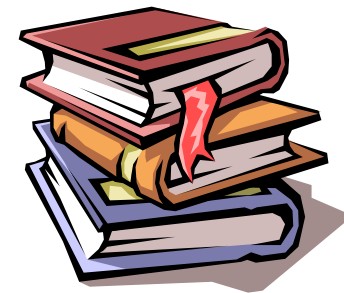
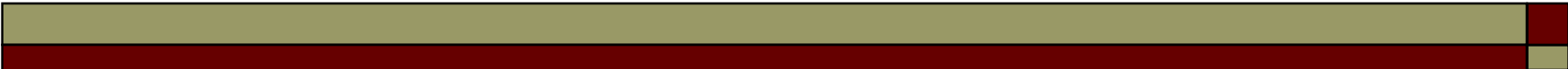


STO201 *International Logistics and Supply Chain Operations* *2016/2017*

CRITICALLY REVIEWING THE LITERATURE

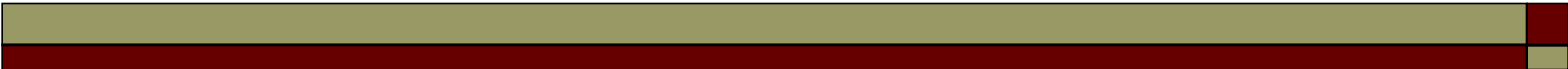
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Objectives of this session

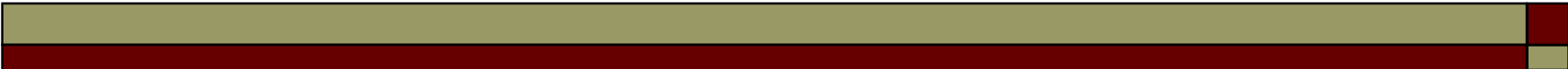
- ❑ Understand the importance and purpose of critical literature review to the coursework project
- ❑ Know what you need to include when writing your critical review
- ❑ Be aware of the range of primary, secondary and tertiary literature sources available
- ❑ To generate ideas about your selected topic



Why critical review?

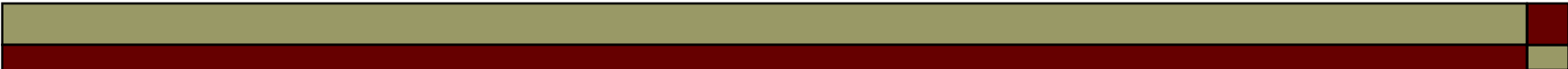
“Knowledge does not exist in a vacuum, and your work only has value in relation to other people’s. Your work and your findings will be significant only to the extent that they are the same as, or different from, other people’s work.”

Jankowicz 1995, pp.128–9



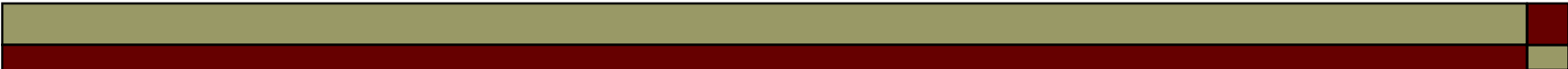
The purpose of the critical review

- ❑ To help you to acquire knowledge and understand the topic
- ❑ To discover the current opinions on the topic in articles from Journals, conference, internet, websites
- ❑ To discover different possibilities that have been overlooked in research to date and articulate your own research problems
- ❑ To avoid repeating work that has been done already
- ❑ To discover and provide an insight into the topic



General Approaches to critical review

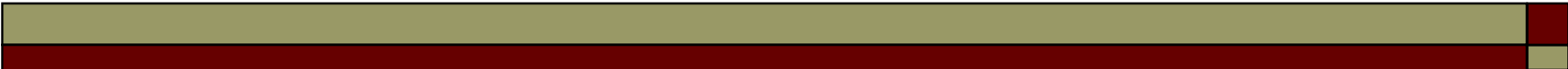
- ❑ ***Deductive approach*** – using literature to identify theories and ideas that you will be demonstrated
- ❑ ***Inductive approach*** – to explore your data and to develop theories from them that you will relate to the literature



