

LITERATURE REVIEW

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INTRODUCTION

- Review of literature is one of the most important steps in the research process.
- It is an account of what is already known about a particular phenomenon.
- The main purpose of literature review is to convey to the readers about the work already done & the knowledge & ideas that have been already established on a particular topic of research.
- Literature review is a laborious task, but it is essential if the research process is to be successful.

MEANING OF LITERATURE

REVIEW

- A literature review uses as its database reports of primary or original scholarship & does not report new primary scholarship itself. The primary reports used in the literature may be verbal, but in the vast majority of cases, report are written documents. The types of scholarship may be empirical, theoretical, critical/analytic, or methodological in nature. Second a literature review seeks to describe, summarize, evaluate, clarify &/or integrate the content of primary reports.

...(H.M. Cooper, 1988)

Count...

- A literature review is an evaluative report of information found in the literature related to selected area of study. The review describes, summarizes, evaluates & clarifies this literature. It gives a theoretical base for the research & helps to determine the nature of research.

...(Queensland University, 1999)

- A literature review is a body of text that aims to review the critical points of knowledge on a particular topic of research.

...(ANM, 2000)

- A literature review is an account of what has been already established or published on a particular research topic by accredited scholars & researchers.

...(University of Toronto, 2001)

IMPORTANCE OF LITERATURE REVIEW

- ✿ Identification of a research problem & development or refinement of research questions.
- ✿ Generation of useful research questions or projects/activities for the discipline.
- ✿ Orientation to what is known & not known about an area of inquiry to ascertain what research can best contribute to knowledge.
- ✿ Determination of any gaps or inconsistencies in a body of knowledge.
- ✿ Discovery of unanswered questions about subjects, concepts or problems.
- ✿ Determination of a need to replicate a prior study in different study settings or different samples or size or different study populations.

- ✿ Identification of relevant theoretical or conceptual framework for research problems.
- ✿ Identification or development of new or refined clinical interventions to test through empirical research.
- ✿ Description of the strengths & weaknesses of design/methods of inquiry & instruments used in earlier research work.
- ✿ Development of hypothesis to be tested in a research study.
- ✿ Helps in planning the methodology of the present research study.
- ✿ It also helps in development of research instruments.
- ✿ Identification of suitable design & data collection methods for a research study.

PURPOSES OF LITERATURE REVIEW

- ✿ The purpose of a literature review is to convey to the reader previous knowledge & facts established on a topic, & their strength & weakness.
- ✿ The literature review allows the reader to be updated with the state of research in a field & any contradictions that may exist with challenges findings of other research studies.
- ✿ It helps to develop research investigative tools & to improve research methodologies.
- ✿ It also provide the knowledge about the problems faced by the previous researchers' while studying same topic.
- ✿ Besides enhancing researchers' knowledge about the topic, writing a literature review helps to:

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- ➡ Place each in the context of its contribution to the understanding of subject under review.
- ➡ Describe the relationship of each study to other research studies under consideration.
- ➡ Identify new ways to interpret & shed light on any gaps in previous research.
- ➡ Resolve conflicts amongst seemingly contradictory previous studies.
- ➡ Identify areas of prior scholarship to prevent duplication of effort.
- ➡ Point a way forward for further research.
- ➡ See what has & has not been investigated.

- ➡ Develop general explanation for observed variations in a behavior or phenomenon.
- ➡ Identify potential relationship between concepts & to identify researchable hypothesis.
- ➡ Learn how others have defined & measured key concepts.
- ➡ Identify data sources that other researchers have used.
- ➡ Develop alternative research projects.
- ➡ Discover how a research project is related to the work of others.
- ➡ Place one's original work (in case of thesis or dissertation) context of the existing literature.

