

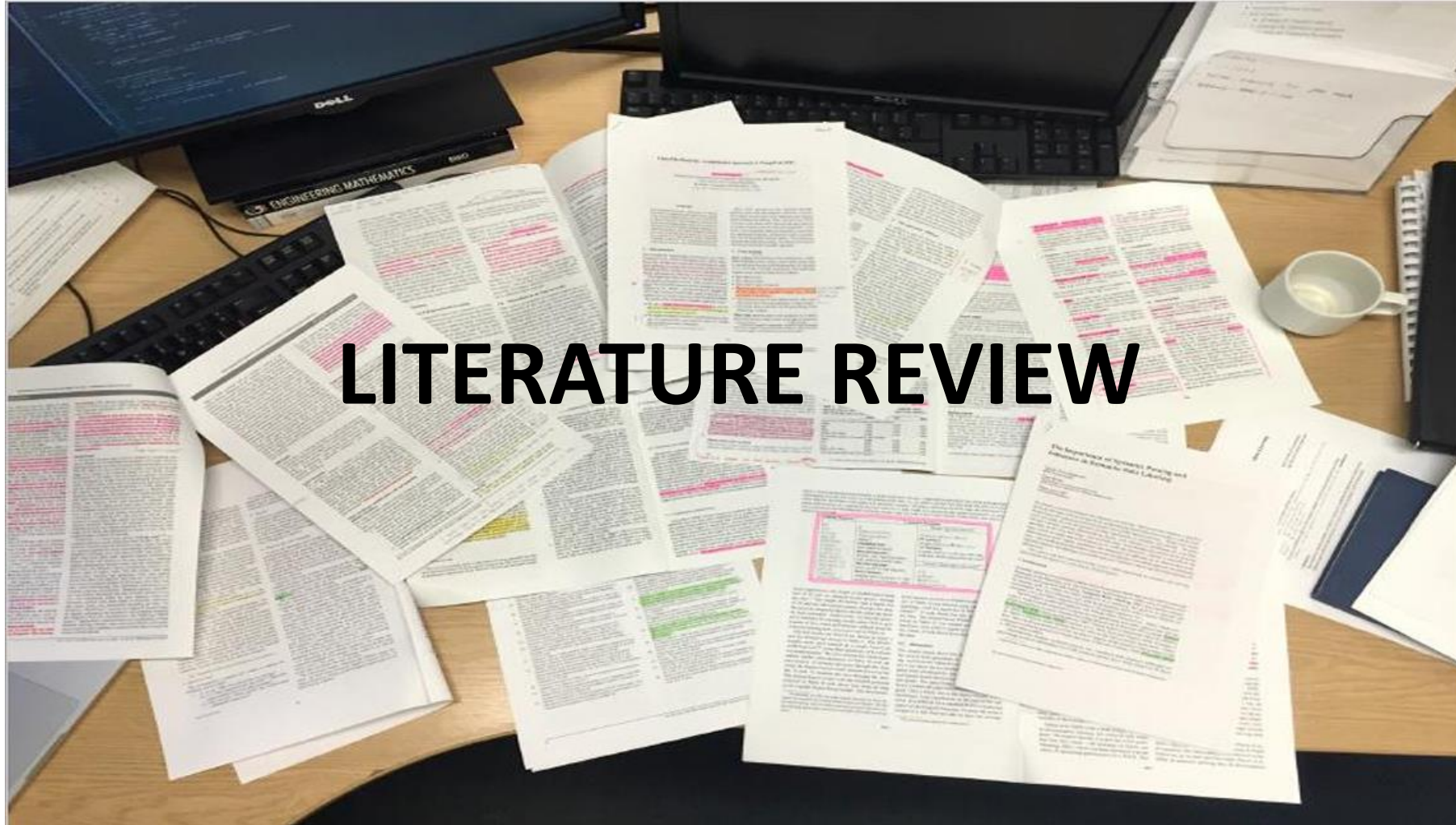
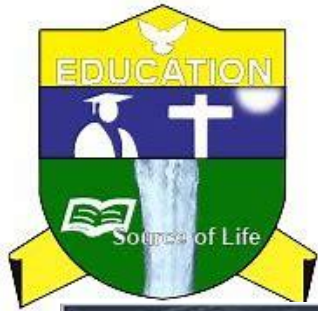


Research Methods

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LITERATURE REVIEW



What is Literature Review?