The content of the critical review

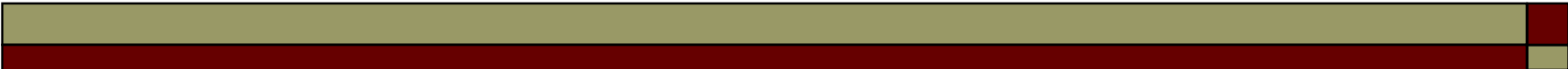
- ❑ To include the key academic theories within your chosen area
- ❑ To demonstrate that your knowledge in the chosen area is up to date
- ❑ To show relations to previous research
- ❑ To assess strengths and weaknesses of previous work and take them into account in your arguments
- ❑ To justify your arguments
- ❑ To enable readers of your project report to find the original work you cite

N.B. Thus you avoid charges in plagiarism



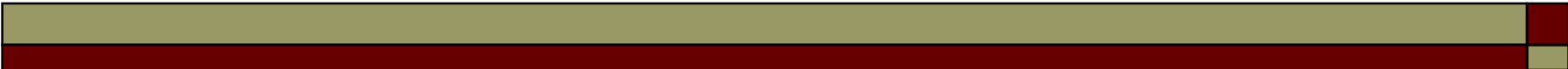
What is meant by "critical"?

- ❑ Refer to work by recognized experts in your selected topic
- ❑ Consider and discuss work that supports and/or opposes different ideas
- ❑ Make reasoned judgments regarding the value of others' work
- ❑ Support your arguments with valid evidence in a logical manner
- ❑ Distinguish clearly between fact and opinion



The structure of the critical review

- ❑ From general to specific
- ❑ Provide brief overview of key ideas
- ❑ Summarize, compare and contrast the key writers
- ❑ Narrow down to highlight the most relevant to your work
- ❑ Provide a detailed account of the findings of your work
- ❑ Highlight the issues where you will provide fresh insights
- ❑ Lead the reader into the corresponded sections



Checklist for evaluating your literature review:

- ☐ Does your review start at a more general level?
- ☐ Does the literature covered relate clearly to your research questions and objectives?
- ☐ Have you covered the key theories of recognized experts in the area?
- ☐ Is the literature you have included up to date?
- ☐ Have you been objective in the discussions and assessment of other people's work?
- ☐ Have you included references that are counter to your own opinion?
- ☐ Are facts and opinions clearly distinguished?
- ☐ Is your argument coherent and cohesive - do the ideas link together?
- ☐ Have you made reasoned judgements about the value of other's work to your own?
- ☐ Have you justified clearly your own ideas?

The structure of the critical review

Primary (Grey)

Reports
Theses
E-mails
Conference
reports
Company reports
Some government
publications
Unpublished
manuscripts

Secondary

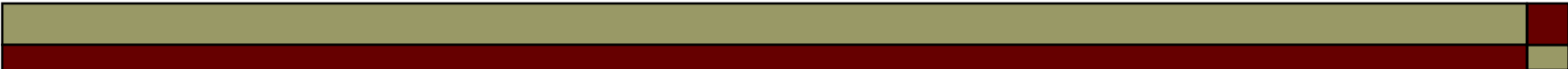
Newspapers
Books
Journals
Internet
Some government
publications

Tertiary (Search tools)

Indexes
Abstracts
Catalogues
Encyclopedias
Dictionaries
Bibliographies
Citation indexes

