

Planning your Literature Review

BMSS6007: Independent Project
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1st class dissertation

- All literature reviewed is relevant to the research problem, and is critically and systematically analysed. Shows clear ability to analyse and synthesise different theoretical, conceptual and applied perspectives.
- **Clear and concise analysis and interpretation of the data, making links to the existing body of knowledge. Evidence of originality in this analysis and interpretation, with innovative thinking and depth of understanding.**
- Clear, logical and coherent organisation.
- Connects the literature and argument over the entire study in a coherent fashion. Clearly identifies directions for future research. Potential for publication.

Common problems with literature reviews

● Irrelevant information

- Use during discussion?
- Prioritise theory / selected research

● Does not address the specific research question – talks around the area

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- ⦿ No introduction to what is to be discussed
 - Outline sections of the review
 - ⦿ Too few or too many words – be honest with yourself
 - Plan ahead – word allocation
 - ⦿ Repetition due to poor structure
 - Plan and re-arrange
 - ⦿ Linking of sections

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- ⦿ Poor referencing & incorrect referencing (not using primary sources)
 - Use texts - then go to the primary sources.
 - ⦿ Poor quality of resources
 - This is the basis for your argument – should be strong
 - ⦿ Failing to use figures and tables
 - Explaining a model or theory
 - ⦿ Too many / too little paragraphs
 - Sentence structure – vary length of sentences.
 - ⦿ Description rather than analysis of research
 - Critical evaluation for higher marks

Make sure the following are adhered to...

- All literature reviewed is relevant to the research problem
 - Check back to your question
 - Easy to waste words – be concise
- Tempting to include all that you have found!
- Is it relevant?.... Really?

Literature reviewed is critically and systematically analysed.

- Critically – positive and negative aspects about the research findings
.....and the methodologies employed.
 - Discussion sections – final paragraphs
- Are you supporting a theory that has been discredited / modified and updated?
 - Make sure you don't undermine your work.
- Systematically – logical progression of theories / research – chronological.

Shows clear ability to analyse and synthesise different theoretical, conceptual and applied perspectives.

- Analysis of research and theories – demonstrates breadth and depth of reading.
 - Critique of theories / models – strengths and limitations / practical applications.
 - Les emphasis on description of the theory!
- Description only demonstrates a basic understanding.

Links to Discussion Section:

- Do you have sufficient information / research to refer to?
 - All research used in the literature review should be of relevance later on.
 - Look how literature reviews and discussions are structured.
- Have your results shown up any new avenues of research that you have omitted and now need to go back and include? – this shouldn't happen in theory but...Don't be afraid to do this at a later date...
- Clear and concise analysis and interpretation of the data, making links to the existing body of knowledge.

Task:

- Evaluate your current progress with your literature review.
- Where have you reached?
- Quantity and quality of resources?
- Structure?
- **Goal setting...**
- What is your plan to get this completed by the end of December / early January?
- What does this mean *realistically*?
- What are you going to do over the next two weeks?
- What do you need to ask your supervisor prior to the Christmas break?

Review of literature

General (intro to area of study)



Specific (most relevant studies)

Referencing

- Make sure that your referencing is excellent...
- UWTSD referencing guide
- Original authors of theories and definitions – don't get confused by secondary references.
- Check: Can you use a better quality resource?
- Have you got any poor quality resources which are affecting the credibility of your argument?
- *Avoid common referencing errors as this will detract from the quality of your work.*

Check that you are at this stage...

When you have finished your literature review:

- You should be an authority on your area of study!
- You should know what the most recent research published in your area of study is...
- You should be very aware of
 - gaps in the research,
 - practical implications,
 - ideas for future research based on what has been published.

What next...

- ◉ Ethics forms – Complete these now (if applicable)
- ◉ Literature review plans...
- ◉ Method section plans...

From last week...

Task:



- Put together a plan of all the sections that you will need within your method section...
- Work your way through the tasks in this powerpoint presentation.
- Any questions?

Any Questions?

Remainder of today's
session – Q and A's related
to literature review /
method sections...