

Proven tips on writing a literature review in research

1. Define your research question or topic: Before you begin your literature review, you need to define your research question or topic. This will help you focus your search and ensure that you gather relevant literature.
2. Search for literature: Use a variety of academic databases, such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, and Pubmed, to find relevant papers and articles for your literature review. Use relevant keywords and search terms to refine your search.
3. Record your search process: It is recommended to save your search parameters and record the number of articles you found, and the resources you reviewed for future reference.
4. Review and screen the literature: After you gathered a large pool of relevant literature, it's important to go through them carefully to identify and remove duplicate papers, irrelevant articles, or low-quality research material.
5. Organize your literature: Once you have created a list of literature that will be included in your review, organize them according to the themes relevant to your research question. This can help you spot gaps and inconsistencies in the literature.
6. Evaluate the literature: While reading and accessing the literature of your choice, it's essential that you critically evaluate each article based on factors such as the research method, publication date, author credibility, sample size, and analysis methods.
7. Prepare an outline: Using a systematic framework create a plan for organizing your literature review (commonly Introduction, Background, Themes, Gaps, and Conclusion)
8. Write and edit: Begin writing your literature review once you've planned and organized your articles. Ensure arguments need to be coherent and relevant to the research question to tie it all together.
9. Reference your sources: Make sure to give credit to the authors of the sources used in your literature review by citing them correctly, whether it is APA, MLA, or any other citation style.
10. Proofread: Finally, proofread, and edit your literature review to make sure it's clear, coherent, and free of any spelling, and grammatical errors.