increasing level of detail

increasing time to publish



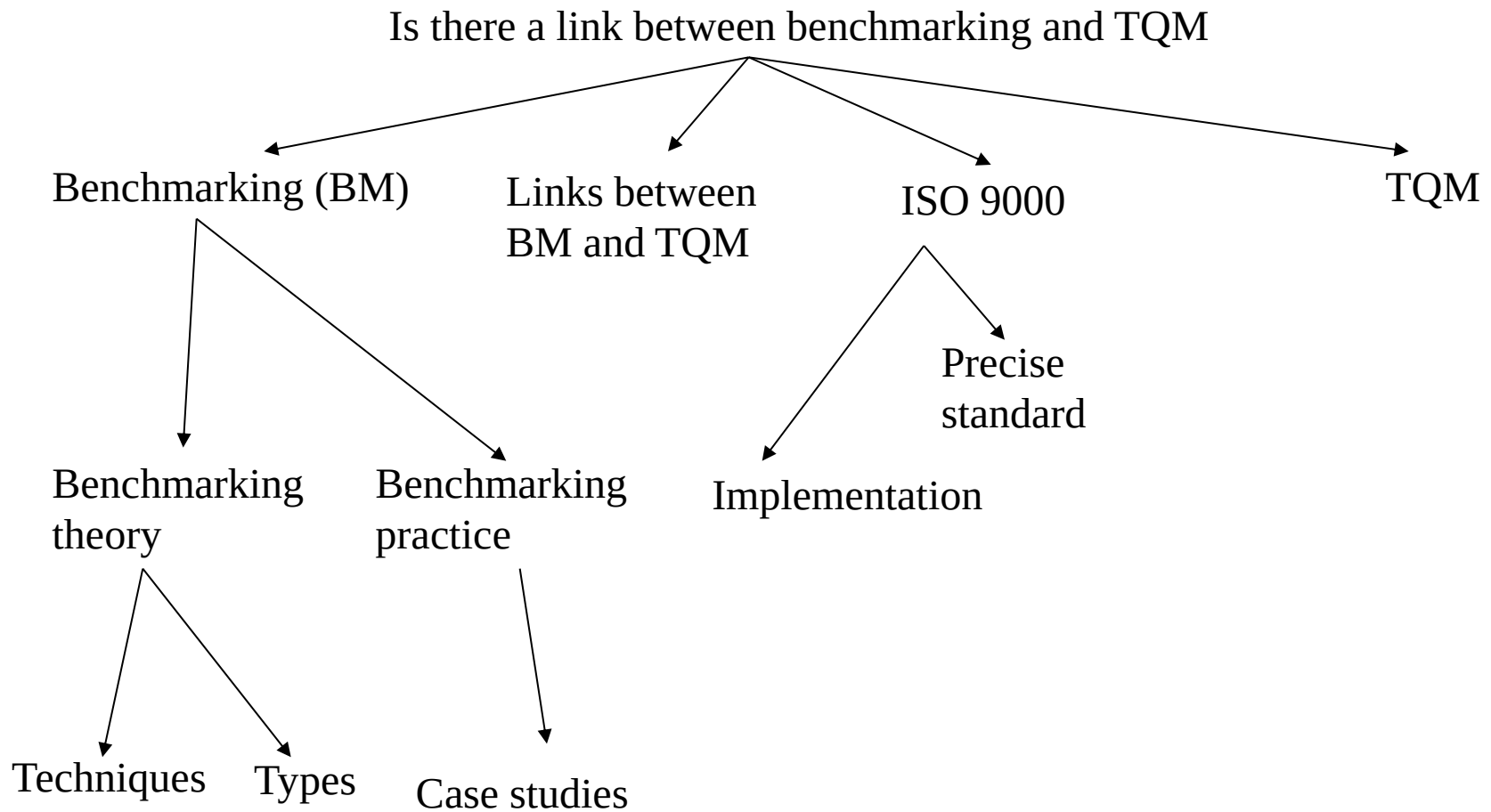
Generating key words (search terms)

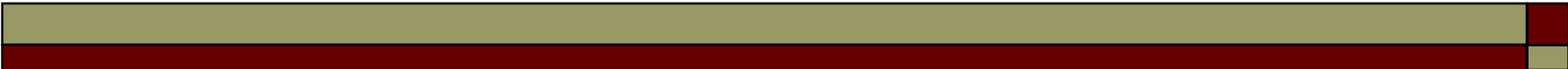
- ❑ Discussion in your teams
- ❑ Brainstorming
- ❑ Initial reading

Relevance trees

- Look similar to an organizational chart
- Hierarchical “graph-like” arrangements of headings and sub-headings, describing your research questions and objectives and help you decide:
 - which key words are relevant to your research questions and objectives
 - which areas you will search first and which – later
 - which areas are more important – they have more branches

Relevance tree





Conducting the search

- ❑ Searching using tertiary sources
- ❑ Obtaining relevant literature referenced in books and journal articles you have already read
- ❑ Searching using Internet