Literature Review

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Learning Objectives

After studying this chapter, you should be able to understand:

- What is meant by literature review?
- Functions of literature review
- Steps of literature review

Literature Review

Literature Review is the documentation of a comprehensive review of the published and unpublished work (previous work) from secondary sources of data in the areas of specific interest to the researcher.

Functions of Literature Review

A literature review has a number of functions

- 1. Give your work *credibility*
- 2. Broaden your knowledge about what has been done in your field
- 3. Highlight trends, similarities, differences, strengths and weaknesses of existing research
- 4. Help Identify research needs, problems, justification and focus of your research
- 5. Improve your methodology

Steps in a Literature Review

- 1. Establish research focus
- 2. Identify where to search
- 3. Select appropriate search terms
- 4. Use 'wildcards' and 'operators'
- 5. Organize the search

Step 1: Establish Research Focus

- 1. What do you need or want to know? Start with at least some idea of the broad subject area and of the problem you wish to investigate
- 2. How will this data help you doing research?

Step 2: Identify Where to Search

- 1. Books
- 2. Journal (research article)
- 3. Conference proceedings
- 4. Thesis/ Dissertations
- 5. Government documents
- 6. Policy reports
- 7. Papers published by professional societies
- 8. Internet search engines: Google Scholar
- 9. Online databases: Scopus, University library

Step 3: Select Appropriate Search Terms

A search term is a term used to find information on your topic. Search terms can include:

- 1. Author
- 2. Title
- 3. Journal
- 4. Key words

Example: For a literature review on "Product description"

→ Possible key words may include: product description, product review, writing ads, ads of product, product analysis, AntConc, corpus

Tips

Be specific expect numerous results!

Example:

 refugee mental health 	(189,000 items)
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- refugee mental health reports (138,000 items)
- refugee mental health reports Canada (55,000 items)
- refugee mental health research reports Canada (43,000 items)
- refugee mental health research reports Canada 2003 (19,500 items)
- refugee mental health research reports Toronto 2003 (6,440 items)

Step 4: Using 'Wildcards' & 'Operators'

'Wildcards' are symbols that expand the scope of your search

e.g. (*)

patent* -- retrieves patent, patents, patentable, patented



the elements or essential features of (opposed to synthesize): ...

https://www.addnine.com > web > dict > search > analyze *

analyze คือ ความหมาย แปลว่า ตัวอย่าง - Addnine

แปลศำศัพท์ภาษาอังกฤษ เป็น ภาษาไทย ศาว่า (analyze) หมายถึง คือ พจนานุกรม ดิกชันนารี่ ออนไลน์ มี ศาแปล ศาเหมือน ศาตรงข้าม พร้อมตัวอย่างประโยคของ (analyze)

https://engoo.co.th > app > words > word > analyze *

analyze (【คำกริยา】การวิเคราะห์) ความหมาย, วิธีใช้ และวิธีออกเสียง

ประโยคตัวอย่างของ "analyze" · She spent all day analyzing the problem. · The scientists analyzed the water samples and entered the data into a computer. · We need ...

https://www.vocabulary.com > dictionary ▼ แปลหน้านี้

analyze - Dictionary Definition : Vocabulary.com

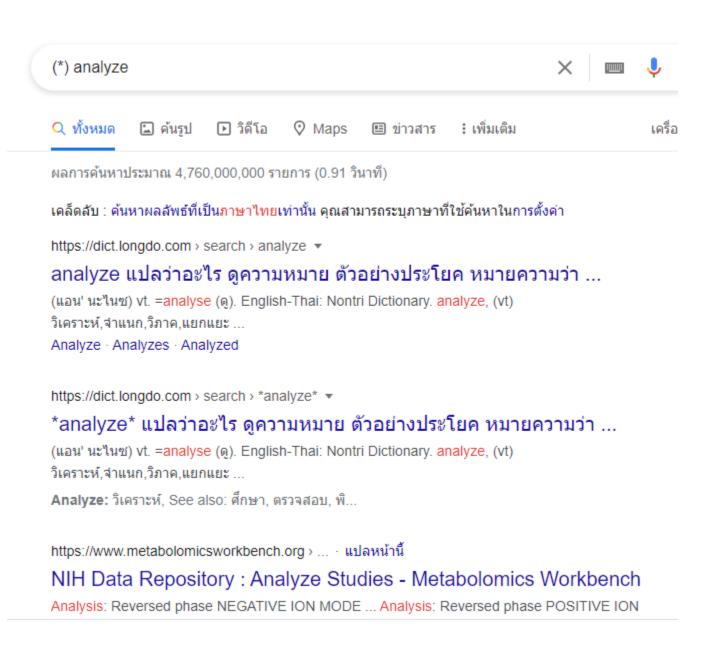
analyze Add to list Share ... Analyze means to study or examine something carefully in a methodical way. If you analyze your child's report card, you may ...

