WRITING A LITERATURE REVIEW

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What is a Literature Review?

- A critical, analytical summary and synthesis of the current knowledge of a topic

- Compare and relate different theories and findings

- Should have a focus/theme to organize the review

- Does not need to be *exhaustive* but should cover significant, academic literature

Organization of a Review

- Brief, but thorough, exploration of past *and* current work on a topic

- Organized thematically, such as different theoretical approaches, methodologies, or specific issues or concepts

Primary Sources

- **Lab Reports** - Records of the results of experiments
- **Field Notes, Measurements, etc**. - Records of observations of the natural world
- **Conference Proceedings** - Scientists getting together to present their latest ideas and findings
- **Articles of Original Research** – Published in peer-reviewed journals
- **Dissertations**
- **Patents**
- **Internet** - Websites that publish the author's findings or research **Note**: use extreme caution when using the Internet as a primary source … remember, *anyone* with a computer can put up a website.

Secondary Sources

- Books, articles, and other writings by scientists reporting their work to others
- They may be reporting the results of their own primary research or critiquing the work of others
- These sources are usually the **focus** of a literature review: this is where you go to find out in *detail* what has **been** and is **being done** in a field, and therefore to see how your work can contribute to the field.

Tertiary Sources

- **Summaries / Introductions** - Encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks, yearbooks, and other sources that provide an **introduction** or **summary** "state of the art" of the research in the subject areas covered.

- **Databases/Indexes** - They are an excellent way of finding books, articles, conference proceedings and other publications in which scientists report the results of their research.

Writing the Literature Review

- What is the purpose for the literature review and make sure your review specifically addresses your purpose(s).

- Write as you read, and revise as you read more.

- Writing a summary of an article when you read it helps you to think more carefully about the article.

- Having drafts and annotations to work with will also make writing the full review easier since you won't have to rely completely on your memory or have to keep thumbing back through all the articles.

- The first draft is for you, so you can tell yourself what you are thinking. Later you can rewrite it for others to tell them what you think.

Specific Points to Include

- **Be selective**.
- You are trying to boil down a lot of information into a small space.
- Mention just the most important points in each work you review.
- **Is it a current article**?
- How old is it?
- Have its claims, evidence, or arguments been superseded by more recent work?
- If it is not current, is it important for historical background?

Specific Points to Include

- **Does the author take into account contrary or conflicting evidence and arguments**?
- How does the author address disagreements with other researchers?

Acknowledging your sources

- *Citations reflect the careful and thorough work you have put into locating and exploring your sources.*
- *Citations are a courtesy to the reader, who may share your interest in a particular area of scholarship.*
- *By citing sources, you demonstrate your integrity and skill as a responsible participant in the conversation of scholarship.*
- *Failure to provide adequate citations constitutes plagiarism.*

APA Style: Language

Language in an APA paper is:

- **clear: be specific in descriptions and explanations**

- **concise: condense information when you can**

- **plain: use simple, descriptive adjectives and minimize figurative language**

References Page

• **Center the title (References) at the top of the page. Do not bold it.**

• **Double-space reference entries**

• **Flush left the first line of the entry and indent subsequent lines**

• **Order entries alphabetically by the author's surnames**

References

Cummings, J. N., Butler, B., & Kraut, R. (2002). The quality of online social relationships. *Communications of the ACM, 45*(7), 103-108.

Hu, Y., Wood, J.F., Smith, V., & Westbrook, N. (2004). Friendships through IM: Examining the relationship between instant messaging and intimacy. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, 10*(1), 38-48.

Tidwell, L.C., & Walther, J.B. (2002). Computer-mediated communication effects on disclosure, impressions, and interpersonal evaluations: Getting to know one another a bit at a time. *Human Communication Research, 28*(3), 317-348.

Underwood, H., & Findlay, B. (2004). Internet relationships and their impact on primary relationships. *Behaviour Change, 21*(2), 127-140.

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Why Use APA Style?

- *This is the most common format for documenting sources.*

- *This format is widely used for course papers and journal articles in Psychology and also in the social sciences, education, engineering, and business.*

What is APA In-Text Citations

- *Use of a <u>parenthetical reference system</u> in the text of the paper.*

- *Tied to an alphabetical <u>References list</u> (located at the end of your paper)*

- *Use <u>author-date</u> system of citation*

All in-text *parenthetical references must correspond to a source cited in the References list.*

REMEMBER

APA requires double-spacing between ALL text lines – that includes references.

