



# **EE 100 ACADEMIC WRITING FOR ECONOMIC ISSUES**

## **Session 2: Literature Review**

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# What is Literature Review



To educate oneself in the topic area and to understand the literature before shaping an argument or justification. Then, help identify research gap



Provide background to and justification for the research undertaken (Bruce, 1994, p. 218)



Extract and synthesise the main points, issues, findings and research methods which emerge from a critical review of the readings (Nunan, 1992, p. 217)



Build a coherent argument which leads to the description of a proposed study (Rudestam and Newton, 2007, p. 63)

# Types of Literature Review



**Narrative:** (traditional type)

Critiques literature and summarises the body of a literature.

Draws conclusion about the topic and identifies gaps or inconsistencies in a body of knowledge.

What you need: sufficiently focused research question.



**Systematic:** more rigorous and well-defined approach.

Comprehensive and details the timeframe within which the literature was selected.

To find answer to more specific research questions



**Scoping:** identify the scope or coverage of a body literature on a given topic.

Scoping reviews are useful for examining emerging evidence when it is still unclear what other, more specific questions can be posed and addressed by a more precise systematic review

To explore more general research question.

# Systematic Literature Review

- Meta-synthesis: based on non-statistical techniques. It integrates, evaluates and interprets findings on multiple qualitative research studies (inductive approach)
- Meta-analysis: take findings from several studies on the same subject and analyse these using standardized statistical procedures. It will detect patterns and relationships and then draw conclusion (deductive approach)

# Types of Literature Review



Argumentative: examine literature selectively in order to support or refute an argument, deeply imbedded assumption, or philosophical problem already established in the literature

A major shortcoming associated with this type is potential bias.



Integrative: reviews critiques, and synthesises secondary data about research topic in an integrated way, eg: new frameworks and perspectives on the topic are generated.

If your research does not involve data collection/ analysis, this ILR will be your only option.



Theoretical: focuses on a pool of theory that has accumulated in regard to an issue, concept, theory.

Plays an instrumental role in establishing what theories already exist, the relationships between them, to what extent degree existing theories have been investigated, and to develop new hypotheses to be tested.

To explore more general research question.

# Ideally, the literature review will answer the following questions:

- What do you know about the research area?
- What are the relationship between key ideas, dynamics and variables?
- What are the current theories, trends, and themes?
- What are the inconsistencies, implications and shortcomings of previous studies?
- What needs further investigation because evidence is lacking, inconclusive, contradictory, and/or limited?
- What methodological approaches have been taken and why? Are the methodological approaches justified?
- Why does this area of research need to be studied further?
- What contribution will your work make to the current debates?

Source: Danson, M. and N. Arshad. Chapter 3 The Literature Review

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