

5.1 conducting literature reviews

- **definition of literature reviews:** a general term for a synthesis of a body of work that is usually broad in scope, does not necessarily follow a standardized methodology, and may reflect the biases of the author(s) or research or opinions included.

literature review is an analytical summary of an existing body of research in the light of a particular research issue. In literature review, researchers describe, evaluate and clarify what is already known about a subject area.

- Approaches of organise the literature reviews:

Approach	Description
Thematic organization (dividing the literature into themes or categories)	literature is organized under different themes identified from the literature and brainstorming. It is most popular approach of organizing the literature. It allows integration theoretical and empirical (research) literature . however, care must be taken in ensuring that the themes are clearly related to the literature.
Chronological organization (presenting literature chronologically)	literature is divided into time periods. It is useful when examining the emergence of a phenomenon over time period.
Theoretical versus methodological organization (exploring theoretical and methodological literature)	Discussion of theoretical literature is followed by exploration of methodological literature that would give some indication of why particular research design might be appropriate for investigating the topic. It is useful when the body of literature is largely theoretical with little or no empirical (research) literature>

Theoretical versus empirical organization (examining theoretical literature and empirical literature in two sections	Reviewer has both theoretical and empirical Literature, and they discussed separately. The purpose of researcher is to describe rather than critically review.
---	--

The characteristics of a good and a poor literature review:

Good literature review	Poor literature review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is synthesis of available research - It is critical evaluation - It has appropriate breadth and depth - It is clarity and conciseness - It uses rigorous and consistent methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is annotated bibliography - It is confined to description - It is narrow and shallow - It is confusing and long-winded. - It is constructed in an arbitrary way

Points to be considered for literature review:

Specifically, here are some points to address when writing literature review, while reviewing literature, one needs to assess it (clearly understand and state the claim) and analyse it (evaluate its reliability ,usefulness, validity). The following points are to be considered when assessing analysing and writing a literature review:

- **Be specific:** it is always better to mention only specific features of study methodology and findings of the study, rather than in-depth analysis of each point and a long description of the study.
- **Be selective:** researcher should narrow down a lot of information into a small space for literature review. Just the most important points (i.e. those most relevant to the reviews focus) most be mentioned in each work of review.
- **Focus of current topics:** researcher needs to analyse some points, such as if it is a current article, and if not, how old it is, has claims, evidence or arguments been superseded by more recent work; if it is not current, then if it is important for historical background; etc.
- **Ensure evidence for claims:** researchers should focus on what support is given for claims made in the literature. What evidence and what type (experimental, statistical, anecdotal, etc.) of evidences are offered? Is the evidence relevant and sufficient? What arguments are given? What assumptions are made, and are they warranted?
- **Focus on sources of evidences:** researchers should ensure the reliability of the sources of the evidence or other information- if they are from author s own experiments, surveys, historical records, goverment documents. Etc. he or should check how reliable those sources are.