- ❑ A **literature review (LR)** is a comprehensive synthesis and evaluation of existing research and scholarly articles on a specific topic or study area.
- ❑ A **literature review** summarizes what other researchers have already written about a topic to understand what is already known and still missing.



Importance of LR

Why is a LR Important?

- To learn from others:** It helps you understand what has been studied and discovered. It provides a theoretical background to your study.
- To find gaps:** You can see what hasn't been researched yet.
- To guide your work:** It shows how your research fits into the bigger picture. It enables you to show how your findings have contributed to the existing body of knowledge in your profession. It helps you to integrate your research findings into the existing body of knowledge.



Functions of LR

- Function of Literature Review
 - Bring clarity and focus to your research problem
 - Improve your research methodology
 - Broaden your knowledge base in your research area
 - Enable you to contextualize your findings



Functions of LR

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.



Functions of LR

Improve your research methodology

A literature review helps identify if others have used similar procedures and methods, highlights which approaches have worked well and reveals potential problems they faced.

Understanding these issues enables you to select a methodology that provides valid answers to your research question, boosting your confidence in your chosen approach and preparing you to justify its use.



Functions of LR

Broaden your knowledge base in your research area

The primary purpose of a literature review is to ensure a thorough understanding of your research area by exploring existing studies. It helps you identify previous findings, relevant theories, and knowledge gaps related to your study.



Functions of LR

Enable you to contextualize your findings

A literature review allows you to compare your findings with existing research and place them within the broader context of your field, ensuring your work builds on and contributes to existing knowledge.



Functions of LR

Functions of Literature Review

1. Bring Clarity and Focus to Your Research Problem



- What already examined
- What found out
- What gap identified
- What are suggestions for further research

- Used procedures and methods similar to the ones that you are proposing,
- Which procedures and methods have worked well for them
- What problems they have faced with them.



2. Improve your research methodology

3. Broaden your knowledge base in your research area



- Being a Masters or PhD Students, you are expected to be an expert in your area of research,
- LR will help you to fulfill this expectation
- how the findings of your study fit into the existing Body of knowledge

- Research questions is comparatively
- How do answers to your research questions be compared with what others have found?
- What contribution have you been able to make to the existing body of knowledge?
- How are your findings different from those of others?



4. Enable you to contextualize your findings.



How to review Literature

There are two main ways of reviewing the literature

1. Before identifying a specific research problem
2. After defining a specific research problem

□ Before identifying a specific research problem

When you lack a specific research problem, begin by reviewing the literature in your broader area of interest. This process will help you gradually narrow your focus to define what you want to explore.



How to review Literature

After having a specific problem

The literature review should specifically target your research problem, providing an in-depth analysis of existing studies and literature related to the topic.



Writing LR

Literature review is generally written and organized by:

1. **Background literature** about the broad research topic to introduce the readers to the field of study
2. **Discussion of recent progress** on the study topic, which can be organized thematically or chronologically
3. **Discussion of the strengths and weaknesses** of other studies that have tackled the stated problem to outline the need and novelty of the research



The Literature Review Section

- ❑ The **literature review** section follows the **Introduction**, as the second section of a research report
- ❑ The section provides a more comprehensive description of all studies that you have mentioned in the background section, plus elaboration on all studies that form evidence for the present study, and discussion of the current trends



Approaches to Writing a Literature Review

Approaches to Writing a Literature Review

1. Chronological approach

- The structure is generally used when the focus is to show how ideas or methodology have progressed over time
- Describes each work in succession starting with the earliest available information
- Typically, the sources are grouped and discussed in order of their publication date
- Example:** A literature review that focuses on **skin cancer in adolescence** could be structured chronologically by examining the **earliest methods** of diagnosis and treatment and gradually progressing to the **latest models** and treatment



Approaches to Writing a Literature Review

Approaches to Writing a Literature Review

2. Thematic approach

❑ Organize and discuss existing literature based on themes or theoretical concepts that are important to understanding the topic.

Example: An author writing a literature review on **skin cancer in adolescence** using this approach would possibly include separate sections on studies about **melanoma** and **non-melanoma skin cancer**, **tanning** as a cause of skin cancer, adolescent awareness and attitudes to skin cancer, and treatment models.



NOTE for LR

- Reviewing the literature is a continuous process.
- It begins before a research problem is finalized and continues until the report is finished.
- Literature search plays an extremely important role in helping you to formulate your research problem.
- LR is time-consuming, overwhelming, and frustrating, BUT IT IS ALSO REWARDING
- Keep track of your references. Make use of computer programs such as Endnotes, Mendeley

THANK YOU

