

Literature Review - Daunting



6000 new scientific articles produced/day

Scientific knowledge doubling @ 5 years

Naisbitt & Aburdence (1990) Megatrends 2000: Ten new directions for the 1990s.
New York, Morrow.

Is there one systematic/methodical way?

Start



Literature Review



Question:

What are the purposes of a literature review in a thesis?

Literature Review - Purpose



Problem Statement – what is known/not known – gaps, unanswered questions, consistencies, inconsistencies – new questions.

Theoretical framework – conceptual traditions/theories – definition of concepts.

Design & method – strengths/weaknesses of designs – areas for replication – identify instruments.

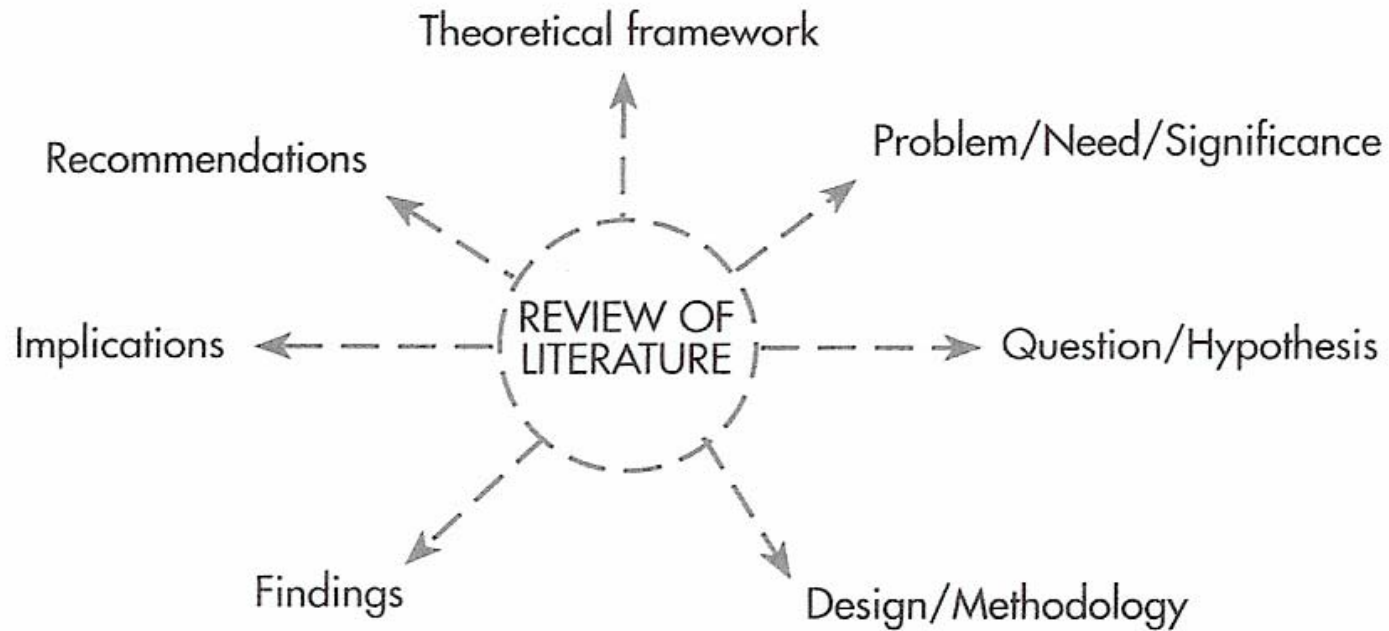


Fig. 5-2 Relationship of the review of the literature to the steps of the quantitative research process.

Literature Review



Question:

What are some strategies related to the various purposes & stages?

