Literature reviews

Current insights on the various types of reviews, N. Fötsch, 21st May 2019
Content

1. Types of literature reviews
2. Systematic review *versus* literature/ scope review
3. Process of searching and selecting
4. Systematic search
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Systematic review

A definition of a systematic review? - First things first

Why do you want to conduct a (systematic) literature review?

- to develop a research question
- to present an introduction of the subject
- to present an extensive detailed account of a body of literature
## Types of literature reviews

### Table 1: Main review types characterized by methods used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Methods used (SALSA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical review</td>
<td>Aims to demonstrate writer has extensively researched literature and critically evaluated its</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>quality. Goes beyond mere description to include degree of analysis and conceptual innovation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Typically results in hypothesis or model.</td>
<td>Search: Seeks to identify most significant items in the field.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Appraisal: No formal quality assessment. Attempts to evaluate according to contribution</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Synthesis: Typically narrative, perhaps conceptual or chronological</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Analysis: Significant component: seeks to identify conceptual contribution to embody existing or derive new theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>Generic term: published materials that provide examination of recent or current literature.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Can cover wide range of subjects at various levels of completeness and comprehensiveness.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May or may not include comprehensive searching</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May or may not include quality assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Typically narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapping review/systematic</td>
<td>Map out and categorize existing literature from which to commission further reviews and/or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>map</td>
<td>primary research by identifying gaps in research literature</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Completeness of searching determined by time/scope constraints</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No formal quality assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May be graphical and tabular</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Characterizes quantity and quality of literature, perhaps by study design and other key</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>features. May identify need for primary or secondary research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Numerical analysis of measures of effect assuming absence of heterogeneity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meta-analysis</td>
<td>Technique that statistically combines the results of quantitative studies to provide a</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>more precise effect of the results</td>
<td>Aims for exhaustive, comprehensive searching.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>May use funnel plot to assess completeness</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quality assessment may determine inclusion/exclusion and/or sensitivity analyses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Graphical and tabular with narrative commentary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed studies</td>
<td>Refers to any combination of methods where one or more reviews mixed</td>
<td>Requires either very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>review/mixed, review</td>
<td></td>
<td>Requires either very</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>methods review/review (us)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**14 review types and associated methodologies**
Systematic review
in business and management research - Not clearly defined

It refers to all literature reviews that follow a systematic, transparent, and reproducible process for identifying academic literature about a clearly defined topic or research question. (Fisch & Block, 2018)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Systematic review</strong></th>
<th><strong>Literature review</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transparent</td>
<td>Cherry-picked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproducible</td>
<td>Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explicit and <strong>systematic</strong></td>
<td>Implicit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Potential for bias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhaustive</td>
<td>Subjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigourously reported</td>
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</table>
Scope review

The landscape, seminal studies (cities) and connections between them (main roads)

Based on the presentation:
Doing a literature review in business and management by prof. David Denyer
Systematic review

All of the papers (towns) within a defined area and the connections between them (roads)

Based on the presentation:
Doing a literature review in business and management by prof. David Denyer
The death of the literature review and the rise of the dynamic knowledge map?

Based on the blog of Gorgi Krilev
https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2019/05/14/the-death-of-the-literature-review-and-the-rise-of-the-dynamic-knowledge-map/
Process of searching and selecting

The first seven steps of a review:

1. Aim + literature type
2. Search question
3. Document type + database
4. Search terms
5. Search strategy
6. Recording the search
7. Selecting
Process of searching and selecting

Library Guide Business Administration & Economics: Literature review
Sources and tools for finding economic and financial literature and data

Literature review support

Students and staff of the Radboud University can contact the NML for helping expert search strategies.
We can partner with you on:
- relevant search terms
- databases and information sources
- structured searches
- selecting, saving and citing literature
- creating alerts on newly published literature

You can follow seven steps to make sure that you have performed a thorough literature review:

Step 1 - Literature review: aim and type

Step 5 - Search strategies

Snowballing
If you have found one journal article, you can consult the article’s references to find out what sources were used. This will help you to find earlier literature.
Snowballing Procedure (source: C. Wohlin 2014)

Step 7 - Selection

Decide which articles are relevant for your review. Think about including and excluding criteria, e.g.
- time period
- language range
- study population
- nature of the intervention
- methodological quality

The PRISMA flow diagram might help you with this selection process.
To select references:

https://libguides.ru.nl/BE/literaturereview
Systematic search - search strategies

Snowballing

Cited reference search

Searching relevant journals

Author searching
Systematic search - search strategies

**Block search**

To organize your search terms

- Formulate a literature search question
- Identify the key elements
- Define your blocks (key elements)
- Collect search terms for each block
- Set up a search string

The search terms within a block are combined with OR, the blocks are combined with an AND operator.
Support with literature review

We, the NSM library team, can partner with you on:

- relevant search terms
- databases and information sources
- structured searches
- selecting, saving and citing literature
- creating alerts on newly published literature
Different types of reviews
Use different search strategies
Don’t hesitate to ask your librarian.
We are pleased to help you out with:
* search strategies
* literature reviews
* data retrieval
* citation help
* reference managers

NSM Library team

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1e floor next to the Management Study centre
Recommended reading


