

Literature-review and its consolidation

Literature review is a collection of research publication, books and other documents related to the defined problem. A literature review is a survey of current books and articles on a particular topic. While they may sound tedious, literature reviews are helpful windows into the cutting edge of any field.

Literature reviews are often closely associated with annotated bibliographies, which also list and analyze scholarly sources. However, unlike an annotated bibliography, a literature review is usually written in the form of an essay, with full paragraphs, an introduction, and a conclusion.

The stages of writing a literature review:

Poring over books and articles for a literature review takes some dedication. By dividing up your work into four different steps, you'll save time and finish your review faster.

1) Research

A thorough amount of research is a prerequisite for writing a good literature review. In the research stage, you should visit a library or browse a journal database to begin collecting your sources.

2) Consolidation of information

Next, you should compile all the information that you've gleaned from your research. Aim to organize your notes in a way that's logical, such as thematically or chronologically. It may be helpful to use visual aids, such as charts or graphs, to keep track of all the sources you've surveyed.

3) Analysis

Now you can go back over the data that you've collected and look for connections between sources and your research question. You can also expand your notes from the consolidation phase and categorize each source by the author's main argument and type of evidence.

4) Presentation

The final stage is when you put everything you know onto paper. Introduce readers to your research question and lead them through existing scholarly works, starting with the most impactful and important sources.

***** A bibliography is a list of the books and other sources that are referred to in a scholarly work-such as an essay, term paper, dissertation, or a book.

- ✚ Information consolidation is defined as the process of evaluation and compression of relevant documents in order to provide definite user groups in developing countries with reliable and concise information in usable form.

Library research

Library research involves the step-by-step process used to gather information in order to write a paper, create a presentation, or complete a project. As you progress from one step to the next, it is commonly necessary to back up, revise, add additional material or even change your topic completely.

Library Research Process

- Define your topic.
- Write a thesis or problem statement: Begin with a question, research the topic further, then develop an opinion.
- Make an outline. ...
- Develop a Search Strategy. ...
- Evaluate your sources. ...
- Take careful notes. ...
- Writing and revising the paper. ...
- Document your sources

Libraries could play a greater role if researchers knew that support was available, and if their involvement was more formalized. Libraries have an opportunity to use their skills to help researchers improve the quality of their funding applications, and to increase the institution's success in winning research income.

Field research

Field research is defined as a qualitative method of data collection that aims to observe, interact and understand people while they are in a natural environment. Field research encompasses a diverse range of social research methods including direct observation, limited participation, analysis of documents and other information, informal interviews, surveys etc. Although field research is generally characterized as qualitative research, it often involves multiple aspects of quantitative research in it.

For example, nature conservationists observe behavior of animals in their natural surroundings and the way they react to certain scenarios.

Methods of Field Research

Field research is typically conducted in 5 distinctive methods. They are:

1. Direct Observation
2. Participant Observation
3. Ethnography
4. Qualitative Interviews
5. Case Study



Advantages of Field Research

The advantages of field research are:

1. It is conducted in a real-world and natural environment where there is no tampering of variables and the environment is not doctored.
2. Due to the study being conducted in a comfortable environment, data can be collected even about ancillary topics.
3. The researcher gains a deep understanding into the research subjects due to the proximity to them and hence the research is extensive, thorough and accurate.

Disadvantages of Field Research

The disadvantages of field research are:

1. The studies are expensive and time-consuming and can take years to complete.
2. It is very difficult for the researcher to distance themselves from a bias in the research study.
3. The notes have to be exactly what the researcher says but the nomenclature is very tough to follow.
4. It is an interpretive method and this is subjective and entirely dependent on the ability of the researcher.

Laboratory Research

A laboratory study may use special equipment and cells or animals to find out if a drug, procedure, or treatment is likely to be useful in humans. It may also be a part of a clinical trial, such as when blood or other samples are collected.

Laboratory Experiment There is high control of variables. This standardization may create demand characteristics. These are features of the research which may affect participants behavior, so they act unnaturally or look for cues to tell them what the research is about and behave accordingly

There are three main types of scientific experiments: 1. Experimental, 2. Quasi-experimental, and 3. Observational/non-experimental.

Advantages: The advantages of Laboratory research are:

- a. Tighter control of variables. Easier to comment on cause and effect.
- b. Relatively easy to replicate.
- c. Enable use of complex equipment.
- d. Often cheaper and less time-consuming than other methods.

Disadvantages: The disadvantages of Laboratory research are:

- a. Demand characteristics - participants aware of experiment, may change behavior.
- b. Artificial environment - low realism.
- c. May have low ecological validity - difficult to generalise to other situations.
- d. Experimenter effects - bias when experimenter's expectations affect behaviour.