

Literature Reviews

What is Literature Reviews? and why it's important?

A Literature review is an essential part of the research process. Some important functions of a literature reviews are that it helps you to understand a research topic and develop your own perspective on a problem.

Research Process



understand topic
Develop your own ideas
Demonstrate knowledge

Literature Reviews

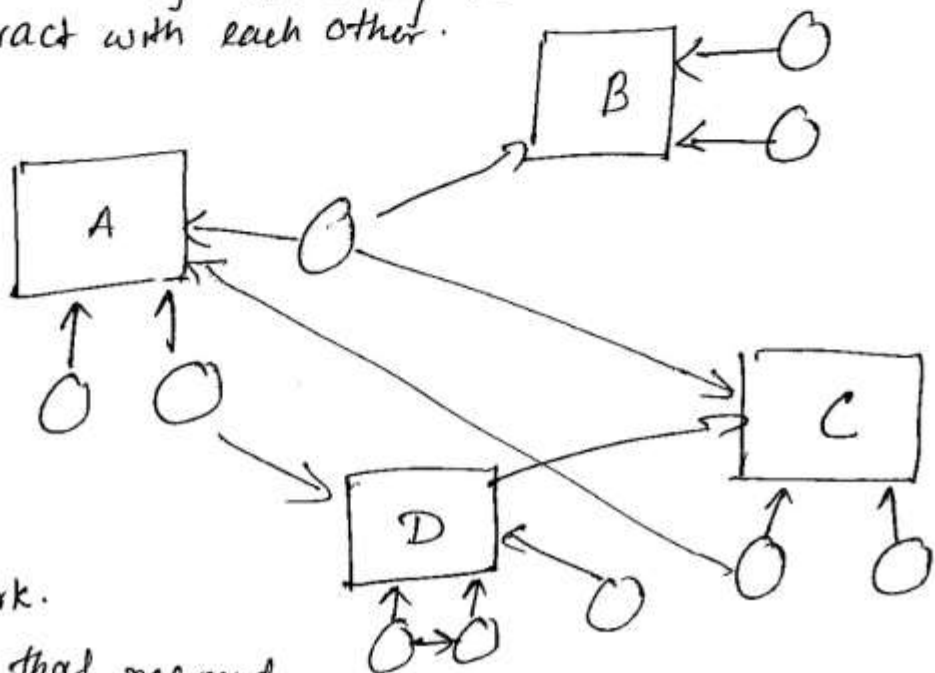
Not only that, literature review lets you show your instructor / or thesis committee what you know about the topic.

A good definition of the literature is that it is "a collection of all the scholarly writings on a topic." These writings can be in the form of scholarly, peer reviewed articles, books, and other sources like conference proceedings.

The literature also includes dissertations written by other graduate students. Collectively these make up the Literature.

In the literature, often there are major works that have been written on a topic, and ^{then} other later works that build on them.

These later works tend to be extending or responding to the original papers in some way as follows. Basically, the literature is a continuously evolving network of scholarly works that interact with each other.



□ Major work.

○ Studies that respond to or build on the major works

As you do your own research, you will begin to understand the relationships in this evolving web and how your own ideas connect to it.

Research is about telling a story, kind of like a chain story where each writer starts with a partial story created by others and takes it where the imagination leads. ~~with a partial story created by~~ The existing literature is the story so far. You have to know where you are before you can go forward. But research is not just one linear story; many different lines of study contribute to the story you are trying to write. Your job in literature reviews is to see where all the loose ends are in the various fields that are most closely related to what you want to do and figure out what needs to be done next. The background to any good story has to be explained carefully or the reader does not know why one thing is important and something else is not: the reader

has to understand what's going on.
In the same way, researchers need the background in the literature of their discipline to know what's going on in their field of study' (Dr. John Classen).
Barbara