Please note that, in an attempt to save space, this guide has been formatted in single spacing.

APA In-Text Citations

One Work by One Author

Example: Reference in the text:

According to Taylor (2000), the personalities of …

OR, you may write like this:

In a study of personalities and character (Taylor, 2000) …

Example: References (at the end of your paper)

Taylor, M. M. (2000). Study of personalities and character. *Journal of Psychology, 93* (1), 257-267.

APA In-Text Citations

One Work by One Author (Cont.)

Cite by author and year only even when reference includes <u>month or date</u>:

Example: Reference in the text:

Mak (2006) found workers are happier …

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper)

Mak, J. (2006, October 4). More public holidays for workers. *The Star,* p. N6.

APA In-Text Citations
One Work by Two authors

- *Always cite both names every time the reference occurs in text.*

- *Use the word "and" between the authors' names within the text, Use "&" in the parentheses.*

Example: Reference in the text:

Serlin and Lapsley (1985) discovered the problems …

OR, you may write like this:

A survey on the problems in … (Serlin & Lapsley, 1985)

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper)

Serlin, R. C., & Lapsley, D. K. (1985). Rationality in psychological research: The good-enough principle. *American Psychologist, 40*, 73-83.

APA In-Text Citations

One Work by Multiple authors (3-7 authors)

Example: Reference in the text:

Skinner, Cornell, Sun, and Harlow, 1993 found…
(Use as 1st citation in text)

Skinner et al. (1993) found … (Use as subsequent 1st citation per paragraph thereafter)

Skinner et al. also found … (Omit year from subsequent citations after 1st citation within a paragraph)

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper - List all authors)

Skinner, M. E., Cornell, R. C., Sun, K. F., & Harlow, R. P. (1993). Small group learning, *Psychological Bulletin, 26,*
57-63.

APA In-Text Citations

8 or More Authors

- **For works with 8 or more authors, the 1ˢᵗ citation & subsequent citations use first author et al. and year.**
- **et al means "and others"**

Example: Reference in the text:

Wolchik et al. (2000) studied the use of …

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper) - [List the first six authors, … and the last author]

Wolchik, S. A., West, S. G., Sandler, I. N., Tein, J., Coatsworth, D., Lengua, L., … Rubin, L. H. (2000). An experimental evaluation of theory-based mother and mother-child programs for children of divorce. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 68*, 843-856.

APA In-Text Citations

Groups as Authors

Write down corporate author in full every time if the abbreviation is NOT common.

Example: (University of Pittsburg, 1998)

If group author is easily identified by its abbreviation, you may abbreviate the name in the second and subsequent citations:

Examples:

1st citation:
Ministry of Education [MOE], 2001)

Subsequent text citation:
(MOE, 2001)

APA In-Text Citations
Works With No Author

• Cite the first few words of the reference list entry

• Usually the title of the article or newspaper

• And the year

• Use " " and *italics*

Example: Reference in the text:

Many mentally ill drinkers seek the help from… ("*Alcohol and the risk*," 2006).

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper)

Alcohol and the risk of cancer. (2006, October 10). *The Straits Times*, p. 32.

APA In-Text Citations

Authors With the Same Surname

- *Use initials with the last names if your reference list includes two or more authors with the same last name.*

Example: Reference in the text:

Research by J. Young (1989) revealed that . . .

Survey by E. Young (1990) proved that …

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper)

Young, J. (1989). *The Purification Plan.* New York: Rodale Books.

Young, E. (1990). *Caring for the Vulnerable.* London: Jones and   Bartlett.

APA In-Text Citations

- *Give the secondary source in the reference list.*

- *In text, name the original work, and give a citation for the secondary source.*

Example: Reference in the text:

Irene and John's study (as cited in Tornhill, Curtis, Atkins, & Haller, 1993)

Example: References (at the end of your paper)

Tornhill, M., Curtis, B. Atkins, P., & Haller, M. (1993). Models of reading aloud: Dual-route and parallel-distributed-processing approaches. *Psychological Review*, *100*, 589-608.

