


UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

Azman Hashim
International Business School

Dr. Farzana Quoquab
Associate Professor
Azman Hashim IBS, UTM
Email: fgbhabib@ibs.utm.my



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I'm sick of writing

but I keep thinking


Crafting Literature Review

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Discussion Agenda...

- What is LR? Why it is needed?
- **Few relevant aspects to write an effective literature review**
 - Selection of documents/sources
 - Read exhaustively
 - Summarize and synthesize the existing knowledge
 - Read and write critically
 - Find the research gap
 - Adherence to the academic writing style
 - Avoid plagiarism
- Common mistakes that students make in LR chapter



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What is Literature Review? Why it is needed?

- LR is "the selection of available documents (both published and unpublished) on the topic, which contain information, ideas, data and evidence written from a particular standpoint to fulfil certain aims or express certain views on the nature of the topic and how it is to be investigated, and the effective evaluation of these documents in relation to the research being proposed" (Hart, 1998, p.3)
- "Literature reviews can attempt (a) to integrate what others have done and said, (b) to criticize previous scholarly works, (c) to build bridges between related topic areas, and/or (d) to identify the central issues in a field" (Cooper, 2010, p.4)

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Introduction

1. Discuss the study background
2. Identify a research problem
3. Pose question(s) to solve that problem/issue
4. Establish the significance of the study

Literature Review

1. Who have studied this problem/issue before?
2. What they have found?
3. What is still not known?
4. What are the existing school of thoughts?
5. Where your study stands among these different schools?

Methodology

1. How to solve the problem/issue?
2. How to answer the research question(s)?

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1. Who have studied this problem/issue before?
 - ❑ Read the existing and relevant literature
2. What they have found?
 - ❑ Summarize and synthesize the existing knowledge based on your review
3. What is still not known?
 - ❑ Review critically
 - ❑ Find the research gap
4. What are the existing school of thoughts?
 - ❑ Discuss different traditions about the particular phenomenon of interest (if any)
 - ❑ Critique (if needed)
5. Where your study stands among these different schools?
 - ❑ Draw a conclusion and justify your stand
 - ❑ Answer the so called "so what" question

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Selection of documents

Exhaustive reading

Summarize & Synthesize

Critical reading & writing

Finding a research gap

Academic writing style

Avoid plagiarism

An effective literature review requires...



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Selection of Documents/Sources

Literature Sources

- Primary sources
 - Often difficult to trace
 - Also called as grey literature
 - It includes company reports, unpublished thesis, conference proceedings, working papers, etc.
- Secondary sources
 - Easy to locate
 - It includes books, journals, newspaper, available government publications

Sounders et al. (2007)

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Read Exhaustively

Without Exhaustive Reading:

- Your understanding of the phenomenon will be incomplete
- You cannot claim that there is a research gap
- Your review may miss certain important literature to be discussed
- You will have lack of confidence about your claims and justifications

Need to consider:

- The aim for reviewing literature (to write for a journal article, for thesis, for research grant, etc.)
- Available time

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What to read and what to cite??

- Read scholarly journal articles
- Read **pioneer** articles, **latest** articles, **milestone** articles...
- Read relevant books
- Find top tier journals of your own discipline
- Try to avoid blogs (because it is not scholarly)
- Try to avoid citing from unpublished thesis unless it is something very important, relevant and a good one
- Try to avoid citing from unpopular conference proceedings
- Avoid not dated references

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Mapping your ideas...

- Different types of mapping:
 - Relationship map
 - Subject relevance tree
 - Concept mapping
 - Taxonomy maps
 - Summary record sheet

You can read more in Hart (1998), Chapter 6
Mapping and analysing ideas

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Summary record sheet Template

Article code	Author & year Article title, journal name, volume, issue, pages	ROs/RQs	Methodology	Findings	Variables/ Dimensions

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Summarize and synthesize the existing knowledge

- **Summary**
 - Summarizing existing knowledge about the particular phenomenon
 - Clear and concise presentation of the gathered information (example)
 - Integrate what others have done and said
- **Synthesis**
 - To integrate a number of different pieces into a whole.
 - Making sense of existing literature and finding research gap.
 - Build bridges between related topic areas
 - Making recommendations, and connecting practice to the research., etc.