https://www.thesaurus.com > browse > ana... ▼ แปลหน้านี้

58 Synonyms & Antonyms for ANALYZE | Thesaurus.com

synonyms for analyze \cdot consider \cdot evaluate \cdot inspect \cdot investigate \cdot resolve \cdot scrutinize \cdot spell out \cdot study ...

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Step 4: Using 'Operators' & 'Wildcards'

'Operators' define the relationships between words or groups of words

- Use **AND** to **narrow** search and retrieve records containing *all* of the words it separates.
- Use **OR** to **broaden** search and retrieve records containing *any* of the words it separates.
- Use NOT to narrow search and retrieve records that do not contain the term following it.
- Use () to select a phrase or groups of words
 - Phrase (participatory action research)
 - Groups of words (housing or homelessness) AND (budget or funding)

Step 5: Organizing the Search

- 1. Keep record of all materials examined
- 2. Keep a record of all Web searches with URL (Universal Resource Locator)
- 3. Record key words used for literature searches
- 4. Start by reading the abstract, to decide if a book/ journal is going to be of use.
- 5. Identify significant differences of opinions among researchers and give your opinion about the validity of these differences.

Consideration

Literature review must be relevant. To determine what is relevant literature:

- 1. Check article abstracts for summaries of research design and findings instead of reading entire article
- 2. Consider type of measurement and analysis
- 3. Consider contribution of the article/research to the field
- 4. Does it help you know what to do or what not to do in your study?

Step 5: Organizing Your Research

Author, Title, Journal	Year of Publication	Purpose	Type of Study Design
Journal article	2004	Drug counselling for youth	Experimental study
Journal article	2006	Long-term care for the elderly	Cross-sectional survey

Examples of Literature Surveys

Organization theorists have defined organizational effectiveness (OE) in various ways. OE has been described in terms of goals (Etzioni, 1960), efficiency (Katz and Kahn, 1966), resources acquisition (Yuchtman and Seashore, 1967). As Coutler (2002) remarked, there is little consensus on how to conceptualize, measure, or explain OE.

Researchers are now moving away from a single model and are taking contingency approaches to conceptualizing OE (Cameron, 1996; Wernerfelt, 1998; Yetley, 2001).

How to write references?

Book

Journal

Online document

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). *Title of book (edition if not first)*. *City: Publisher.*

Book by a single author

• Leshin, C.B. (1997). Management on the World Wide Web. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). *Title of book (edition if not first). City: Publisher.*

Book by more than one author

 Cornett, M., Wiley, B.J., & Sankar, S. (1998). The pleasures of nurturing (2nd ed). London: McMunster Publishing.

Journal Article

Author, A., & Author, B. (year). Title of article. *Title of Journal, volume number (issue number), page numbers*.

- Barry, H. (1996). Cross-cultural research with matched pairs of societies. Journal of Social Psychology, 79 (1), 25-33.
- Jeanquart, S., & Peluchette, J. (1997). Diversity in the workforce and management models, Journal of Social Work Studies, 43, 72-85.

Referencing Electronic Sources

Author, A. (year, month day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper. Retrieved from home page web address*

 Nader, C. (2009, June 19). Mental health issues soar among children. The Age. Retrieved from http://www.theage.com.au