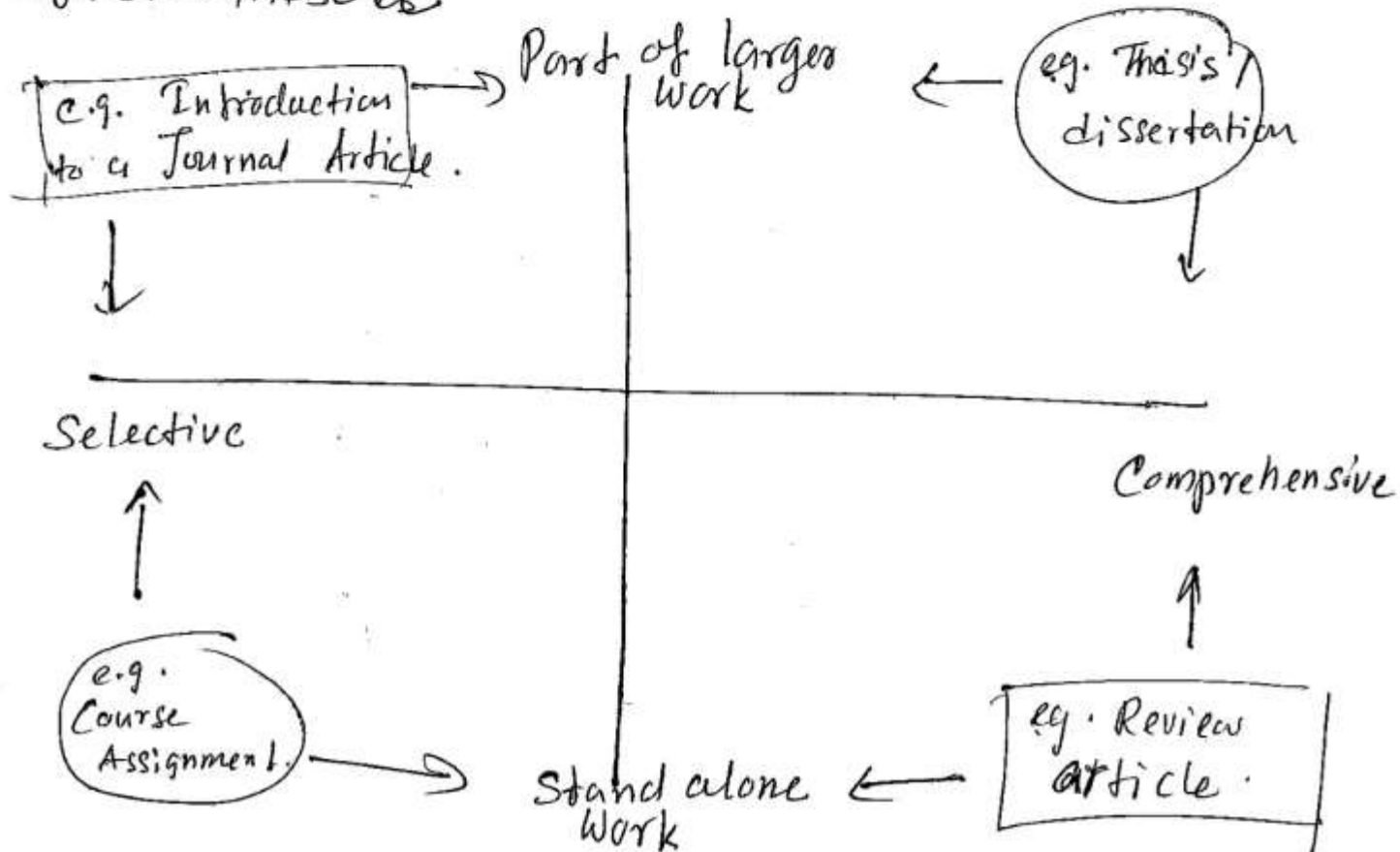
How do you turn a network of articles into a ~~clear~~ cohesive review of the literature?

Reviewing the literature is like participating in a conversation. As you read and evaluate articles you begin to understand how they are connected, and how they form the story that the authors are telling. Then you start to formulate your own response or contribution. This process - discovering relationships in the literature and developing and connecting your own ideas to it - is what helps you turn a network of articles into a coherent review of the literature.

Types of Literature Reviews.

