
Advanced Certificate in Literature Review for PhD Research

Literature Review Frameworks

A literature review is an essential component of any academic research project, especially for a PhD dissertation. It involves a critical evaluation of existing literature on a specific topic or research question. To effectively conduct a literature review, researchers often use various frameworks to structure and organize their review. These frameworks provide a systematic approach to reviewing the literature, helping researchers identify key themes, gaps, and relationships among different studies.

In the Advanced Certificate in Literature Review for PhD Research course, students will learn about different literature review frameworks that can be used to guide their research. Understanding these frameworks is crucial for conducting a comprehensive and well-organized literature review that forms the foundation of a successful research project. Below are some key terms and vocabulary related to literature review frameworks:

1. **Research Question**: The central question that the literature review aims to address. It guides the selection of relevant literature and helps focus the review on specific aspects of the topic.
2. **Scope**: The boundaries of the literature review, including the time period, geographical location, and specific aspects of the topic that will be covered.
3. **Inclusion Criteria**: Criteria used to select relevant studies for the literature review. This could include specific types of research designs, methodologies, or publication dates.
4. **Exclusion Criteria**: Criteria used to exclude studies that do not meet the requirements of the literature review. This could include studies with poor methodology, outdated information, or irrelevant topics.
5. **Search Strategy**: The systematic approach used to search for and identify relevant literature. This may involve using databases, search engines, and other sources to find articles, books, and other publications.
6. **Critical Appraisal**: The process of evaluating the quality and relevance of the literature. This involves assessing the methodology, validity, and reliability of the studies included in the review.
7. **Synthesis**: The process of integrating and summarizing the findings of the literature review. This helps identify common themes, patterns, and gaps in the existing literature.
8. **Framework**: A structured approach or model used to organize and analyze the literature. Different frameworks offer various ways to categorize, compare, and interpret the findings of the reviewed studies.
9. **Narrative Review**: A traditional form of literature review that summarizes and synthesizes the literature without using a specific framework or methodology.

10. ****Systematic Review****: A rigorous and structured review that follows a predefined protocol and uses explicit criteria to select and evaluate studies. It aims to minimize bias and provide a comprehensive overview of the literature.
11. ****Meta-analysis****: A statistical technique used to combine and analyze the results of multiple studies on the same topic. It provides a quantitative summary of the findings and can help identify trends or patterns in the literature.
12. ****Conceptual Framework****: A theoretical framework that guides the literature review by defining key concepts, relationships, and variables relevant to the research question.
13. ****Theoretical Framework****: A broader theoretical perspective that informs the literature review by providing a theoretical lens through which to interpret the findings of the reviewed studies.
14. ****Thematic Analysis****: A qualitative method used to identify, analyze, and report patterns or themes within the literature. It helps organize and synthesize the findings of the review.
15. ****Citation Management Software****: Tools used to organize, store, and format citations for the literature review. Examples include EndNote, Mendeley, and Zotero.
16. ****Grey Literature****: Literature that is not formally published or peer-reviewed, such as conference papers, reports, and dissertations. It can provide valuable insights and perspectives not found in traditional academic sources.
17. ****Interdisciplinary****: Involving multiple disciplines or fields of study. An interdisciplinary literature review may draw on a diverse range of sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic.
18. ****Publication Bias****: The tendency for studies with positive or significant results to be published, while studies with negative or inconclusive results are less likely to be published. This can skew the findings of a literature review.
19. ****Heterogeneity****: The diversity or variability of studies included in the literature review. Heterogeneity can affect the generalizability and validity of the review findings.
20. ****Practical Implications****: The real-world applications or implications of the literature review findings. This can inform policy, practice, or future research in the field.

By familiarizing themselves with these key terms and vocabulary related to literature review frameworks, students in the Advanced Certificate in Literature Review for PhD Research course will be better equipped to conduct a thorough and effective literature review for their research projects. Each term plays a crucial role in shaping the structure, methodology, and outcomes of the literature review, ultimately contributing to the overall quality and significance of the research.