

# LITERATURE REVIEW

CC11: Field Work and Research Methodology  
Unit -I: Research Methodology

Study Material Prepared by:

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# WHAT IS LITERATURE REVIEW?

- A **literature review** is a text of a [scholarly paper](#), which includes the current knowledge including substantive findings, as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Literature reviews are [secondary sources](#), and do not report new or original experimental work. Most often associated with academic-oriented literature, such reviews are found in [academic journals](#), and are not to be confused with [book reviews](#) that may also appear in the same publication. Literature reviews are a basis for research in nearly every academic field.

# General Guidelines to Writing a Literature Review

- Introduce the literature review by pointing out the major research topic that will be discussed
- Identify the broad problem area but don't be too global (for example, discussing the history of education when the topic is on specific instructional strategy)
- Discuss the general importance of your topic for those in your field



# General Guidelines to Writing a Literature Review

- Don't attempt to cover everything written on your topic
- You will need to pick out the research most relevant to the topic you are studying
- You will use the studies in your literature review as “evidence” that your research question is an important one

# General Guidelines to Writing a Literature Review

- It is important to cover research relevant to all the variables being studied.
- Research that explains the relationship between these variables is a top priority.
- You will need to plan how you will structure your literature review and write from this plan.

# Organizing Your Literature Review

- Topical Order—organize by main topics or issues; emphasize the relationship of the issues to the main “problem”
- Chronological Order—organize the literature by the dates the research was published
- Problem-Cause-Solution Order—Organize the review so that it moves from the problem to the solution



# Organizing Your Literature Review

- General-to-Specific Order—(Also called the funnel approach) Examine broad-based research first and then focus on specific studies that relate to the topic
- Specific-to-General Order—Try to make discuss specific research studies so conclusions can be drawn

# Literature Review

- After reviewing the literature, summarize what has been done, what has not been done, and what needs to be done
- Remember you are arguing your point of why your study is important!
- Then pose a formal research question or state a hypothesis—be sure this is clearly linked to your literature review



# Literature Review

- All sources cited in the literature review should be listed in the references
- To sum, a literature review should include introduction, summary and critique of journal articles, justifications for your research project and the hypothesis for your research project

# Common Errors Made in Lit Reviews

- Review isn't logically organized
- Review isn't focused on most important facets of the study
- Review doesn't relate literature to the study
- Too few references or outdated references cited
- Review isn't written in author's own words
- Review reads like a series of disjointed summaries
- Review doesn't argue a point
- Recent references are omitted

# Writing the Literature Review

Plagiarism includes (Galvan, pg. 89):

1. Using another writer's words without proper citation
2. Using another writer's ideas without proper citation
3. Citing a source but reproducing the exact word without quotation marks
4. Borrowing the structure of another author's phrases/sentences without giving the source
5. Borrowing all or part of another student's paper
6. Using paper-writing service or having a friend write the paper



# Writing the Literature Review..

- **Step 1: Review APA guidelines**
- **Step 2: Decide on a topic**
- **Step 3: Identify the literature that you will review:**
- **Step 4: Analyze the literature**
- **Step 5: Summarize the literature in table or concept map format**
- **Step 6: Writing the review**

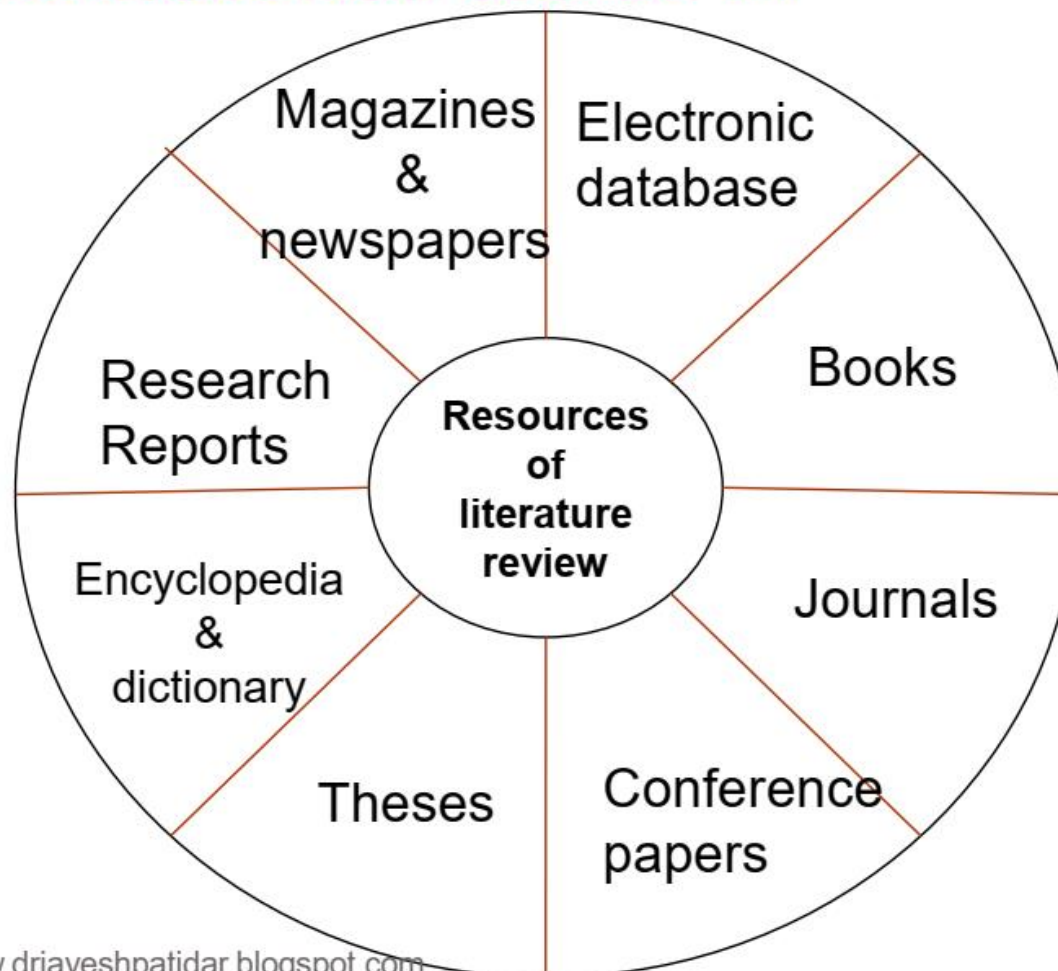
# SOURCES OF LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature can be reviewed from two sources:

1. Primary sources
2. Secondary sources



## The main sources from where literature can be searched are as ...



# PURPOSE OF LITERATURE REVIEW

- Describe the relationship of each study to other research studies under considerations.
  - ❑ Identify new ways to interpret and shed light on any gaps in previous research.
  - ❑ Identify areas of prior scholarship to prevent duplication of effort.
  - ❑ Point a way forward for further research.
  - ❑ See what has and has not been investigated.
  - ❑ Identify potential relationships between concepts and to identify researchable hypothesis.
  - ❑ Learn how others have defined and measured key concepts.
  - ❑ Identify data sources that other researchers have used.
  - ❑ Develop how a research project is related to the work of others.

# IMPORTANCE AND FUNCTION OF LITERATURE REVIEW

- Selection of topic
- Bases of knowledge
- Fixed up hypothesis
- Indicate theoretical bases
- Sampling and assumption
- Compression in between different results
- Correction of error
- Reestablishment of theory and knowledge
- Preparation of a proper budget
- Restrict the misuse of time
- Divergent thinking of researcher.