APA In-Text Citations

Quotations - Short Quotes
(< 40 words)

Directly quote - include the author, year of publication, and the page number.

Example: Reference in the text:

According to Jones (2004), "Students often had difficulty using APA style, especially when it was their first time" (p. 199).

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper)

Jones, L. (2004). *How to research.* London: Open University Press.

APA In-Text Citations

Quotations - Long Quotes

(> 40 words)

- *Use block form, indent 5 spaces for entire quote*

- *Use double space and Do not use " "*

- *Use … to indicate omitted words*

Example: Reference in the text:

We agree with Obrue (2002), who concluded:

Neurofeedback is perhaps best viewed not as an alternative to conventional psychopharmacological agents but rather… (p. 8).

*Example: References (*at the end of your paper)

Obrue, K. (2002). *Neurofeedback practice.* New York: McGraw-Hill.

Formatting Your Reference List

The Basics

- *APA requires a hanging indent for its citations.*

- *Please be sure to use double space citations.*

- *Documents only sources used in research and preparation.*

- *Alphabetize the works.*

Pay Specific Attention to:

- *Consistency in how you apply APA.*

- *Punctuation (period, comma, semi-colon).*

- *Location and publisher for books.*

- *Volume, issue and page numbers for articles.*

- *Complete and correct information.*

- *Spelling.*

Reference List Order

- **Alphabetical by author's name**
- **Chronological by same author**
- **Alphabetical by title**

- Same author, same year, different title:

  Alleyne, R. L. (2004a). Managing information …
  Alleyne, R. L. (2004b). Multimedia management …

- Same author, different year:

  Hewlett, L. S. (2005). Critical thinking about …
  Hewlett, L. S. (2006). Doing quantitative research …

- Alphabetize the prefix M', Mc and Mac literally, not as if they were all spelled Mac. Disregard the apostrophe.

- MacArthur, B. A. (2000). Problems and promises…
  McAllister, G. J. (2000). Choice and the relative …

Reference List
Personal Names

- *English Names: Invert all author's names.*

  Example: Patrick, Kiger → Kiger, P.

- *Chinese Names: Enter under surname.*

  Examples: Lim Swee Hong → Lim, S. H.

  Wendy Wang Pei Lyn → Wang, W. P. L.

Publisher Information

- *Give city and state if city is not well known or ambiguous (US postal code 2-letter).*

  Example: Hillsdale, NJ or Cambridge, MA

- *Spell out other countries*
  Example: Oxford, England: Blackwell

- *Spell out name of publisher especially associations, corporations, university presses*

- *Leave out terms like "Publisher, Co, Inc."*

- *Retain terms like "Books", "Press".*

More Than One Publisher Location

- *Use the first one, if the book lists more than one publisher location.*

  Example:

  New York, London: MacMillan

  → Cite as New York: MacMillan

Book Reference

Single Author

General Format

Author, A. (Year). *Title of book.* **Location: Publisher.**

Example:

Zautra, A. (2006). *Emotions, stress, and health.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Book Reference

Single Author (Cont.)

When the author and publisher are identical, use the word "Author" as the name of the publisher.

Example:

American Psychiatric Association. (1994). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Book Reference

Multiple Authors

When a work has 2 or more authors:

Example:

3 Authors

Playfair, J. H., Gardner, M., & Bancroft, G. J. (2004). *Infection and immunity*. (2nd ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Book Reference

Corporate Author

General Format

Corporate Author. (Year). *Title of book*. Location: Publisher.

Example:

Institute of Banking & Finance. (2006). *Managing personal fund.* Toronto: Midwestern.

Book Reference

Unknown or No Author

Begin with title. Titles of books are italicized.

General Format

Title of book. **(Year). Place of publication: Publisher.**

Example:

Education Handbook. (2005). London: Longman.

Edited Book Reference

General Format

Editor, A. (Ed.). (Year). *Title of book*. **Location: Publisher.**

Examples:

One editor:

Michael, G. (Ed.). (1988). *Psycholinguistics*. **Beijing: Peking**
University Press.

