

# Literature Review

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# The aim are to:

1. Inform about the various functions fulfilled by the literature
2. Help researchers to navigate the way to review the literature

# This session covers

1. Introduction to literature review.

2. Working with the literature.

Finding, Managing, Using and Reviewing the literature

3. What should be considered when reviewing the literature.

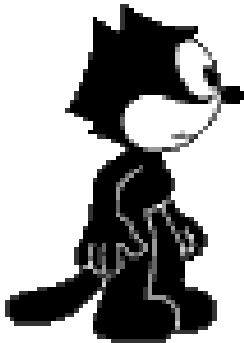
4. Concept of reviewing literature.

# Expectation

At the end of this session participants are expected:

1. to be able to select and review a relevant literature.
2. apply the concept of reviewing literature in research proposal and writing.
3. write a critical literature review.

# Why we need to review the literature?



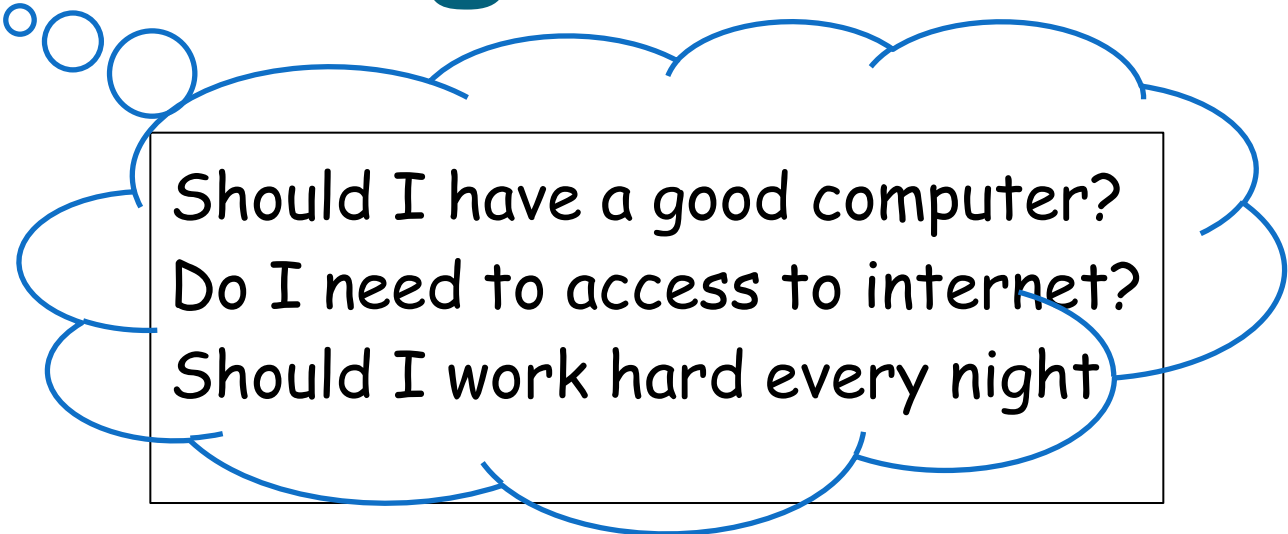
# 1. Introduction

## Review the literature because:

1. Research is always built on **existing knowledge** “never done in isolation as the production of new knowledge”.
2. **Familiarity** with a wide range of existing knowledge “treat working with the literature as a fundamental part of the research process”.
3. It helps us articulate important **questions**.
4. It provides us with a **rationale for what we are** doing.
5. It is also central in the process of **interpreting** what we find.

So working with the literature is extremely important!

# How to begin?



Should I have a good computer?  
Do I need to access to internet?  
Should I work hard every night

No! No!

Need to have a research team

# 2. Working with literature review

## A. Finding

*Knowing the literature types*

*Using available resource*

*Polish your searching skill*

## B. Managing

*Reading efficiently*

*Keeping track of reference*

*Write relevant explanation*

## C. Using

*Selecting your research title*

*Developing your question*

*Informing your study theory*

*Informing your study theory*

*Designing method*

## D. Reviewing

*Understanding the literature review's purpose*

*Ensuring the adequate coverage*

*Writing purposefully*

*Working on style*



# A. Finding literature

Understanding of literature types is essential:

- 1.to be able to find literature.
- 2.to be able to identify and utilize available resources (electronic and paper).
- 3.to be able develop search skills that allow us to locate a range of literature relevant to our research.