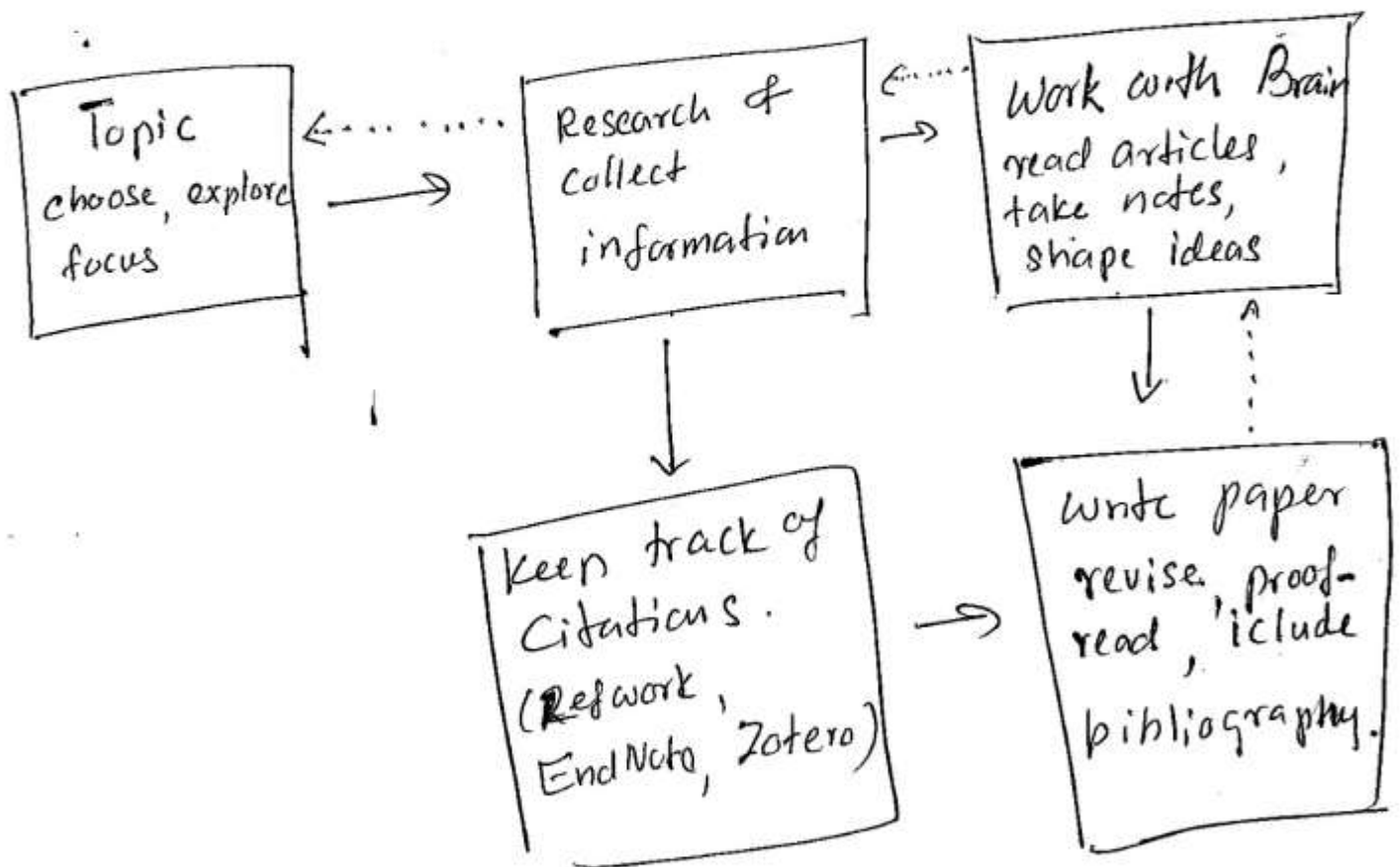
Literature reviews can range from being selective to comprehensive. They can also be part of a larger work or stand alone. A course assignment is an example of a selective review. It focuses on a small segment of the literature on a topic and makes up entire work. The literature review in a thesis or dissertation is an example of a comprehensive review that is part of a larger work. Most research articles begin with a selective literature review to establish the context for the research reported in the paper.

~~of the thesis~~



Often this is part of the introduction
Other literature reviews are meant to
be fairly comprehensive and also to
stand alone. This means that the entire
article is devoted to reviewing the
literature.

Writing a literature review is a process :-



What's Involved in Reviewing?

- * Collect and read relevant literature
- * Provide an overview of significant literature
- * Highlight key concept of papers

describe, Summarize, Compare & ~~contrast~~
Contrast, Critically evaluate, analyse
organize (the information you read)

5 Steps to do Literature Review.

① Strip the summaries

(Source Citations, Paragraphs you need)
with in-text citations.
eg. George (2010)
.

② Reorder paragraphs

- Read all paragraph summaries
- Find similarities and differences
- Reorder paragraphs into logical list based on connections you find

* There will be no single correct way to arrange the paragraphs.

Some potential arrangements:

Cause-effect, Problem-Solution

Series of Advances

Myths-related

Ancient - Modern

Effective - ineffective

③ Combine paragraphs (if necessary)

you can do this based on two factors.

Factor 1: How closely related are the summaries

Factor 2: How long will the paragraphs be.
try to limit to ~~to~~ 10-14 lines.

eg. para 1 - Define problem

2 show the problem is world wide.

3 bring problem home (relevant to your context)

4 present some ^{minor} solutions.

5 Present best overarching solution

(4) Add topic sentences & Transitions
(training summary paragraphs to real paras)

(5) Add Introduction & Conclusion
(comment on ^{any} gaps)