

Writing a Literature review

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What is a literature review?

Literature

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- Existing research
- Journals, books, essays, reports etc.
- In a certain area or on a certain topic

Review

- More than an annotated bibliography: summary and synthesis
- Important debates, conflicts, inconsistencies and conclusions
- The missing part - gaps

Establish what is already known – and what is needed to be known

Why do a literature review?

Motivation

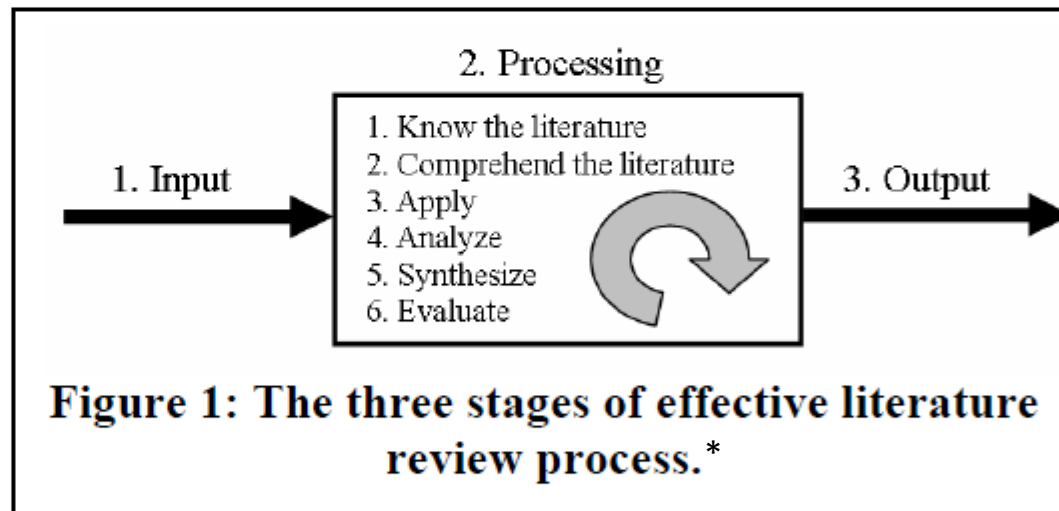
- Get to know a research field
- Evaluate current "state of the art"
- Avoid ignoring research that has been done
- Framing own research (engaging in debates, extending and filling gaps)

When and where

- A component in a research project
- A chapter in a thesis
- A section in a journal paper
- A stand-alone review paper

“... the use of ideas in the literature to justify the particular approach to the topic, the selection of methods, and demonstration that this research contributes something new.” *

How to write a literature review?



Input

- Topic and scope
- Choice of sources
- Search strategy and tools

Processing

- Separate, connect, compare ...
- Combine, integrate, rearrange ...
- Select, judge, discriminate, conclude ...

Output

- Clear and convincing argument
- Describe process