



Literature Review

A step-by-step process

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Outline

- What is LR? Phases
- Scope/Resources
- Advanced Searching for Literature
- Organizing/Literature Map/Software
- Synthesis
- When to Stop

See more at: Literature Review: step-by-step guide <http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/lr>

What is the Literature Review

- Review of **scholarly** sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theoretical framework
- A synthesis of **studies** on any given topic
- It analyzes **reports of primary or original scholarship**

Purposes of the literature review



Develop a theoretical framework for the proposed study	Revealing gaps in knowledge
Current status of research	Finding variables
Support the purpose of your study (Lunenburg, 2008)	Finding seminal works, leading scholars

Phases

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Analyze other literature reviews2. <u>Determine the scope</u>3. <u>Search for literature</u>4. <u>Record and organize resources</u>5. <u>Analysis & Synthesis of findings</u>6. Writing | |
|--|---|--|

Kennesaw State University

guide to LR



Kennesaw State UNIVERSITY
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Literature Review: a step-by-step guide

Tags: [dissertation](#), [literature review](#), [thesis](#)

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Types of LR

"...a literature review seeks to describe, summarise, evaluate, clarify and/or integrate the content of primary reports."

Cooper, H. M. (1988). The structure of knowledge synthesis. *Knowledge in Society*, 1, 104-126

Journal article or a book chapter

- a selective review providing overview of certain types of information sources;
- comprehensive, covering the main contributors to the field with an exploration of their views.

Part of a dissertation

A process and a part of a thesis or dissertation, forming an framework-setting chapter, putting forward hypotheses/ research questions and indicating gaps in the body of knowledge.

Method

A *systematic review*- an analysis of research studies. See: Petticrew, M. & Roberts, H. *Systematic reviews in the social sciences: a practical guide*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2006

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Tutorials & Guides

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Phases

Sometimes you will repeat some of these phases or steps, but it is not recommended to skip them

1. Analyze other literature reviews

Purposes

Scope

Included	Not included
Monographs	Undergraduate level textbooks
Articles (peer-reviewed, from scholarly journals)	Articles from trade, popular magazines (practitioner's articles)
Dissertations/theses (limited)	Government and organizational reports
Conference papers	Data sets (statistics)
Research reports	White papers
Research reviews	
Meta-analysis	

Academic vs. Practitioner's article

	Academic	Practitioner's
Criteria	Academic/Scholarly	Practitioner's/Trade
authorship	Scholars/researchers	Professionals/staff writers
content	Research results, reviews of the research (review articles)	Practitioner's experience or observation
purpose	To share research and scholarship with the academic community	To inform people in a business or industry about relevant news, trends, and products
audience	Scholars, students	Professionals
review	Peer-reviewed, editorial board	Editor
reference	bibliographies	None
appearance	Limited illustrations	

Collecting works

Literature	Search
Seminal works (theories, large scale studies)	Citation indexes Mentor, expert recommendations bibliographies, literature reviews, handbooks, encyclopedias
Related research studies	Pearl growing technique Citation searching using citation Indexes
New studies	Set up Articles Alerts RSS feeds Topical journals and conferences Monitoring academic social networking sites

Searching for literature reviews

Other keywords:
systematic review, meta-analysis



Searching: PsycINFO Choose Databases

college students in DE Subjects [exact] Search Clear ?

AND latinos/latinas in DE Subjects [exact]

AND in Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search Advanced Search Visual Search Search History

Two red arrows point to the search fields: one to the first field containing 'college students' and another to the second field containing 'latinos/latinas'.

ProQuest Dissertations and Theses - the best place to find an example of LR in dissertations

Document Type

All
Abstract Collection
Bibliography
Chapter

Methodology

-Focus Group
LITERATURE REVIEW
-Systematic Review
MATHEMATICS
LITERATURE REVIEW

A red arrow points to the 'LITERATURE REVIEW' option in the Methodology list.

Searching for bibliographies

Search Options

Search modes ?

- ☒ Boolean/Phrase
- ☐ Find all my search terms
- ☐ Find any of my search terms
- ☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Limit your results

Linked Full Text ☒

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals ☐

Publication

Document Type

- Abstract
- Article
- Bibliography
- Book Chapter

Ebsco databases
allow to limit search
by document type

Searching for theories & empirical studies

What is a empirical article or research study report? How to find them?

If you plan to conduct a quantitative study you should look for theories that will frame your study

If you plan to do a qualitative study you still need to search for the theory that explains the phenomenon

Last Update: Nov 8, 2012 URL: <http://coloradotech.libguides.com>

Start here How to find one? How to write one?

