

Understanding the Literature Review and its Functions

Task 1: Use your dictionary to define the following terms.

- 1- **Literature (n):**
- 2- **Review (v):**
- 3- **Review (n):**

Literature review is a comprehensive study of technical and authoritative content related to research keywords. It provides prior knowledge and details of research progress about a specific topic in a particular domain. Literature review involves recording, examining, summarizing and evaluating the existing findings and providing expert judgment of their methods and findings.

Remarks

- A good literature review should present even the contrasting views about the topic. It is important to communicate to readers that different and even opposing perspectives on the topic are being considered, and that a valid basis exists for further study.
- Literature Review is not primarily a collection of quotations from other writers. It is not some reports about the findings and perspectives of others. It must be done in a way in which your flow of thought and organization is evident. It can be done through paraphrasing ideas, comparing and contrasting perspectives expressed by different writers. Avoid plagiarism by giving credit when paraphrasing or quoting someone else's ideas or words.

Functions of the Literature Review

Understanding the topic

Reviewing previous research helps the researcher understand the key ideas, theories, and approaches related to the topic. It shows how others have studied it and what they have discovered.

Identifying the research's place

By examining what has already been done, the researcher can identify areas that have not been fully explored. This helps in finding a "gap" in the research to contribute to existing knowledge. It also ensures the research is relevant and connected to the broader field. After completing the study, comparing the results with others' findings demonstrates how they align with or differ from existing work.

Selecting effective methods

Reviewing literature provides insight into the methods and techniques used by other researchers. This enables the selection of appropriate methods for the research while avoiding potential issues.