

Editorial

Literature reviews and its functions

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EDITORIAL NOTE

A literature review, in essence, identifies, analyses, and synthesises significant literature in a certain field of study. It elucidates how knowledge has progressed in the field, highlighting what has already been done, what is widely recognised, what is new, and what the current state of thought is on the subject. A literature review also reveals a research gap (i.e. undiscovered or under-researched areas) and articulates how a particular research effort fills this need in research-based writings such as a Doctoral thesis. A collection of published information/materials on a specific area of inquiry or topic, such as books and journal articles of academic merit, is referred to as literature. Your literature review, on the other hand, does not need to include every paper and book written on your topic because it would be too wide. Rather, it should comprise the most important sources relating to the major arguments, trends, and gaps in your field of study. A literature review is much more than a list of important sources. In order to acquire a broad understanding of the area, reviewing entails assessing individual sources as well as synthesising various sources [1].

A literature review highlights common and emerging methods, prominent patterns and trends, areas of dispute and debates, and gaps in the relevant literature at this 'field level.' When you can see these things clearly, you'll be able to place your own study in context and contribute to on-going debates in the field. A literature review does not have to incorporate all of the sources you've read. It's critical to be judicious about the sources you address. Make sure that the sources you're looking at are closely related to your research questions and topic [2].

It's also crucial to consider the legitimacy and dependability of sources seriously. Analyzing and synthesising past research is required while writing a literature review. In a literature review, though, you'll see a synergy between analysis and synthesis when you zoom in to examine a single source in detail, then zoom out to analyse it in context. After reviewing a variety of sources, you should synthesise them by connecting, linking, and pitting them against one another to uncover recurring themes, patterns, and areas of agreement or disagreement in your study subject [3].

Literature evaluations can be found in a variety of scholarly publications with varied interests and emphases. To set the foundation for the study effort and provide a general overview of the research issue, short or miniature literature reviews can be presented in journal articles, book chapters, or coursework projects. A literature review in a graduate research thesis, on the other hand, is used to identify gaps and argue for the need for more research. A selective or thorough approach may be chosen, depending on the writer's goal and the context in which the literature review will be presented [4].

A literature review serves as a tool for providing context for your work by summarising previously published research. To categorise research into different categories and show how research in a certain area has evolved over time by providing historical context (early research findings in a given area) and describing recent advances in a given area. It functions to discover and clarify areas of disagreement and agreement among experts in the field, as well as to identify prevailing viewpoints [5].

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