SOURCES OF LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature can be reviewed from two sources:

1. Primary sources
2. Secondary sources

1. Primary Sources

- Literature review mostly relies on primary sources, i.e. research reports, which are description of studies written by researchers who conducted them.
- A primary sources is written by a person who developed the theory or conducted the research, or is the description of an investigation written by the person who conducted it.
- Most primary sources are found in published literature.
- For example, a nursing research article.

Example of a primary source: An original qualitative on patient experiences in the ICU: Hupcey, J. E. (2000). Feeling safe the psychosocial needs of ICU patients. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 32:361-367.

2. Secondary Sources

- Secondary source research documents are description of studies prepared by someone other than the original researcher.
- They are written by people other than the individuals who developed the theory or conducted the research.
- The secondary sources may be used when primary sources are not available or if researchers want external opinions on an issue or problem or

Example of a Secondary Source: A literature review on patient experiences in the ICU: Stein-Parbury, J. & Mckinley, S. (2000) patient experiences of being in an intensive care unit: a select literature review. *American Journal of critical care*, 9:20-27.

The main sources from where literature can be searched are as ...



1. Electronic Sources:

- ❑ Computer-assisted literature search has revolutionized the review of literature.
- ❑ These searches, however, for a variety of reasons may not provide the desired references.
- ❑ Electronic literature search through web may be very useful, but sometimes it can be time consuming & unpredictable because there are many website & web pages that can lead to information overload & confusion.
- ❑ www.driyaveshpatidar.blogspot.com however, currently it is one of the most

- General literature search can be conducted through search engines like Yahoo (www.yahoosearch.com), Google (www.google.com), MSN search, Lycos, WebCrawler, Alta Vista, or Excite.
- The most relevant nursing databases are as follows:
 - **CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature):** Accessible at <http://www.cinahl.com>, it citations of nursing literature published after 1988. Even full-text articles are available on CINAHL plus, a paid web page.
 - **PubMed:** PubMed can be used to search research abstracts, available at <http://pubmed.com>

- **MEDLINE (Medical Literature Analysis & Retrieved System Online):** It is another electronic source of literature review commonly used by nurses. The National Library of Medicine provides free access to MEDLINE through PubMed, available at www.pubmed.com or <http://ncbi.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>. generally, abstracts of research articles are provided free of cost; some of the full-text copies are also freely available & some others are available for a free.
- **Cochrane Database of System Reviews:** Health care-related literature can be searched from this source, available at <http://www.cochrane.org>.
- **ERIC:** The ERIC database is the largest source of education information. A free search may be carried out at <http://www.eric.ed.gov>

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- **Registry of Nursing Research:** Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing makes this database available through its Virginia Henderson International Nursing Library. Access to this database has been redesigned & made easier for users to obtain evidence & scientific findings from more than 2,200 research article & conference abstracts. The research abstracts are searched via key words, author, & title of the research study. Free access to this database may be found at

<http://www.nursinglibrary.org>

- **psycINFO:** The psycINFO database belongs to American Psychological Association, & covers literature from psychological or related disciplines. It may be searched at

<http://www.psychinfo.com>

● **Online Journals:** Following are the website addresses for journals & magazines that are available online:

- <http://www.nursefriendly.com/nursing/linksections/nursingjournal.html>
- <http://www.nsna.org>
- <http://www.healthweb.org>
- <http://www.ispub.com/ostia/index.php>
- <http://www.healthweb.org/browse.cfm?category=1727>
- <http://www.juns.nursing.arizona.edu>
- <http://www.medbioworld.com>
- <http://www.nursingworld.org.ojin>
- <http://www.eaa-knowledge.com.ojni/#>
- <http://www.nursingweek.com>

- **Other online databases:** Many other online database can be searched for free by nurses from the following websites:
 - ➔ <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov> (HIV/AIDS information)
 - ➔ <http://www.hazmap.nlm.nih.gov> (information on hazardous agents)
 - ➔ <http://www.child.nih.gov> (combined health information database)
 - ➔ <http://www.toxinet.nlm.nih.gov> (toxicology database network)
- **Cancer Lit (Cancer literature)**
- **EMBASE (exerpta Medica Database)**
- **ETOH (Alcohol & alcohol problems science database)**
- **Health STAR (Health services technology administration & research)**
- **Radix (Nursing managed care databse)**
- **CD-ROM (Compact disc-read only memory) with research**

