

Literature Review

What is a Literature Review and How do I do one?

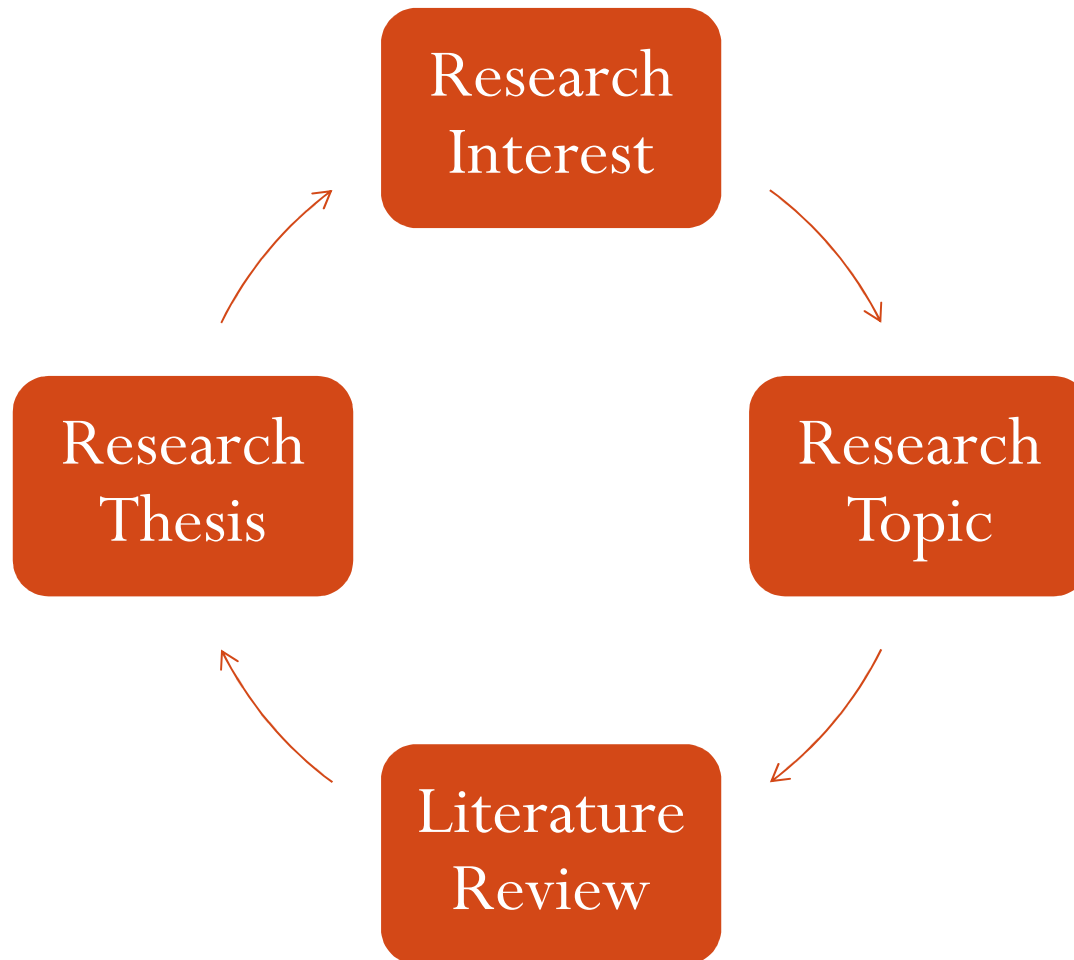
Literature Review



Existing knowledge on a particular topic

Its purpose is to produce a position on a state of that knowledge; that is your thesis.

Basic Literature Review



Discover the Literature to Review

Your topic statements provide the direction & boundaries of your search.

Questions to ask:

- What is the subject of your inquiry?
- What literature must you include that will tell you about the subject?



The Literature Review Process



Step 1: Select a Topic

- Topic must be stated as a well-defined question
- Specify the language
- Refine the focus of the interest
- Select the academic vantage point

Question:

Does looking at pictures of cute animals put people in a better mood?

Step 2: Search the Literature

- Determine what information will be in review
- Find data that provide the strongest evidence to support thesis



Step 3: Develop the Argument

- Form your case by arranging your claims logically
- Present your case by organizing the relevant data into a body of evidence that explains what is known about the topic



Step 4: Survey the Literature

- Literature survey assembles, synthesizes and analyzes the data to form the argument about the current knowledge on the topic
- The evidence creates a logical and defensible set of conclusions or claims
- These conclusions provide the basis for addressing the research question



Step 5: Critique the Literature

- The literature critique interprets the current understanding of the topic
- It analyzes how previous knowledge answers the research question



Step 6: Write the Review

- Through composing, molding and refining, the written literature review becomes a work that accurately conveys the research



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