

A literature review is an overview of what has been studied, argued, and established on a specific subject matter. It surveys scholarly articles, books, web sites and other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work. The review is usually organized chronologically or thematically.

A literature review is written in essay format and groups related works together discussing trends and developments rather than focusing on one item at a time. It evaluates previous and current research in regard to how relevant and/or useful it is and how it relates to your own research.

- ***Assignment: Review the literature on a specific topic for a given time period.***

Purpose:

- Provides practice in using the Library Catalog, electronic databases and print resources to access information.
- Provides practice in scanning through resources efficiently.
- Helps to develop the ability to apply critical appraisal skills to the literature of a discipline.
- Provides practice using a bibliographic citation style.

To complete this assignment, it will be helpful to review the following information on the [Help With Research](#) webpage on the Library website:

- Prepare a search strategy
- Identify appropriate sources
- Locate and evaluate your sources
- Cite your sources and avoid plagiarism

Adapted from Memorial University Libraries Ideas for Library/Information Assignments, Memorial University of Newfoundland, (c) 2004.

Additional Information

The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – [Literature Reviews](#)

An example of a literature review: Mallett, S. (2004). **Understanding home: A critical review of the literature.** The Sociological Review, 52(1): 62-89. [Link to the article](#) from Ebsco Electronic Journals database licensed by the Kwantlen Library.

The annotated bibliography requires students to develop a topic search for evaluate and summarize relevant literature and cite information in the proper format for the current field of study.

Incorporates [ACRL Standards](#): 1 2 3 4 5

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