More than one editor:

Grice, H., & Gregory, R. (Eds.). (1968). *Early language development*. **New York: McGraw-Hill.**

Later Edition Book Reference

General Format

Author, A. (Year). *Title of book* **(2nd ed.). Location: Publisher.**

Example:

Skinner, E. (2003). *Women and the national experience* **(2nd ed.). New York: Longman.**

Book Chapter Reference

General Format

**Article Author. (Year). Article Title. In Book Editor(s), Book
Title (page numbers). Location: Publisher.**

Example:

**Blaxter, L. (1996). Thinking about research. In R. A. Lillian
& J. F. Rebecca (Eds.), *How to research* (pp. 19-25).
Buckingham: Open University Press.**

Journal Article Reference

One Author

General Format

Author, A. (Year). Title of article. *Journal Title, Vol*(no), pages.

Example:

McGill, K. (2006). Reading the valley: performance as a rhetoric of dimension, *Text and Performance Quarterly, 26*(4)*, 389-404.*

Journal Article Reference

Two Authors

List all authors with & preceding last author.

Example:

Racette, A., & Bard, C. (2006). Making non-fluent aphasics speak. *Journal of Logic and Computation, 18*, 27-45.

Journal Article Reference

More Than Seven Authors

Example:

Bjokr, R. N. Auerbach, J. S., Piaget, J., Tein, J. Y., Kwok, O. M., Haine, R. A., ... Botros, N. (2003). Classroom Interaction in Science: Teacherquestioning and feedback to students' responses. *International Journal of Science Education,* 63, 57-60.

Magazine Article Reference

General Format

Author, A. (Year, Month day). Title of article. *Title of Magazine, volume if given*, page-numbers.

Example:

Reppel, F. G. (2003, February 13). Conflict and cognitive control. *Natural Science, 33*, 969-970.

Newspaper Article Reference

General Format

Author, A. (Year, Month Day). Title of article. *Title of Newspaper*, pages.

Example:

Lee, S. (2006, October 3). Malaysia off the priority watch list for pirated movies, music. *New Straits Times*, p. 6.

Unpublished Thesis Reference

General Format

Author, A. (Year). *Title of thesis*. Unpublished level thesis. University, Place.

Example:

Kondo, T. (1991). *The making of a corporate elite adult targeted comic magazines of Japan.* Unpublished master's thesis. McGill University, Canada.

Web Page Reference
Electronic Copy of a Journal
Article Retrieved from Database with DOI

General Format

Author, A. (Year). *Title of article. Title of Periodical, Vol (no)*, pages. Retrieved Month Day, Year, Issue, Page Numbers.

Example:

Borman, W. C., Hanson, M. A., Oppler, S. H., Pulakos, E. D., & White, L. A. (1993). Role of early supervisory experience in supervisor performance. Journal of Applied Psychology, 78, 443-449. doi:10:1002//piq.20033

Web Page *Reference*

Article in an Internet-only Journal
Article does not appear in print journal
or magazine

General Format

Author, A. (Year). Title of article. *Journal Title, vol* (no), pages. Retrieved from source.

Example:

Pelling, N. (2002, May 5). The use of technology in career counseling. *Journal of Technology in Counselin (2).* Retrieved from http://jtc.colstate.edu/pelling.htm

Web Page Reference

Stand-alone Document, No Author Identified, No Date

General Format

Title. (n.d.). Retrieved Month Day, Year, from source.

Example:

What I did today. (n.d.). Retrieved August 21, 2010, from http://www.cc.mystory.life/blog/didtoday.html

Helpful Resources

- Webster, J., & Watson, R.T. (2002). Analyzing the past to prepare for the future: Writing a literature review. *MIS Quarterly, 26*(2), xiii-xxiii. Available at: http://www.misq.org/archivist/vol/no26/issue2/GuestEd.pdf.
- The Literature Review (Deakin University). Available at: http://www.deakin.edu.au/library/findout/research/litrev.php.
- What can a literature review do for me? How to research, write, and survive a literature review (Stanford University). Available at: http://ual.stanford.edu/pdf/uar_literaturereviewhandout.pdf.
- Tools for preparing literature reviews (George Washington University). Available at: http://www.gwu.edu/~litrev/.
- The Literature review: A few tips on conducting it (University of Toronto). Available at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review.