

Literature Review: Successful Search Strategy

Boolean Operators:

Diabetes OR Type 1 Diabetes OR Type 2 Diabetes
AND
Eating disorder OR anorexia OR bulimia
AND
Youth OR Adolescent OR Teenager
Literature Review: Focused Topic

RESEARCH QUESTION: EXAMPLE

What are the interventions for Native American’s with poor eating habits?

Greb, P. (2014.) Health choices such as low-fat milk and alternatives, fruits, and vegetables should be emphasized for pregnant women. [Online image]. Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prenatal_nutrition#/media/File:Milch-Jogurt-Fr%C3%BChte.jpg
Literature Review: Successful Search Strategy

Boolean Operators:

Native American OR American Indian OR First Nations
AND
nutrition OR diet OR eating habits
AND
Intervention OR program evaluation OR Teenager
**Literature Review: Synthesize Info**

- **Synthesis Matrix Form:**
  - Capture themes/concepts that are repeated.
  - Look for gaps, consensus or disagreements.

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Literature Review: 3 Top Goals

Synthesize Information

- **GOAL:** Connect the dots and search for the relationships
- **GOAL:** Identify major themes and sub-themes
- **GOAL:** Highlight any major disagreements or gaps

Need Help?

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