# Types of literature

What types are appropriate for my research?

**Probably all types!**



# Appropriate literature will probably include:

1. Existing materials e.g. dictionaries and encyclopedias.
2. Subject specific books.
3. Journal articles.
4. Official publications.
5. Writing aids.

# Using our resources

Share and consult:

- ☐ Librarians - ask them to identify databases
- ☐ Other researchers/practitioners
- ☐ Senior researchers/specialists/editors

# Polishing your search skills

- ❑ A numbers of literature beyond the confines, accessing it requires sophisticated **search skills**.
- ❑ Understanding of general internet **search engines**: Google and Yahoo etc.....
- ❑ Some specific databases search e.g. **Science Direct, Medline, PubMed, BMC, BMJ** and etc.....

# What we should know?

- ❑ **key words** for search engines e.g. sex worker, HIV, sexually transmitted infection, stigma and etc...
- ❑ **Boolean operators** (expand and limit your search) e.g. AND, OR, NOT <Down AND syndrome>

- ❑ **Phrasing** will solve some problems, some databases use quotation or parentheses to identify a specific phrase, e.g. “women AND breast AND cancer” e.g. (health OR illness OR disease).
- ❑ **Wildcards** search is a technique for a set of words with some spelling in common, rather than a single word. Use uses the asterisk \* e.g. contraception, as a wildcard, you could search for <contracept\*>

# Advance search options

The use a combination of Boolean operators, wildcards and parentheses

<(wom\*n OR mal\*) AND (work OR occupat\*) AND (health OR illness OR disease)>

A search composed like this will maximize your search on:

women and occupational health



# B. Managing literature

When you find the literature you may need to develop a way of managing it.

How to do?

EndNote program

Traditional way of doing it.



9/22/09

# Creating an annotated bibliography

- ❑ A note on the author and audience
- ❑ A summary – the more relevant the article,  
the longer the summary
- ❑ Some critical comments
- ❑ Some notes on relevance – what parts/ideas/concepts you can use?

# Criticizing your literatures

- ❑ Don't try to read every word of literature you retrieve:

e.g. headings and subheadings, the abstract, summary and etc...

- ❑ You need to be able to evaluate for relevant articles which can be used in your purpose of review:

1. Self-study review
2. Contextual review
3. Integrating review
4. Theoretical review
5. Methodological review
6. Historical review

**Source:** Health System Research Training Series, Volume2, Seven edition. Module 23, 2001

# C. Using literature

1. Exploring a topic
2. Develop a research question
3. Articulating a rationale
4. Informing your study with theory
5. Designing methods
6. Writing a literature review

# D. Reviewing literature

A literature review is largely based on articles published in respected journals and is usually a distinct and compulsory part of most research write-ups, grant applications and journal articles.

The key words are: **relevant** and **critical**

# Relevant

1. Medium relevant
2. High relevant
3. Highest relevant

# Critical

A good literature review requires:

- ❑ Negotiate multiple reasons
- ❑ Decide on appropriate content
- ❑ Structure ideas logically
- ❑ Argue sensibly

### **3. What should consider when reviewing the lit.**

1. Do not imagine that the purpose of reviewing the literature is to produce a literature review.
2. The literature review is not the main purpose.

The above error are probably the main reasons why literature reviews are often unsatisfactory.



# 4. Concept of reviewing literature

The literature review is an argumentative piece of writing that **relies on the review of** literature rather than just **reports the** review.

In order to write a good review you need to:

1. Familiarize yourself with your research title
2. Write critical annotations and develop a structure
3. Use the literature to back up your arguments
4. Make doing the literature review an ongoing process
5. Get plenty of feedback
6. Be prepared to redraft

Write purposefully – if the readers don't know why you are telling them what you are telling them, you need to reconsider your approach.

How long time you review the literature for your research?

I've done fore 10 yrs!  
Should I continue?



# Sources for this presentation

*Apply Health Research. Health System Research Training Series, Volume 2, Seven edition, 2001.*

*O'Leary, Z. 2004. "Working with the literature" In The Essential Guide to Doing Research by Zina O'Leary. Sage.*

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