Read and write critically

What is meant by critical?

- To be critical does not mean to criticise in an exclusively *negative* manner.
- To be critical of a text means **you question the information** and opinions in the text, in an attempt **to evaluate or judge** its worth overall. Critical thinking is an effort to develop **reliable, rational evaluations** about what is reasonable for us to believe and disbelieve.

- 
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the text?
 - Adding any value to the knowledge?
 - Is it reliable?

Need for critical review



- All academic traditions require a critical engagement with the works of other scholars (Wallace & Wray, 2011), in order:
 - To further refine RQs and ROs
 - To discover recommendations for future research
 - To avoid repeating work already undertaken
 - Finding the research gap
 - To provide insights into strategies and techniques appropriate to your RQs/ROs
 - etc.

Research Gap

- Research Gap = The deficiency in the literature
- What is examined so far in the existing literature?
- What is not studied yet?

Some Tips...

- First, discuss what has been examined in past studies...
- Highlight the deficiency (gap) in the literature
- Highlight the necessity to address this gap

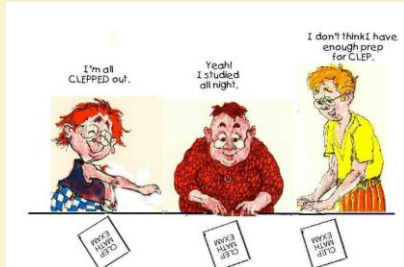
Adherence to the academic writing style

- It is a writing style that fulfills the purpose of education in a college or university. To be considered as academic writing, you need to follow several dos and don'ts. However, these dos and don'ts may vary based on your institution, and journal requirement (Thais and Zawacki, 2006).

Academic writing style

- Adopt justifying approach rather than declarative approach
- Justify based on logic and not by emotion
- Make a conclusion of your discussion - explain your stand
- Flow and smooth transition
- Follow the proper referencing style
- Use appropriate linkers and phrases
- Etc.

Avoid Plagiarism



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What is Plagiarism???

- Failing to properly quote, cite or acknowledge someone else's words or ideas with an internal citation is plagiarism
- Citing other researcher's work without giving him/her credit
- Quoting word forward without quotation mark
- Note:
 - It is important to note that merely changing the wording is not enough
 - It is not applicable for well known terminologies or variables

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Plagiarism

• How to avoid plagiarism?

- Use of quotation mark
- Paraphrasing

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Common mistakes that students make in LR chapter...!

- Lack of proper components
 - Lack of relevant content
 - Lack of flow in writing
 - Lack of theoretical discussion
- Lack of proper justification in developing study hypotheses
 - Lack of critical review
- Lack of integrity - not linked with conceptual framework
 - Plagiarism

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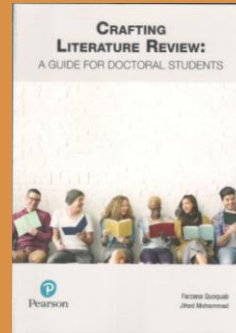
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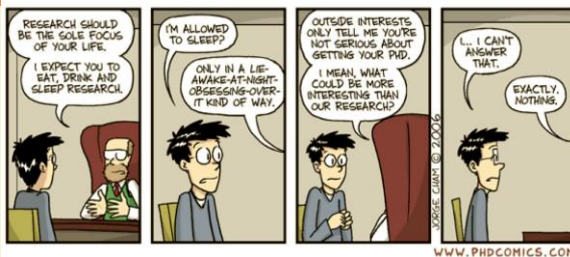
Contact Info

- If anyone is interested to buy the book entitled "Crafting Literature Review: A Guide for Doctoral Students", kindly contact to any of the authors as mentioned below:
- Dr Farzana Quoquab: fqhabib@ibs.utm.my
- Dr Jihad Mohammad: jihad@ibs.utm.my

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