2. Printed Sources:

- Printed sources are also used for literature review.
- Printed research summary may be located from published abstracts such as *Nursing Research Abstract*, *Psychological Abstracts*, *Dissertation Abstract International*, *Masters Abstract International*, etc.
- References of the other printed sources may be located through indexes such as *cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature*, *Nursing Studies Index*, & *Index Medicus*.
- Following are the main printed sources that can be used to review the relevant literature:

☀ **Journals:** There are several National & International journals which can be used to review the research-

Name of national nursing journals **Names of international journals**

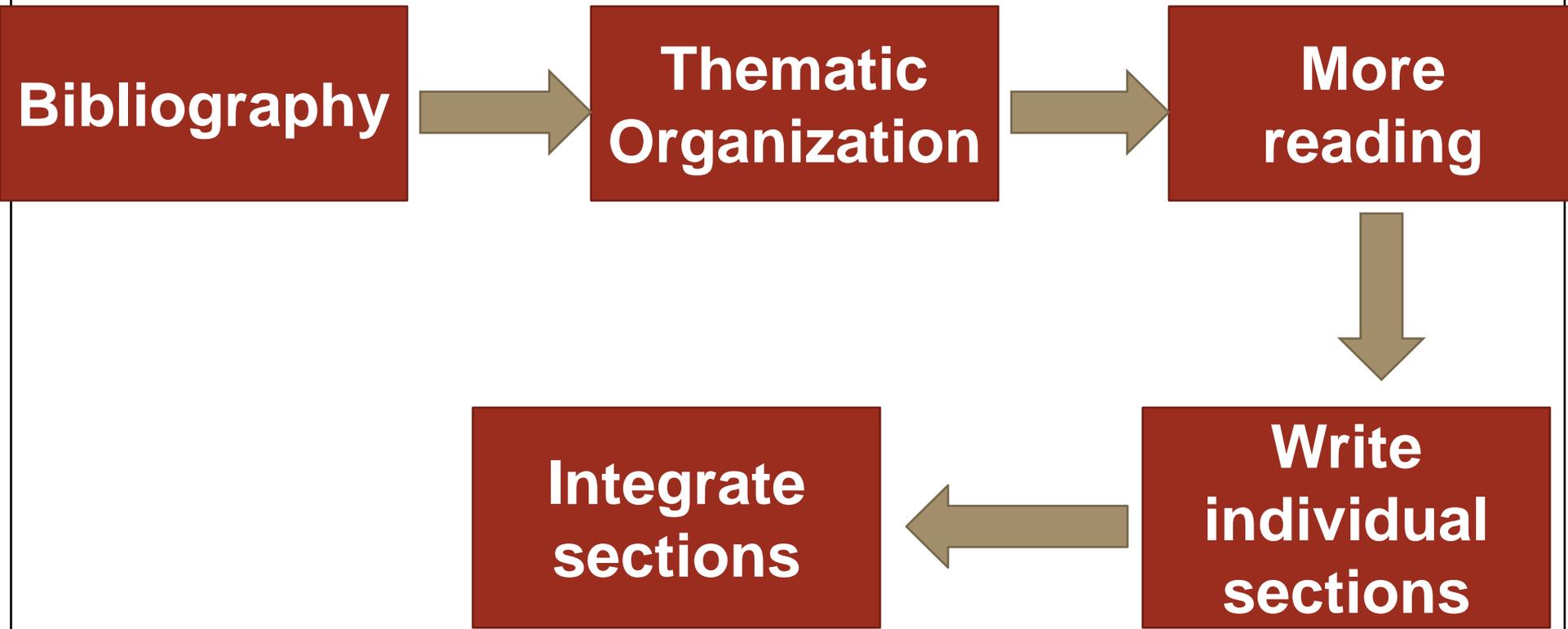
- Nursing & Midwifery Research Journal
- Indian journal of Nursing Research & Midwifery
- The nursing Journal of India
- Nightingale Nursing Times
- International Journal of Nursing Education
- Indian Journal of Nursing Studies

