

# How to Write a literature review?

By: Mr V Zungu

Source: IULAU

# Elements of Literature review

- Three important elements in writing a review:
  1. **Describe** what the author has done,
  2. **Analyses** how the book tried to achieve its purpose,
  3. **Express** your own reaction to book.

# Question to ask?

## 1. What is the author's viewpoint and purpose?

The viewpoint or purpose may be implied rather than stated, but often a good place to look for what the author says about his or her purpose and viewpoint is the **introduction or preface**. In a Journal an **abstract** is perfect place to read author's purpose and findings/results.

## 2. What are the author's main points?

Again, these will often be stated in the introduction and abstract  
(in Journal Article)

# EXAMPLE

## Abstract

Aircraft noise is a growing social, technical, economic and environmental problem, especially in developing countries like South Africa. It arises from the growth in air traffic, urbanization, uncoordinated planning around airports, and open-window living that makes physical insulation an ineffective mitigating solution. Cape Town International airport is a typical South African example of the phenomenon. Air traffic volume is steadily increasing and an additional runway has been proposed for the airport's efficient operation. The changing noise pattern requires the demarcation of a 'noise-controlled area' around the airport as the planning framework that is legally prescribed to manage this type of environmental nuisance.

This paper reports the application of geographic information system (GIS) technology to define a control zone using various spatial demarcation techniques. Each alternative zone has different spatial characteristics that define and incorporate the adjacent residential communities affected as well as vulnerable land in the vicinity. An aircraft noise generation model was used to map noise intensity contours. Different spatial noise footprints for six optional demarcation criteria were used to identify affected areas around the airport. The GIS methods were then compared and evaluated to select the optimum planning approach under South African conditions.

**Background** to the main issue raised in the paper.  
**Broadly explaining** the key issues raised in the paper.

**Stating** the purpose of the paper.  
**Briefly describing** the method used to conduct the study.  
Provide **conclusion** in a snapshot.

# Questions to ask

1. What kind of evidence does the author use to prove his or her points? Is the evidence convincing

Why or why not? Does the author support his or her points adequately?

2. How does this book relate to other books on the same topic?

Is the book unique? Does it add new information? What group of readers, if any, would find this book most useful?

# Question to ask

- How successful do you think the author was in carrying out the overall purpose of the book?

For example, if an author says his or her purpose is to argue for their **theory** about a particular phenomenon. Then reviews of these books should **evaluate** what kind of theory the book is arguing for, how much and what kind of **evidence** the author uses to support his/her claims, how **valid** the evidence seems, how the expert the author is, and how much the book contributes to the **knowledge** of the field.

# Writing the Review

- **Six components:**
  - **Heading:** Title. Author. Place of publication: publisher, date of publication. Number of pages.
  - **Introduction:** *Like most peaces of writing, the review itself usually begins with an introduction that lets your readers know what the review will say. You briefly overview the contents of the book, its purpose, your reaction and evaluation.*
  - **Context and Criteria** (Answers question 1)
  - **Summary of main points** (Answers questions 2,3 & 4)
  - **Evaluation** (Answers question 5)
  - **Conclusion**

# 2. Literature review

---

## 2.1. Introduction

The main aim of the study is to unravel the effects of communication on the quality of projects with reference to facility management projects. This focus draws on the two important concepts that require in-depth analysis in the study and these are: Communication and Project Quality. Each of these concepts will be thoroughly defined to provide the framework within which to conceptualise the study. As mentioned in the introduction section of the proposal, the academic research enquiry which narrates the linkage between communication and project quality is limited.

The authors that cast some light on the role of communication in project management are Nielsen and Erdogan(2007). Likewise, Naqvi et al.(2008) also concur by emphasizing that project scope, time, and cost are considered triplet constraints and the primary function of the project, recently adding quality as a fourth function. However management of HR, stakeholder communication, risk and procurement are declared secondary and support function for the project management Institution [PMI] (Naqvi et al., 2011: 5824). Unlike Yang (2009), whose primary focused was on the effects of technology on the project quality, Nielsen and Erdogan argued that communication is the key factor in the success of the project (Nielsen and Erdogan, 2007)

# Writing the Review

- **Context and Criteria:**

Here you discuss what the purpose of the book is and what criteria you will use for judging the book

- **Summary of the main points:**

Summarize the main points of the book, quoting and paraphrasing key phrases from the author.

