How to do a literature review

Presenter : Paul Fehrmann
University Libraries
Kent State University
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How to do a literature review

Today’s presentation: a brief look at the following:

- What literature reviews are.
- Steps for completing reviews.
- Resources that can be helpful......a web site, books, articles, software and tools...and librarians

The presentation is based on and describes a library web site that you can use.

The web site address: libguides.library.kent.edu/litreview

See this web address on the handout provided for this session.
HOW TO DO A LITERATURE REVIEW: THIS GUIDE

This Guide
- Getting Started
- Literature Searching
- Managing the Review
- Writing Your Review
- More Articles and Web Sites

What’s in this Guide - Steps and Resources for Basic Traditional Literature Reviews

- **Getting Started**: About literature reviews and how to get the process started.
- **Literature Searching**: Strategies for finding literature for your review.
- **Managing the Review**: About documenting your search and keeping track of what you find.
- **Writing Your Review**: Tips for writing the review.
- **More Articles and Web Sites**: Sources for finding out more!

FlashLine ID and password.
You can make an appointment to meet one on one to consult on strategies to use for your literature review.

- **Literature Searching**: Strategies for finding literature for your review.
- **Managing the Review**: About documenting your search and keeping track of what you find.
- **Writing Your Review**: Tips for writing the review.
- **More Articles and Web Sites**: Sources for finding out more!

The URL for this guide is: [http://libguides.library.kent.edu/litreview](http://libguides.library.kent.edu/litreview)

If you are not on campus to connect to full text of most articles and online books noted in this guide, you will need your FlashLine ID and password.

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**Meet With Your Subject Librarian**

- Contact a librarian to discuss resources and strategies for your research
- This page lists subject areas and links to librarians.

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**Useful Library Phone Numbers**

- **Main Library Reference Services**: 330-672-3150
- **Main Library Circulation Desk**: 330-672-7905
- **Interlibrary Loan/ILLiad**: 330-672-2670
- **Statistical Software Support**: 330-672-8548
- **Student Multimedia Studio**: 330-672-0221
General Considerations

- A literature review is usually a **process that gathers information on a topic** from numerous information sources related to that topic. The majority if not all of that information is found in "published works".
- Often that process **results in a written product** about that topic, and that product is disseminated or shared with others.

General Steps

- **State your research topic** (or question); or, make a first attempt to get the process going.
- **Clarify what the review is for**. For example, is it for "background", or a "pro and con discussion", "integration", "summarizing", etc. You may have several purposes.
- **Develop a starting 'search plan'**. What strategies are you going to use to find information?
- **Do your search** and choose sources that seem to have information on your topic.
- **Choose the exact information you want to use**, to discuss, or to develop in your review.
- **Write drafts** of 'the paper'...the review. You **work with the information you selected** to develop the 'review' (e.g., summarize, synthesize, etc.). And you cite the sources used.
General Steps

- **Know your “end product”.** Literature reviews can introduce (or be sections of) larger projects. Literature reviews can also be stand-alone end products. So, your finished document can be an introduction, paper, chapter, article, etc.

- **Find examples** of what you will end up with. See examples at the left and in the Finding Examples box below.

- **Write drafts** of the paper...the review. You work with the information you selected to develop the ‘review’ (e.g., summarize, synthesize, etc.). And you cite the sources used.
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There are different kinds of literature review projects & products

• Student paper  What are you working on...what is the project that needs a lit review...??
• Honors paper
• Capstone project
• Senior thesis
• Masters thesis  What steps are needed for that kind of review project...??
• Doctoral dissertation
• Research article
• Grant proposal
• Evidence-based practice  And...how are you going to "treat the topic"...??
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Purposes of traditional literature reviews - a sample list

- Identify what has been covered - prevent duplication
- Put published works in context, how each contributes
- Identify / resolve conflicts
- Identify new ways to interpret
- Find gaps
- Point the way forward for further research
- Locate your original work within the existing literature

The web site also has more discussion of purposes you might have.

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Searching

A range of resources, steps, and strategies

Searching to find materials for the review can include a range of search steps and resources.

- Commercial subscription database searches (PsyclINFO, Philosopher’s Index, etc.) to find articles.
- Internet searching (Google Scholar, etc.)
- Database searching for books, dissertations (KentLINK, WorldCat, OhioLink, etc.)
- Browsing in sections of bookshelves in the library
- References related to the search (e.g. snowballing, pearl growing, cited reference searching)
- Websites (organization sites, government sites, web pages, etc.)
- Conference proceedings (professional organizations, etc.)
- Contacting experts, individual scholars, or organizations
- “Hand searching” of journals
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Searching

Computer Search Term Strategies

Search effectively!

Try using a search strategy worksheet to identify key concepts in your topic:

- Write out a clear, detailed statement of your topic.
- Identify the concepts embodied in the topic statement.
- List words which authors would use to describe your topic concepts.
- Build a search from the concept words.

- Search Strategy Worksheet
- Identifying Key Concepts Example

Search Strategy Worksheet using PICO Format
Main use is for medical or health related searching. From Dartmouth Biomedical Libraries.
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Searching

Preparing Your Search Strategy: Identify Key Concepts

Topic: What is the effect of television violence on children?

Step 1: Circle the main ideas (terms) of your topic.
Step 2: Write each term in a separate concept column. Sometimes you will only need two columns; sometimes you will need four.
Step 3: Think of words that mean the same as that term (synonyms) and write them in the correct column.
Step 4: Think of multiple endings for your term and “truncate” it so that you remember to search this way.