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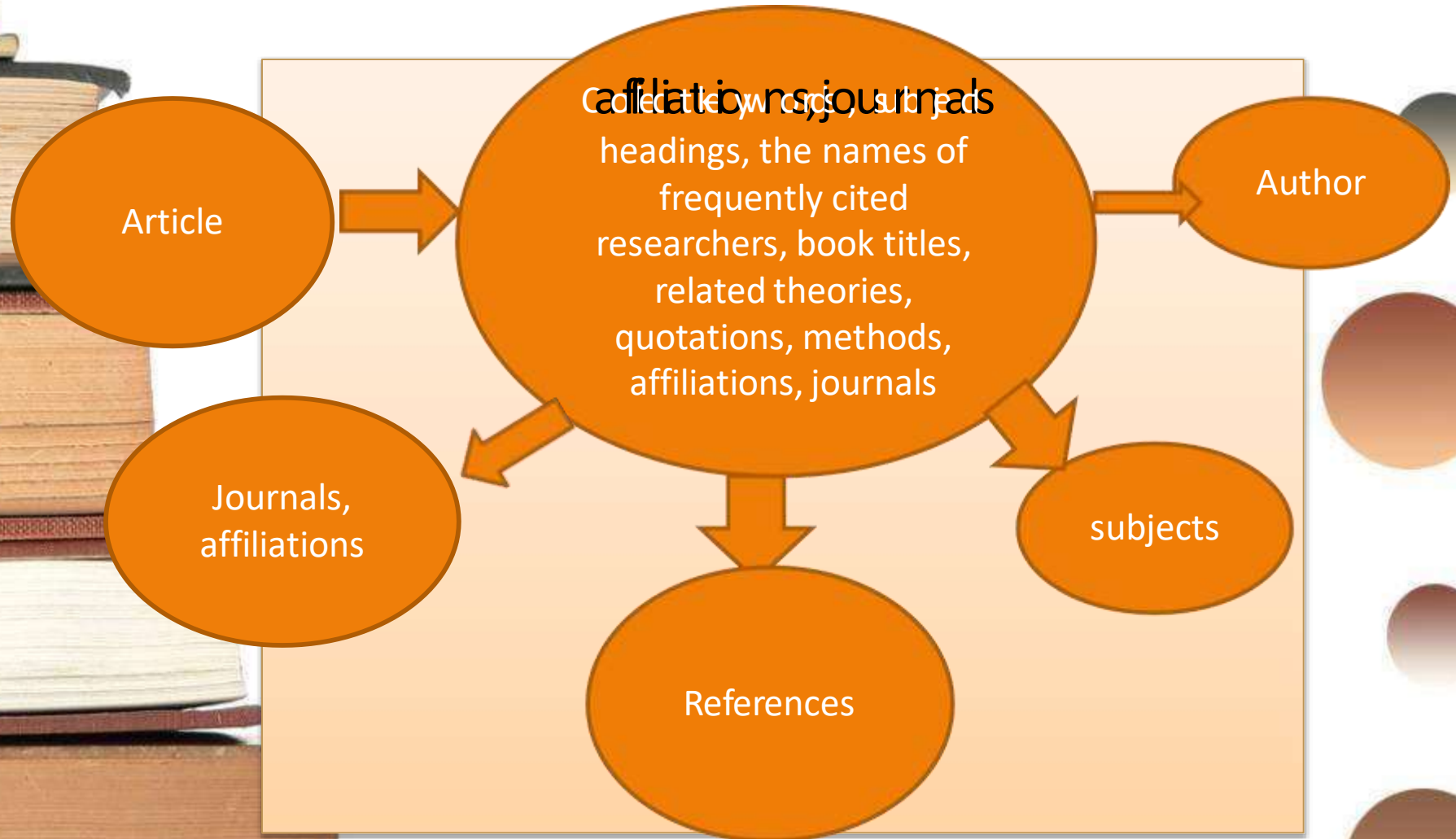
Anatomy of the article



See the guide to Scholarly article at
<http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/sch/article>

Searching for research studies reports and empirical articles is the next step. Findings if somebody else already tested the theory that you found or what methods have been used will allow you to find a gap in methods or research.

Pearl growing



Citation searching

[BOOK] Critical infrastructure protection in homeland security: Defending a networked nation

TG Lewis - 2006 - books.google.com

A scientific approach to the new field of critical infrastructure protection This book offers a unique scientific approach to the new field of critical infrastructure protection: it uses network theory, optimization theory, and simulation software to analyze and understand h

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Last Name: SANCHEZ Initials or First Name: J

Search Clear

Search History

Scopus

All Databases Select a Database Web of Science Additional Resources

Search Author Finder Cited Reference Search Advanced Search Search History

Web of ScienceSM

Cited Reference Search (Find the articles that cite a person's work)

Step 1: Enter information about the cited work. Fields are combined with the Boolean AND operator.