- **Evaluation:**

reviewers give their evaluation of the book. Here one discusses a variety of issues: How well the book has achieved its goal

# Writing the review

- **Evaluation continued:**

- What possibilities are suggested by the book,
- What the book has left out,
- How the book compares to the others on the subject,
- What specific points are not convincing, and
- What personal experiences you have had related to the subject.

- **Conclusion:**

The conclusion ties together issues raised in the review and provides a concise comment on the book.

After you have completed your review, be sure to proofread it carefully for errors and typos.

Double check your bibliographic heading – title, author, publisher, and pages – for accuracy and correct spelling as well.

# Making links between studies

## Agreements

- *Similarly*, author B points to...
- *Likewise*, author C makes the case that...
- Author D *also* makes this point...
- *Again*, it is possible to see how author E agrees with author D...

## Disagreements

- *However*, author B points to...
- *On the other hand*, author C makes the case that...
- *Conversely*, Author D argues...
- *Nevertheless*, what author E suggests...

# Summary table

- It is useful to prepare.
- Such a table provides a quick overview that allows the reviewer to make sense of a large mass of information.
- The tables could include columns with headings such as
  - Author
  - type of study
  - Sample
  - Design
  - data collection approach
  - key findings

# Summary table of literature

## Atmospherics in service environments

Citation	Sample	Environment	Method	Conclusions
<b>Colour</b>				
Bellizzi, Crowley and Hasty (1983)	125 Adults	Furniture store	Laboratory experiment Photographic slide simulations	Warm and cool colours created different emotional responses. Customers view red retail environments as more negative and unpleasant than blue.
Bellizzi, & Hite (1992)	70 Adult women 107 Students	Televisions shown with different colour backgrounds Furniture stores	Laboratory experiments Photographic slide simulations	Study based on PAD affect measures and approach-avoidance behaviours. More positive retail outcomes occurred in blue environments than red.
<b>Music</b>				
Smith and Curnow (1966)	1100 Supermarket shoppers	Retail store	Field experiment	Time in store reduced with loud music but level of sales did not.
Milliman (1982)	216 Shoppers	Supermarket	Field experiment	The tempo of background music influenced the pace at which customers shopped. Slow tempo music slowed customers down but resulted in increased volume of sales.
Hui, Dubé and Chebat (1997)	116 Students	Bank branch - waiting for service.	Laboratory experiment Video simulation	The positive impact of music on approach behaviours is mediated by an emotional evaluation of the environment and the emotional response to waiting. Pleasurable music produced longer perceived waiting times.
<b>Lighting</b>				
Areni and Kim (1994)	171 Shoppers	Wine store	Field experiment	The investigation found that brighter in-store lighting influenced shoppers to examine and handle more of the merchandise in the store
Summers and Hebert (2001)	2367 Customers	Hardware store Apparel store	Field experiment	Confirmed Areni and Kims (1994) results. Increased levels of lighting will produce arousal and pleasure and increase the approach behaviours of customers.

# Citation styles

- **Information prominent citation**

Example:

- *For viscoelastic fluids, the behaviour of the time-dependent stresses in the transient shear flows is also very important (Boger et al., 1974).*

- **Author prominent citation**

Examples:

- *Close (1983) developed a simplified theory using an analogy between heat and mass transfer and the equivalent heat transfer only case.*
- *Several authors have suggested that automated testing should be more readily accepted (Balcer, 1989; Stahl, 1989; Carver & Tai, 1991).*

# Active or passive voice

- You should use, where appropriate, both active and passive voice
- As a general rule, use active voice unless there is good reason not to

# Reporting verbs

- **Argue**
- **Assert**
- **Assume**
- **Challenge**
- **Claim**
- **Contend**
- **Contradict**
- **Describe**
- **Dispute**
- **Emphasize**
- **Establish**
- **Examine**
- **Find**
- **Maintain**
- **Note**
- **Object**
- **Observe**
- **Persuade**
- **Propose**
- **Prove**
- **Purport**
- **Recommend**
- **Refute**
- **Reject**
- **Remark**
- **Suggest**
- **Support**

# Verb tenses – Present

- **A statement about what the written document or section does**

*Examples:*

- *This review presents a report of an investigation into .....*
- *This chapter thus provides a basis for the next.*
- *In this section, the results from the first set of experiments are reported.*

