

Chapter 5

Literature review

- **What is a Literature Review?**
- Literature review is *not a compilation of every work written about a topic.*
- It is *not simply a list of sources reviewed separately for their own merit.*
- A literature review is a description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic.
- Is one of the essential preliminary tasks of a researcher.

- It gives an overview of what has been said, who the key writers are, what are the prevailing theories and hypotheses, what questions are being asked, and what methodologies are appropriate and useful.
- Obviously, the amount of available literature can differ significantly depending on the topic area being studied.
- Often it is a time-consuming, and difficult process if there has been a great deal of research conducted in a particular area

Reasons for reviewing the literature

- A literature review has three functions. It helps you to:
- **1. Bring clarity and focus to your research problem**
- The literature review can play an extremely important role in shaping your research problem because the process of reviewing the literature helps you to understand the subject area better and thus helps you to conceptualize your research problem clearly and precisely.

2. Improving the Methodology

- Going through the literature acquaints you with the methodologies that have been used by others to find answers to research questions similar to the one you are investigating.
- It tells you if others have used procedures and methods similar to the one that you are proposing, which procedures and methods have worked well for them, and what problems they have faced with them and hence you can take care of those problems.

3. Broadening the researcher

knowledge in the research area

- The most important function of the literature review is to ensure you read widely around the subject area in which you intend to conduct your research study.
- It is important that you know what other researchers have found in regard to the same or similar questions, what theories have been put forward and what gaps exist in the relevant body of knowledge.

- There are four steps involved in conducting a literature review:
- Search for existing literature in your area of study
- Review the literature selected
- Develop a theoretical framework
- Develop a conceptual framework.
- The skills required for these tasks are different. Developing theoretical and conceptual frameworks are more difficult than the other tasks.

Citation system

- Even a lot of citation systems are existed. But for our course we see the **American Psychological Association(APA) Style**, which is the dominate one through out the world.

In-Text Citations

- Citations used in the body of your publication identify the source of information.
- In-text parenthetical citations are used to give credit to the authors whose ideas or thoughts are used within the document.
- APA uses a system that includes the author's last name and the year of publication.

For example: (Smith, 2009).

If there is a direct quote or a specific part of the work is being referred to, the page numbers are also included.

For example, **(Smith, 2009, p. 23).**

Sources may include books and book chapters, journal or magazine articles, dissertations and theses, conference papers, government reports, films, websites, blogs and wikis, discussion boards, personal communications, and more

Citation cont...

Paraphrasing

- Paraphrasing is used when you take someone else's direct quote and state their idea in your own words.
- Changing a few words here and there is still considered plagiarism even if you do cite the author.
- Paraphrasing means that you expressed the author's information or ideas in your own words and have given that person credit for that information or idea. You can prevent plagiarism by closing the document and restating the idea in your own words.

Citation cont...

- Paraphrases must include the name of the author and the year of publication of the original source. Including the page number in the text citation is optional.

Quoting Directly

- When you directly quote an author, you need to put the exact words of the author in quotation marks or follow the rules for a block quotation.
- Include the exact spelling and interior punctuation of the borrowed words.

Citation cont...

Regular Quotes --Regular quotes are used when the quote is less than 40 words.

- **Mc Arthur (2007) coined the phrase “motivation to travel” (p. 71).**
- Keep the author and year of publication together.
- Use quotation marks to identify the exact words of the author. Include the page number in parentheses immediately after the direct quote. Place the period after the parentheses.

Block Quotes –Block quotes are used for quotes of more than 40 words.

- Indent the block quote five spaces or half an inch. Do not use quotation marks. Double space the quote unless your school has a rule about single spacing block quotes. Do not include any additional lines or spaces before or after the block quote. Notice that in block quotes, the period goes before the parentheses, not after.