- Nursing Research
- Research in Nursing & Health
- Nursing Sciences Quarterly
- Western Journal of Nursing Research
- Applied Nursing Research
- Biological Research for Nursing
- Advances in Nursing Sciences
- Clinical Nursing Research
- Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing
- Journal of Qualitative Research
- American Journal of Nursing

Count...

- ✿ **Research reports**
- ✿ **Unpublished dissertations & theses**
- ✿ **Magazines & newspapers**
- ✿ **Conference papers & proceedings**
- ✿ **Encyclopedias & dictionaries**
- ✿ **Books**

STEPS OF LITERATURE REVIEWS



Stage I – Annotated Bibliography

- At this stage, researchers read articles, books & other types of literature related to the topic of research & write a brief critical synopsis of each review.
- After going through the reading list, researchers will have an annotation of each source of related literature.
- Later, annotations are likely to include more references of other work since previous readings will be available to compare, but at this point the important goal is to get accurate

Stage II – Thematic Organization

- At this stage, researchers try to find common themes of research topic & organize the literature under these themes, subthemes, or categories.
- Here, researchers try to organize literature under themes, which relate to each other & are arranged in a chronological manner.
- Researchers try to establish coherence between themes & literature discussed under these themes.

Stage III – More Reading

- Based on the knowledge gained through primary reading, researchers have a better understanding about the research topic & the literature related to it.
- At this stage, researchers try to discover specific literature materials relevant to the field of study or research methodologies which are more relevant for their research.
- They look for more literature by those authors, on those methodologies, etc.
- Also, the researchers may be able to set aside some less relevant areas or articles which they pursued initially.
- They integrate the new readings into their literature review draft, reorganize themes, & read more as

Stage IV Write Individual Sections

- At this stage, researchers start writing the literature under each thematic section by using previously collected draft of annotations.
- Here they organize the related articles under each theme by ensuring that every article is related to each other.
- Furthermore, related articles may be grouped together by ensuring the coherence between different segments of the literature abstracts.
- For each thematic sections, draft annotations are used (it is a good idea to reread the articles & revise annotations, especially the ones read initially) to write a section which discusses the articles relevant