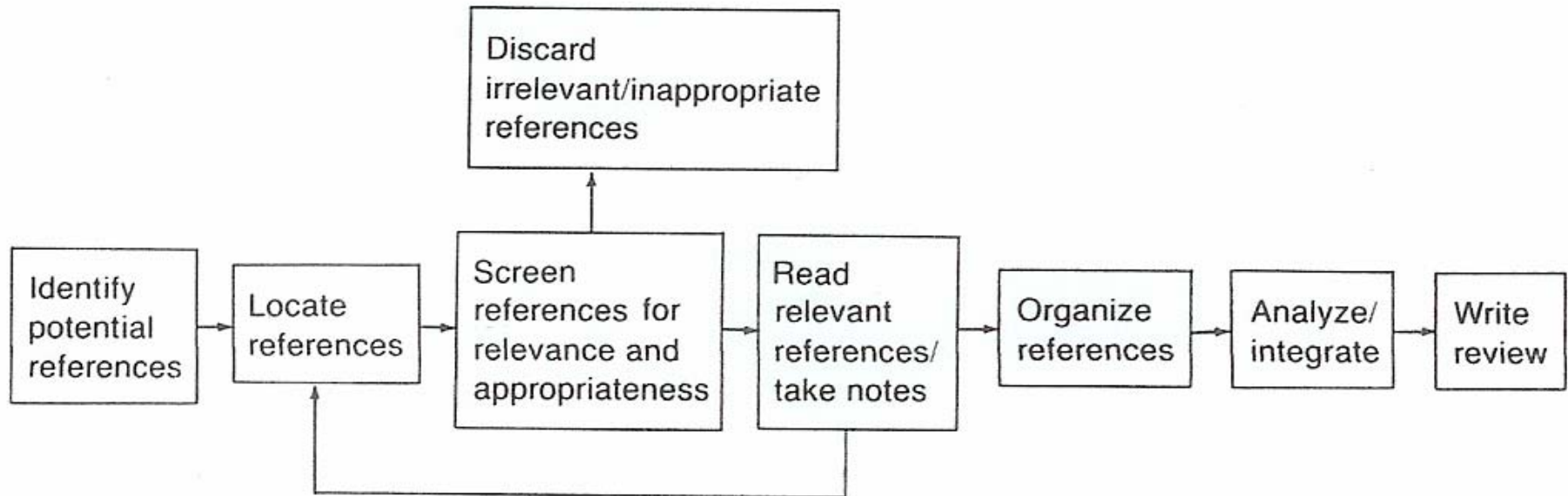


Figure 3–1. Flow of tasks in a literature review

Literature Review - phases



Planning – topic scope – talk to key people.

Search – electronic data bases, bibliographies & review articles (2^o papers), electronic citation tracking → seminal papers, references in seminal paper reference list (snowballing), hand search key journals, – automatic updates (eg Current Contents).

Mapping – research paradigm (conceptual, theoretical, methodological, instrumental) – key actors and events.

Appraisal – validity & relevance of 1^o sources – group comparable studies.

Synthesis – identify key themes – construct narrative

Literature Review - management



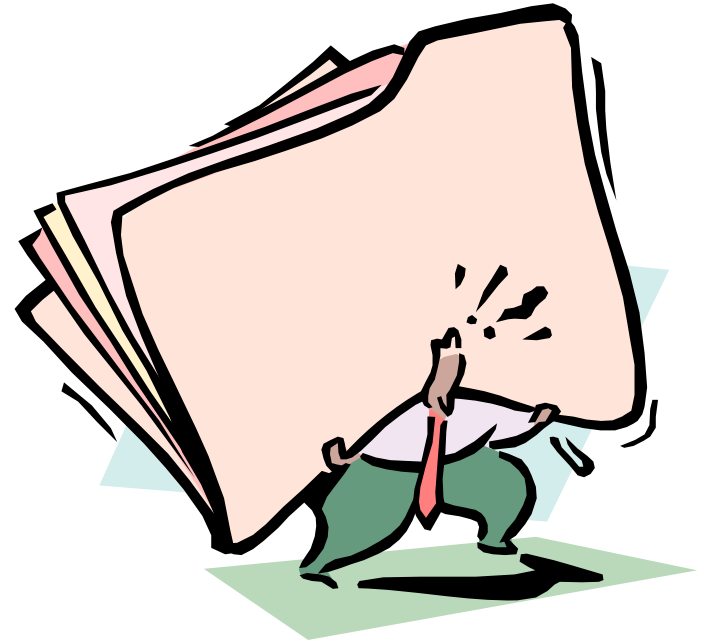
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Organisation – audit trail

Bibliographic software

Reference list

Time



Literature Review



Question:

What is involved in the writing?

Literature review - writing



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Thesis

“Proposition laid down or stated, esp, as theme to be discussed”

Oxford Dictionary

How does the literature review advance:

- your argument
- your propositions

Precision (rigor) & style (word crafting)



Literature review - writing



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Thesis

“Proposition laid down or stated, esp, as theme to be discussed”

Oxford Dictionary

Lit Review Chapter

Beginning

Middle (logical sequencing of themes)

End

Other “appearances” of literature????

Straight narrative

Table of studies/findings



Literature Review



Question:

How will my review be judged?

Literature review - judged

Relevant studies

Relevant theories

Primary sources

Currency of references

Organisation of sources (flow of argument)

Synthesis (vs quotes strung together)

Rationale for your study

(scholarship/comprehensiveness/
contribution)

Selection of article bias – but value of disconfirming case

Who will be the examiner??



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