

# Literature Review: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY



**REVIEWING EXISTING LITERATURE TO  
REFINE AND GROUND YOUR RESEARCH  
STATEMENT**

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# Contents of Presentation



- Purposes

- Ground
- Refine

- Steps

- 1. Identify major concepts
- 2. Select relevant documents
- 3. Read and evaluate documents and show connections:
  - ✦ a) Empirical: state the main findings and show how it benefits the statement of your research opportunity
  - ✦ b) Methodological: state the main research method used and show how it benefits the statement of your research opportunity
  - ✦ c) Theoretical: state the main theory used and show how it benefits the statement of your research opportunity
- Write
  - ✦ Introduction: Show the themes and Patterns discovered and how they relate to the statement of your research opportunity
  - ✦ Body: Critical Synthesis: use the statement of your research opportunity to evaluate/assess the empirical, methodological, and theoretical findings and show what separates the statement of your research opportunity or problem from the existing literature
  - ✦ they benefit your statement
  - ✦ Conclusion: Confirmation

# Purposes of Literature Review



- The main purposes of your literature review are:
  - A) to ground statement of your research opportunity or problem:
    - ✦ That is, to confirm the originality and importance of the statement of your research opportunity or problem.
  - B) to refine or modify the focus of your statement of research opportunity or problem

# Steps of Literature Review



- There are four major steps of doing a literature review.

# STEP #1: CONCEPTS



- **Step#1:**
  - Identify the major concepts or key words in the statement of your research opportunity or problem.

# STEP #2: RELEVANT LITERATURE



- Step#2:
- Select scholarly books and articles, research reports, Master's theses, and PhD dissertations that relate directly to the major concepts or key words in your statement of research opportunity or problem.
- Sources of Relevant Literature (Leedy and Ormrod 2010):
  - Academic Indexes and Abstracts
  - Library's Online Databases
  - Government Publications
  - Archives
  - Internet
  - Citations and reference Lists of Publications you review

# STEP #3: CONNECTIONS



- Step #3:
- Read and evaluate/assess your selected literature about your research statement and show the exact connections the statement of your research opportunity or problem has with the existing knowledge.
  - WHAT empirical, methodological, and theoretical connects the statement of your research opportunity or problem to the existing literature?
- Exclude literature that has no direct relationship to the statement of your research opportunity or problem.

# STEPT #4a: THEMES & PATTERNS



- Step #4a:
- Write an introductory paragraph, showing the major themes and pattern in the literature and how they relate to the major concepts/key words in statement of your research opportunity or problem.
  - Use these themes as titles or headings for the body of your written literature review.

# STEP #4b: CRITICAL SYNTHESIS



- Step #4b:
- In the main body of your written review show the contributions of the documents you reviewed to grounding and refining or modifying the focus of your research statement.
- Show how your research focus and scope are different from, not better than, that of the reviewed literature.
  - WHAT Separates the statement of your research opportunity or problem from the existing literature?

# STEP #4c: CONFIRMATION



- Step #4c:
- In your conclusion show how the reviewed literature confirms or questions the originality and importance of the statement of your research opportunity or problem.
  - What modifications does the literature suggest for your research statement?