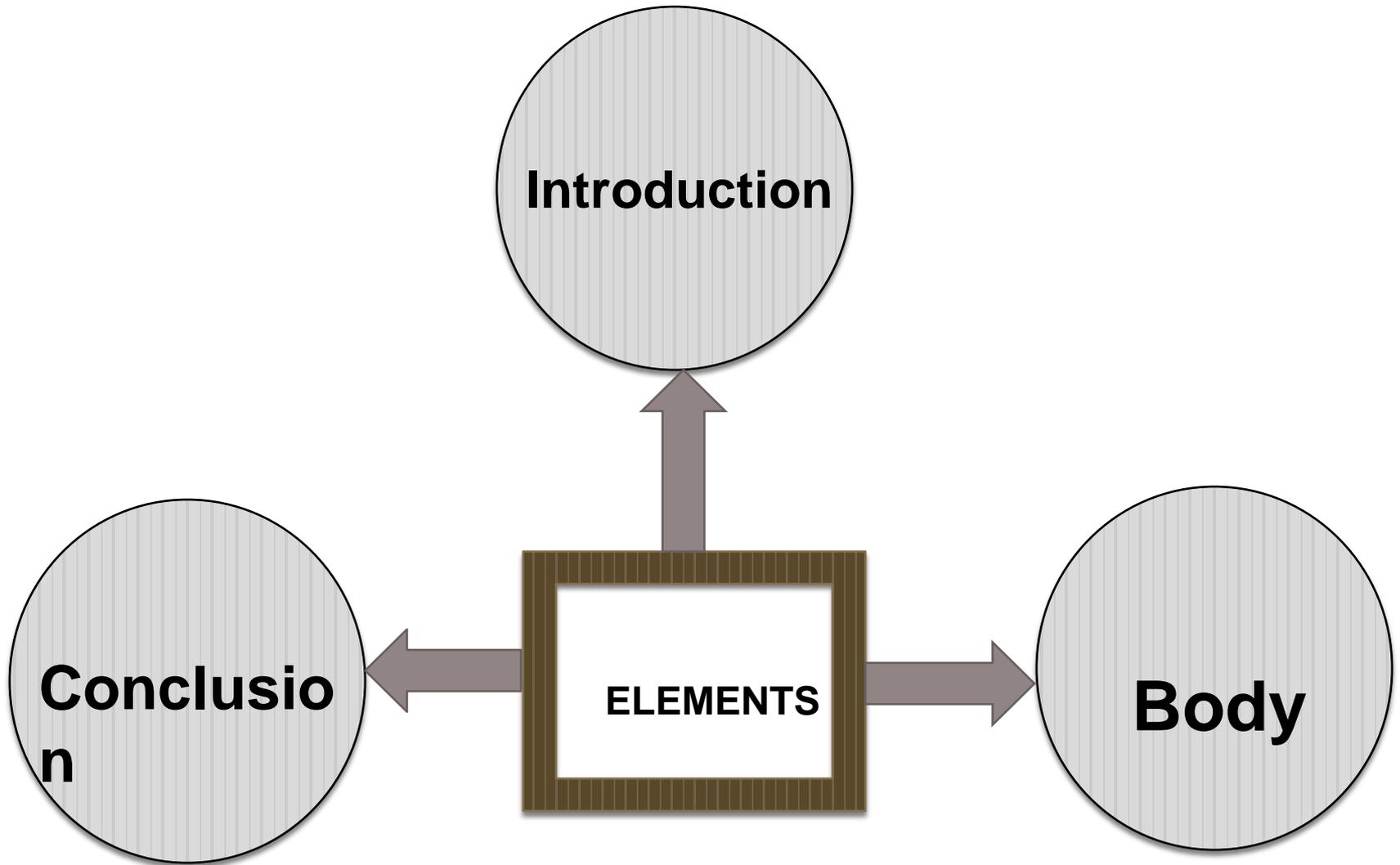
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- While writing reviews, the researchers focus on the theme of that section, showing how the articles relate to each other & to the theme, rather than focusing on writing each individual article.
- The articles are used as evidence to support the critique of the theme rather than using the theme as an angle to discuss each article individually.

Stage V – Integrate Sections

- In this section, researchers have a list of the thematic sections & they tie them together with an introduction, conclusion, & some additions & revisions in the sections to show how they relate to each other & to the overall theme.

PREPARING WRITTEN LITERATUR E



Writing the Introduction...

While writing the introduction, following steps should be taken care of:

- ❖ Define or identify the general topic, issue, or area of concern, thus, providing appropriate context for reviewing the literature.
- ❖ Point out overall trends in what has been published about the topic or conflicts in theory, methodology, evidence, & conclusion or gaps in research & scholarship, or a single problem or new perspective of immediate interest.
- ❖ Establish the writer's point of view for reviewing the literature, explain the criteria to be used in analyzing & comparing literature & organization or review (sequence) & when necessary state why certain

Writing the Body...

Following measures need to be undertaken while writing the body of the literature.