* Note: Entering the volume, issue, or page in combination with other fields may reduce the number of cited reference variants found.

fedoroff n* in Cited Author

Example: O'Brian C* OR O'Brian C*

Example: J Comp* Appl* Math* (journal abbreviation list)

2002 in Cited Year(s)

Example: 1943 or 1943-1945

Add Another Field >>

Search Clear Searches must be in English

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- RSS feeds
- Journals
- Experts

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More options...▲

- ✉ Email article
- 📌 Alert me about new articles in this journal

Organizations and Society

volume 37, issue 8, November 2012, Pages 544–564

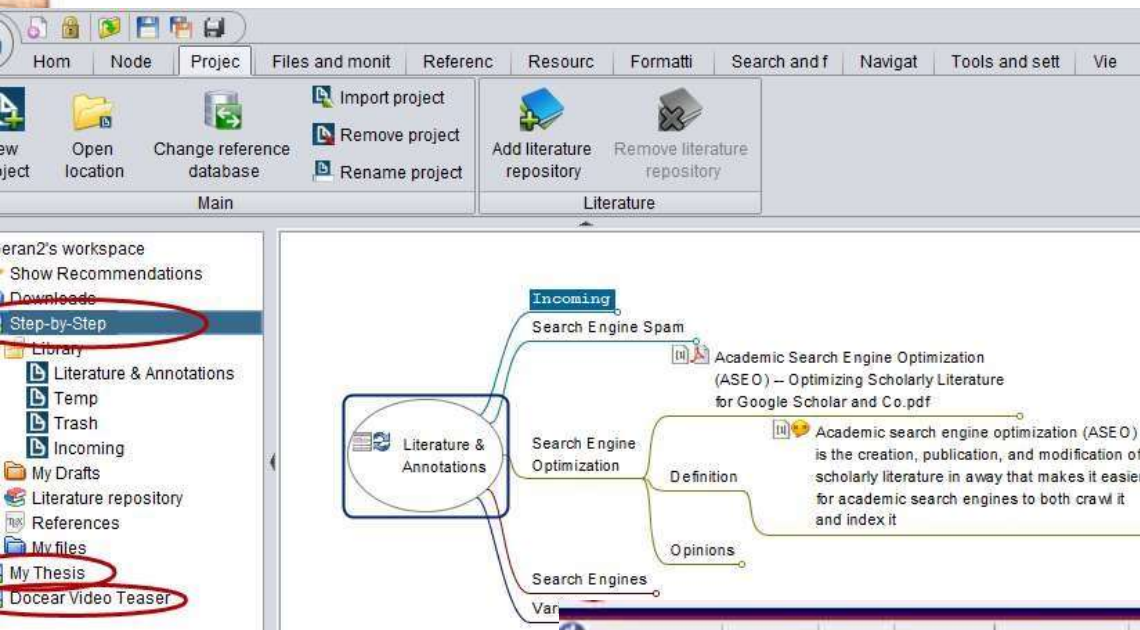
 ELSEVIER



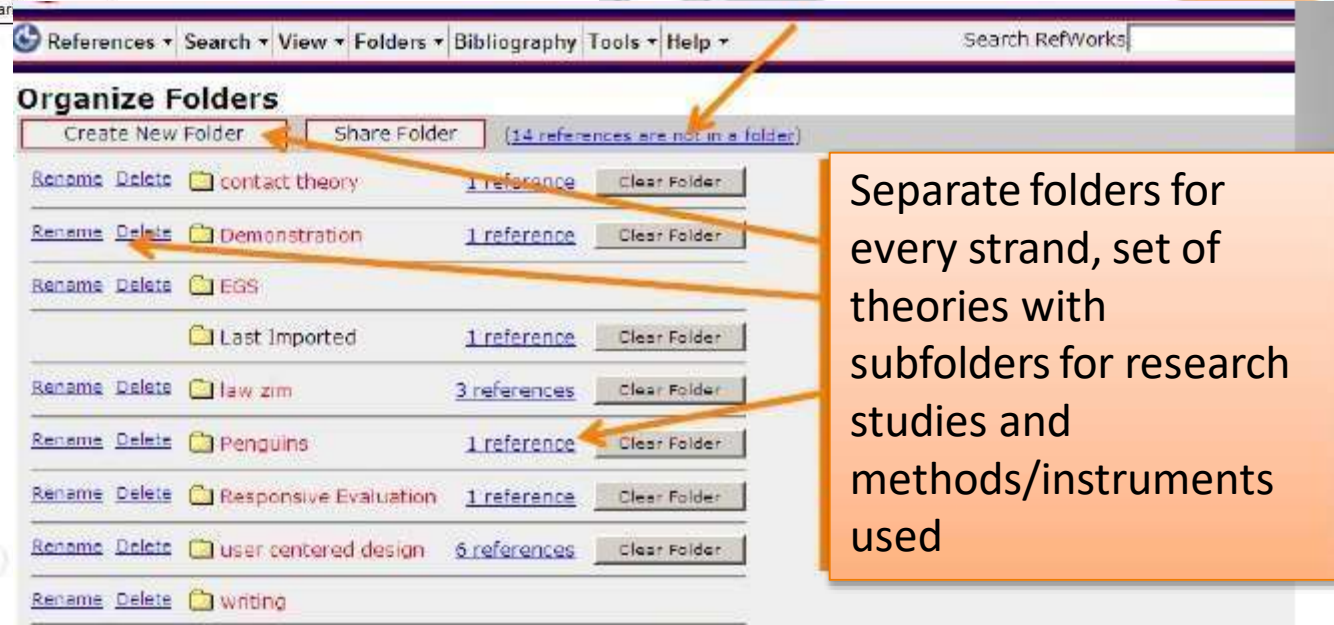
Enabling control and the problem of incomplete performance indicators