- **A statement of a generally accepted scientific fact**

*Examples:*

- *There are three factors that control the concentration of aluminum in seawater.*
- *The finite rate coefficients have an effect on heat transfer through a horizontal porous layer.*

# Verb tenses – Present

- **A review of current research work, or research work of immediate relevance to your study.**

*Example:*

– *Schulze (2002) concludes that hydraulic rate has a significant effect on future performance.*

- **Comments, explanations and evaluative statements made by you when you are reviewing previous studies.**

*Examples:*

– *Therefore, this sequential approach is impractical in the real world where projects are typically large and the activities from one stage may be carried out in parallel with the activities of another stage.*

– *The reason for this anomalous result is that the tests were done at low hydraulic rates at which the plastic packing was not completely wetted.*

# Verb tenses – Past

- **Report the contents, findings or conclusions of past research**

*Examples:*

- *Haberfield (1998) showed that the velocity of many enzyme reactions was slowed down if the end product had an increased paramagnetism.*
- *Allington (1999) found that the temperatures varied significantly over time.*

# Verb tenses – Present perfect

- **In citations where the focus is on the research area of several authors**

*Examples:*

- *Several studies **have provided** support for the suggestion that the amount of phonological recoding that is carried out depends on orthographic depth (Frost, 1994; Smart et al, 1997; Katz & Feldman, 2001, 2002).*
- *Joint roughness has been characterized by a number of authors (Renger, 1990; Feker & Rengers, 1997; Wu & Ali, 2000).*

- **To generalize about the extent of the previous research**

*Examples:*

- *Many studies have been conducted in this field.*
- *Few researchers have examined this technique.*
- *There has been extensive research into.....*

# The Writing Process

- Rough Draft
- Edit
- Second Draft
- Edit Again
- Final Draft

# Show others

Have someone else look at your literature review for

- **Clarity**
  - Can they understand what you're trying say?
- **Flow**
  - Does the organization make sense?
- **Completeness**
  - Are there areas left out?
  - Questions left unanswered?
  - Statements without citations?

# A Good Literature Review is:

- **Focused** - The topic should be narrow. You should only present ideas and only report on studies that are closely related to topic.
- **Concise** - Ideas should be presented economically. Don't take any more space than you need to present your ideas.
- **Logical** - The flow within and among paragraphs should be a smooth, logical progression from one idea to the next
- **Developed** - Don't leave the story half told.
- **Integrative** - Your paper should stress how the ideas in the studies are related. Focus on the big picture. What commonality do all the studies share? How are some studies different than others? Your paper should stress how all the studies reviewed contribute to your topic.
- **Current** - Your review should focus on work being done on the cutting edge of your topic.

# Pitfalls

- Vagueness due to too much or inappropriate generalizations
- Limited range
- Insufficient information
- Irrelevant material
- Omission of contrasting view
- Omission of recent work

# Common errors in reviewing literature

- Hurrying through review to get finish could mean that you will miss something that will improve your research.
- Relying too heavily upon one or few data sources.
- Concentrating on findings rather than methods.
- Overlooking sources other than academic journals. Don't forget newspaper articles, magazines, blogs, etc.
- Searching too broad or too narrow of a topic.
- Inaccuracy in the compiling of bibliographic information.

THANK YOU

# Assignment One

The discipline of environmental management is now understood as encompassing ecological, economic and social dimensions. This is contrary to the previous paradigm of environmental management where it narrowly focused on the bio-physical aspect of the environment with the exclusion of economic and social systems in dealing with environmental problems.

Develop a literature review in which you unpack the above statement with reference to nature of environmental management as a field of enquiry. Your review must also answer questions such as: What is environmental Management and why it is valuable in the contemporary world. : 10% of your class mark

You are required to have **eight sources or more**, two of which must be journal articles, two of which may be internet sources, two of which must be newspaper/magazine articles, two of which must be books. Review must be no less than five typed pages. Line Space:1.5, Font Style: Times New Roman and the Font Size: 12

## **Submission**

**Draft:** 18 March 2016

**Final Sub Date:** 08 April 2016

**Time:** 12:00 pm

**NB:** This work maybe be prepared as a group of no more than four individuals.

## Important details!!

- Hand in on **08 April 2016**
- The review must be **Typed** with 5 pages but not less than 4 pages.
- It is important to carefully distinguish **your views** from the **author's view**. So that you do not confuse your reader.
- Try and make two – thirds of review as summary of the author's main ideas and at least one – third should evaluate the book.