- Group research studies & other types of literature (reviews, theoretical articles, case studies) according to common denominators such as qualitative versus quantitative approaches, conclusions of authors, specific purposes or objectives, chronology, & so on.
- Summarize individual studies or articles with as much as or as little detail as each merits according to its comparative importance in the literature, remembering that space denotes significance.
- Assist the reader with strong 'umbrella' sentences at the beginning of paragraphs, signpost throughout, & brief 'so what' summary sentences at intermediate points in

Writing the Conclusion...

The points to be taken care of in the conclusion are as follows:

- Summarize major contributions of significant studies & articles to the body of knowledge under review, maintaining the focus established in the introduction.
- Evaluate the current 'state of the art' for the body of knowledge reviewed, pointing out major methodological flaws or gaps in research, inconsistencies in theory, & finding & areas or issues pertinent to future study.
- Conclude by providing some insight into the relationship between central topic of the literature

Example...

Example of a bad

review

Sexual harassment has many consequences. Adams, Kottke, & Padgitt (1983) found that some women students said that they avoided taking a class or working with certain professors because of the risk of harassment. They also found that men & women students reacted differently. Their research was conducted through a survey of 1,000 men & women graduate & undergraduate students. Benson & Thomson's study in *social Problem* (1982) lists many problems created by sexual harassment. In their excellent book, the Lecherous Professor, Dziech & Weiner (1990) give a long list of difficulties that victims have suffered.

Example of a better review

The victims of sexual harassment suffer a range of consequences, from lowered self-esteem & loss of self-confidence to withdrawal from social interaction, changed career goals, & depression (Adams, Kottke, & Padgitt, 1983; Benson & Thomson, 1982; Dziech & Weiner, 1990). For example, Adams, Kottke, & Padgitt (1983) noted that 13% of women students said that they avoided taking a class or working with certain professors because of the risk of harassment.

**POINTS TO BE
CONSIDERED
FOR
LITERATURE
REVIEW**

✦ ***Be specific & be succinct:***

Briefly state specific findings listed in an article, specific methodologies used in a study, or other important points. Literature reviews are not the place for long quotes or in-depth analysis of each point.

✦ ***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 review's focus) must be mentioned in each work of review.

✦ ***Focus of current topics:***

Researcher needs to analyse points such as if it is a current article, & if not, how old it is: has its 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:*

Researcher should focus on what support is given for claims made in literature. What evidence & what type (experimental, statistical, anecdotal, etc.) of evidences are offered? Is the evidence relevant & sufficient? What arguments are given? What assumptions are made, & 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, government documents, etc. He should check how reliable those sources are.

✦ *Account of contrary evidences:*

Does the author take into account contrary or conflicting evidence & arguments? How does the author address disagreements with other researchers?

✦ *Reference citation:*

Any references cited in the literature review must be included in the bibliography. The common practice is that the reviewer does not list references in the bibliography that are not directly cited in the literature review or elsewhere in the paper /thesis.

✦ *Avoid abbreviations:*

Avoid technical terms, jargons & abbreviations.

✦ *Simple & accurate sentence structure:*

A researcher should use simple sentences & must avoid errors of grammar & punctuation

✦ *Organization of literature review:*

A literature review is organized by subtopic, not by individual references. In a typical literature review, the writers may cite several references in the same paragraph & may cite the same reference in more than one paragraph, if that source address more than one of the subtopics in the literature review. Typically, discussion of each sources is quite brief. The contribution the present reviewers make is organizing the ideas from the sources into a cogent argument or narrative that includes their perspectives.

✦ *Referring original source:*

The reviewer should focus on citing the material that originates with each reference. This may require a careful reading of the reference. If the reference author refers to another source whose ideas are relevant or interesting, it is better to track & use that original reference.

A vibrant field of tulips in shades of red and yellow. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a dense field of these flowers, creating a rich, colorful texture. Overlaid on the center of the image is the text "THANK YOU" in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline and a thin red border. The letters are slightly slanted and have a 3D effect.

THANK YOU