1

Organizing

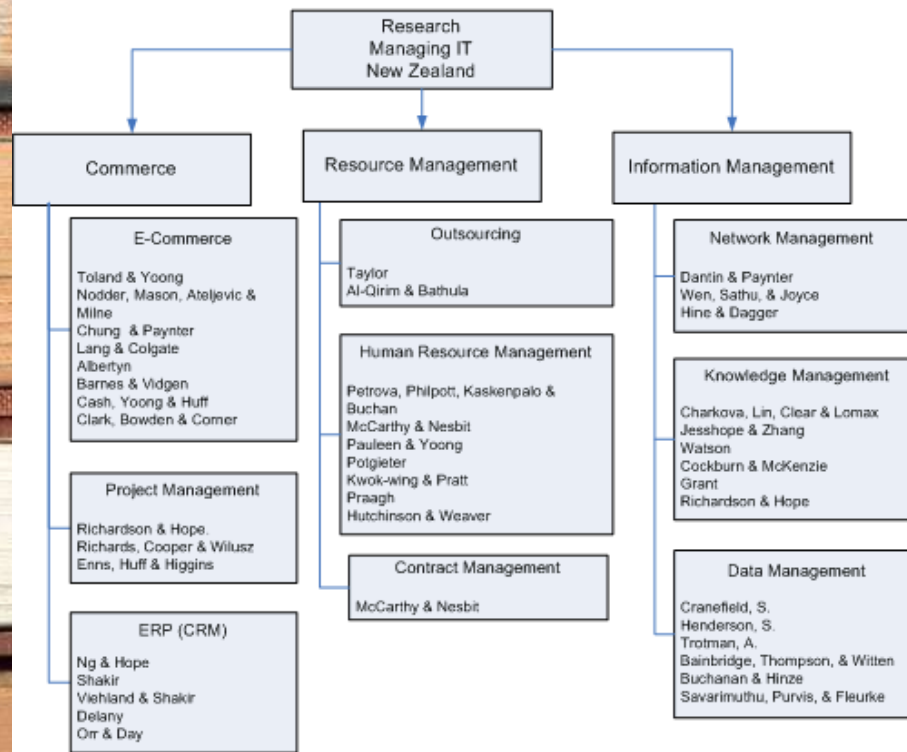


Use of RefWorks, EndNote, Docear and Nvivo to create a literature map or LR structure, to find methodological, empirical support or theoretical gaps



Synthesis

Literature map



An example of the LR structure

- Introduction
- 1st strand of the argument
 - Analysis of studies from distant to close or chronological.
 - Comparison and contrast of different approaches.
 - From theory to empirical studies
- 2nd strand
- 3rd strand
- 4th strand
- Conclusion

When to stop

Do not build a library

- It is important to keep control of the reading process, and to keep your research focus in mind. Rudestam and Newton (1992, pp. 9) remind us that the aim is to **'Build an argument, not a library'**.

Write while you collecting

- It is also important to see the writing stage as part of the research process, not something that happens after you have finished reading the literature. Wellington et al (2005, pp.80) suggest **'Writing while you collect and collecting while you write.'**

Is exhaustive possible?

Deciding how wide to cast the net is a critical step in conducting a review. Cooper (1988) proposes four coverage scenarios: exhaustive review, exhaustive with selective citation, representative and sample & purposive sample

References

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