

## WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW?

1. Valuable review of past researches
2. Focuses on a specific question to identify, select, appraise and synthesize high quality evidence relevant to the question.

## KEYPOINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Not a description
2. Not a summary of scholarly resources
3. Not a compilation of all the works related to your topic
4. Must be defined by the research questions and aims

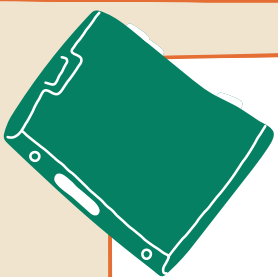
## WHY LITERATURE REVIEW?

1. Identifies gaps in current knowledge.
2. Avoids reinventing the wheel – i.e. it saves you wasting time researching something that's already been done.
3. Allows you to show that you are building on a foundation of existing knowledge and ideas – i.e. carrying on from where others have already reached.
4. Identifies other people working in the same field. Knowing who's already working in your area and getting in touch with them can be an invaluable source of knowledge and support.
5. Demonstrates the depth of your knowledge about your research.
6. Identifies the important works in your area and shows that you've read them.



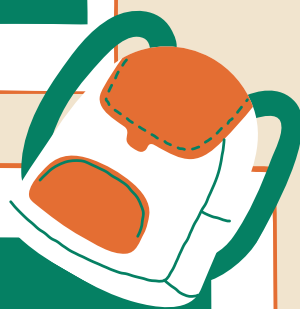
7. Provides an intellectual context for your own work, and enables you to position your project in relation to others in the field.
8. Identifies opposing views.
9. Puts your own work in perspective – are you doing something completely new, revisiting an old controversy in the light of new evidence, etc?
10. Demonstrates your research skills – i.e. you not only know about work in your area, you also know how to access it.
11. Identifies information and ideas that may be relevant to your project.
12. Identifies methods that may be relevant your project.

## TYPES OF LITERATURE REVIEW



### SIMPLE RESEARCH

- To gain brief overview of a topic
- Quality of source is important, but doesn't have to be academic



### APPLIED RESEARCH

- Used in business, government and professional field where information is important in decision making
- Aspects on marketability and profit are important
- Accuracy & objectivity are important – to examine relative value

### ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- For a stand alone product about a specific topic
- Requires high quality of values – accuracy, quality resources, objectivity



# GREY LITERATURE

Literature produced which is not part of the mainstream can be classified as grey literature.

1. Reports of various kinds - business and company reports; reports on various technical and scientific matters, internal organisational reports on the viability of projects, circulars, zines, internal organisational literature, official publication
2. Internal organisational consumption - brochures, magazines, newsletters
3. Working papers, discussion documents, plans for projects, proposal forms
4. Agendas, meeting minutes, conference papers, conference, posters
5. Course materials, lecture slides, transcripts of talks
6. Dissertations, theses researches, notes, essays, students assignments, questionnaires, data collection instruments



# CRITERIA TO SELECT LITERATURE REVIEW

## 1. How often has the sources been cited?

- quantify the number of times the article has been cited
- generally, the higher the citation frequency, stronger the academic reputation
- the H-Index (Hirsh Index) measures the academic output of researchers
- Journal Impact Journals estimates the significance and importance of an academic journal



## Methodology of the article

- Choose articles with similar methodology to yours
- Helps to justify your work

## Writing Style

- Consistent and conforms to the general academic genre



## Validity of argument

- Literature review must have gone through a number of quality control
- Arguments of the article should fit well with your research

## Peer-Reviewed

- Conflicting ideas would have reached to some consensus
- quality checks must have been applied

