

Lines of Enquiry Finding and Using Sources of Information

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Learning Outcomes

- To develop an awareness of what a literature review is.
- To consider the function of literature review.
- To develop an understanding of how to review the literature.
- To reinforce understanding of plagiarism, citing and referencing.
- To strengthen understanding of the requirements of academic writing.

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- What is a literature review?
- What is the function of a literature review?
- What types of literature can be used in a review?

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Function of literature review

- A literature review is an integral part of the research process
- Providing a theoretical background to a study:
 - Bringing clarity and focus to the research problem
 - Improving research methodology
 - Broadening knowledge base in the research area of interest
 - Contextualising findings by integrating with the exiting body of knowledge



Literature reviews should be succinct and... Give a picture of the state of knowledge and of major questions in your topic area.

(Bell, 2010 p112 cited in Ridley 2012)



Ridley (2012)

- The literature review forms an important chapter in the thesis (*or research project*), where its purpose is to provide the background to and justification for the research undertaken. Bruce (1994 cited in Ridley 2012)
- A literature review should demonstrate a fully professional grasp of the background theory to your subject. Phillips & Pugh (2010 cited in Ridley 2012)



Task 1

Identifying and differentiating primary and secondary sources for research purposes.

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Answers

- Source 1: primary
- Source 2: secondary
- Source 3: primary
- Source 4: primary
- Source 5: primary
- Source 6: secondary
- Source 7: primary
- Source 8: primary
- Source 9: combination
- Source 10: secondary
- Source 11: secondary
- Source 12: primary
- Source 13: secondary
- Source 14: primary
- Source 15: primary

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Task 2

Finding and Using Primary Sources

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Task 3

Using the internet for background research

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Task 4

Evaluating sources

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