Truncating Tip: Find the root word. Add an asterisk to get multiple endings. Teen* = teen, teens, teenager, teenagers, teenaged

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>Concept 3</th>
<th>Concept 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>television</td>
<td>violen*</td>
<td>children</td>
<td>You don’t need a fourth concept in this search strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tv</td>
<td>aggression</td>
<td>teen*</td>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>media</td>
<td>aggressive</td>
<td>toddler*</td>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: You can also try searching by using the entire phrase “television violence” -- although you will get more results by entering television AND violence
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Example – using search terms in the database PsycINFO
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Example – using search terms in the database PsycINFO
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Example – using search terms in the database PsycINFO

**Conclusions:** TV Parental Guidelines ratings were ineffective in discriminating shows for 3 out of 4 behaviors studied. Even in shows rated for **children** as young as 7 years, **violence** was prevalent, prominent, and salient. **TV** ratings were most effective for identification of sexual behavior and gory **violence**. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)
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Searching

On the web site DO see these articles.

As with ALL the articles on the web site, *you may see something that is just right for *you. It “clicks” for you and your project.
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Managing your search and review process

So... all of this can be sometimes be complicated.
Not much...

A bit more..........

Even more...and a system for managing...

.....need coffee..........

HOW do you manage all of this ??

FROM an article: Ovarian ablation in breast cancer, 1896 to 1998: milestones along hierarchy of evidence from case report to Cochrane review
BMJ 1998; 317 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.317.7167.1246
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Managing your overall search and review process

On the web site see these suggestions...for documenting your process

- Document your plans, thoughts and choices as you start, and as you proceed. As you go ask what?, and why?, and how do I know?
- Use a "paper" notebook, or use "folders" with "Word" documents on your computer. Or use software programs like Evernote, or Dropbox. Those programs support making notes and 'saving to the cloud' for access. As noted below, each of these research log tools might have sections for different kinds of comments.
- See Using Research Logs ideas below. These are kept so that you can know (and you can tell others) what you did as a basis for your review.
- Also see other boxes on documenting searches.

Save things

- Save references
- Save articles
- Save links to inf
- Save screens or web sites with information.
- Set up access to references and to articles you have downloaded. See Research Management Software at left.

If your project is simple, maybe you don’t need the info on the next screen. But it lists areas you can use for keeping track/keeping notes.
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Managing your search and review process

- **Background and Planning**  Initial information, thoughts, and plans/timeline for completing. Also ideas concerning changes to plans.

- **Research topic/questions**  Initial, updated and final drafts of your topic.

- **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**  (IE Criteria) What are you looking for that will lead you to choose the sources that might have information you need. The criteria also indicate what information sources you will not choose to use (exclude). Also you might list what will guide your selection of actual content/information eventually used/incorporated into your review.

- **Scoping or Ad hoc searches & results**  Initial "reconnaissance" for initial mapping of an area or for periodic update/checking, etc. It is possible to adjust your IE criteria.

- **Full Search**  Design/Search results/ Use of results/Search Modification, etc.

- **Extraction**  What information you need and in fact are choosing to pull out of sources to use.

- **Analysis or Synthesis**  Ideas, sketches, thinking in response to the information you have identified in the information sources.

- **Browsing**  Information activities that are "not systematic", online, or in the "library stacks", etc.

- **"Extra" Ideas**  that don’t fit elsewhere in notebook, thoughts that are kind of serendipitous. etc.

- **ILL** "Interlibrary Loan" or actions taken to get items from outside of KSU or Ohio, and results.

- **Email/communication**

- **Drafts of review**
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Software!

Hacking the Literature Review
Opportunities and Innovations to Improve the Research Process

See this article on the web site!
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1. **Store and organize** sources with a citation management system (e.g. F1000 Workspace, EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley) or cloud storage (e.g. Dropbox)

2. **Read and annotate** sources with a citation management system or other digital reader/annotation program (e.g. GoodReader)

3. **Upload and analyze** sources with qualitative data analysis software (e.g. ATLAS.ti or QSR NVivo) or with an open source research writing suite (e.g. DocEar, F1000Workspace) and **write** the argument, using a citation management system to generate citations and references

**Figure 1. A paperless workflow**
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WEB SITE URL: libguides.library.kent.edu/managelibraryresearch

- All students and faculty should at least consider using the research management software that is covered in this guide.
- The specific objective of this guide is to enable students and faculty to choose and begin using Zotero, EndNote, or Mendeley for research.
- The contents of this guide are indicated in the left-hand column.
- If you have comments or questions, do send them. Use email, type ZEM in the subject line of your email. 
  Paul Fehrmann pfehrman@kent.edu
- Have a great semester!
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So......HOW TO WRITE ??

1. Find examples of what you will end up with.

2. See resources on this presentation’s web site. A recent very interesting resource is this: Reviewing the Literature: A Short Guide for Research Students.
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DO at least look at the information about writing support at KSU

Web site URL: www.kent.edu/writingcommons

The Writing Commons helps all Kent State University students -- from first year students to doctoral candidates -- with any writing projects they have, in any course or program. They help with all parts of the composing and revising process: from understanding assignments and getting started, to generating and organizing ideas, to working with grammar and documenting sources. They can also help students with projects outside of school, such as graduate school application essays and writing for publication. All writers on campus can benefit from the feedback and support the Writing Commons provides.
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DO Find out about academic honesty and plagiarism at this library web site.

Web site: libguides.library.kent.edu/plagiarism/academic-honesty
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This presentation has briefly looked at “traditional literature review projects”.

There is a wide range of methods used for more sophisticated or involved review projects. Those were not covered.

The web site content may well be evolving this year.

Remember to look into contacting a subject librarian to consult regarding your research.

Feel free to contact me with any ”lit review” questions, or comments about this video and web site.
Paul Fehrmann : pfehrmann@kent.edu

Thanks for sitting in!