Writing a Literature Review: How to Get Started

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Agenda

I. Introduction to IV/DVs
II. Review Research Summary Template
III. Review Research Paper Outline
IV. Writing your Literature Review
V. Helpful Resources
   I. Integrated Article Review Worksheet (PEGS, 2019)
   II. Appendices
Literature Review

What is a literature review?

- The main purpose of a literature review is to gain an understanding of the existing research or debates related to a topic of an area of study.
- A literature review should provide your reader with insight on the writings that helped you with your research.
- This section should be informative and demonstrate your understanding of your topic.

A good literature review does not just summarize sources—it analyzes, synthesizes, and critically evaluates to give a clear picture of your knowledge on the subject.
Literature Review

Key Steps
1. Search for relevant literature
2. Evaluate sources
3. Identify themes, debates, and gaps
4. Outline the structure
5. Write your literature review
Independent Variables

IV: Variable that is manipulated in order to identify the effect observed in the DV.

- Quasi/Experimental & Controlled (control variable)

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Dependent Variables

- DV: Variable that is used to observe/record/measure whether an effect has occurred or not.
- Researcher seeks to control both variables with the use of operational definitions, manipulation, and the design of the study (ex: 2 x 3 factorial design)

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Examples of IV’s & DV’s

- You want to study whether caffeine-intake affects your appetite.
- A scientist studies how many days people can eat soup until they get sick.
- Does anxiety impact student’s working memory?

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Preparing For Your Literature Review

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS & HYPOTHESIS DEVELOPMENT
Operational Definitions of Variables

- Set of procedures used to measure and manipulate it
  - Examples: happiness, cognitive task of performance, self-esteem
  - Variables need to be operationalized to be studied empirically.
Operational Definitions: Flowchart

Wellness
Psychological (DV)

Age differences
(IV1)

Adults

Children

Listening to
music/singing
(IV2)

2-3 times a week

3-5 times a week

More than 6 times week

3-5 times a week

Adults

Children

3-5 times a week

More than 6 times week
Hypothesis

- **Nature of Hypothesis** The hypothesis is a clear statement of what is intended to be investigated.
- It should be specified before research is conducted and openly stated in reporting the results.
- Identify the research objectives.
- Identify the key abstract concepts involved in the research.
- Identify its relationship to both the problem statement and the literature review.
- A problem cannot be scientifically solved unless it is reduced to hypothesis form.
Hypotheses

NULL HYPOTHESES
- Designated by: H0
- The null hypothesis states equality, there are no differences.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES
- Designated by: H1
- The research hypothesis is a statement of what a hypothesis test is set up to establish; states the inequality
- Opposite of Null Hypothesis.
- Only shown if H0 is rejected.
- Scientist goal of research.
Operational Definitions: Flowchart

- **Wellness**: Psychological (DV)

- **Age differences (IV1)**
  - 18-29 years old
  - 30 years +
  - 2-3 times a week
  - 3-5 times a week
  - More than 6 times a week

- **Listening to music/singing (IV2)**
Consider the example of a simple association between two variables, Y and X.

**IV1-** Adults who are 30 years and older are more likely to report overall wellness than adults who are 18 to 29 years old.

**IV2-** Participants who listen or sing music more than 6 times a week are more likely to report overall wellness than participants who listen or sing music 2-3 times or 3-5 times a week.

Interaction Hypotheses

**IV3-** Older adults (30-years-old or older) who listen or sing music more than 6 times a week are more likely to report overall wellness than older adults (30-years-old or older) who listen or sing music 2-3 times or 3-5 times a week.
Summary of a Good Hypothesis:

- Be stated in declarative form. (not a question)
- Clearly describes a relationship between the variables
- Reflect a theory or body of literature
- Brief and to the point
- Be testable.

(Salkind, 2009)
Introduction
Introduction

- Title at the top of the page
- Three components-
  - The problem under study
    - Broad context and significance of the topic
  - The literature review
    - Past research and theory
    - State how previous research is related to your study (support it or not, and why?)
  - The rationale and hypothesis
    - State variables being studied
- Other Tips: completely research topic, create outline
Research Template

Outline

INTRODUCTION ONLY AND SAMPLES
Writing Your Literature Review

APA STYLE, 7TH EDITION

HTTPS://APASTYLE.APA.ORG/
Parenthetical & Narrative Citations

Paraphrase the following with parenthetical or narrative citations:

- Interpersonal therapy (IPT) is an empirically-based treatment for a major depressive episode (MDE) (Elkin et al., 1989) and IPT based trials and trials that target an at-risk population appear to hold the most promise for further study (Werner et al., 2015). IPT based interventions target those factors that appear to play a role in PPD (e.g., social support, role transitions, life stressors). Previously, we conducted two randomized control pilot studies which used a selective IPT-based intervention to reduce the likelihood of PPD in pregnant women on public assistance and at risk for PPD.

Examples-

- Zlotnick and colleagues (2016) noted IPT is an empirically-based treatment for those who displayed MDE and this trial for this study was based on pregnant women.

- IPT is an empirically-based treatment for those who displayed MDE and this trial for this study was based on pregnant women (Zlotnick et al., 2016).
Helpful Resources
Integrated Article Worksheet

PEGS WORKSHOP, MARCH 2019
Appendices

RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE SPSS TRAINING CLUB

SPSSTRAININGCLUB@GMAIL.COM
Methods Section

Some topics to keep in mind while writing the methodology section

**Demographics**

- Where are you obtaining your participants
- Age
- Gender

**Groups**

- Are your participants being divided into groups? If so, state them and their purpose (control vs experimental group)

**Materials**

- State any test and scale that will be use for your research. If performing a unique task aside from any test or scale that can be obtained from peer reviewed articles, then every element needs to be included

**How the research was conducted**

- Provide important details and information as if you want someone else to mirror exactly what you are doing.
Result

- State the outcome of your research and whether your data supports your hypothesis
- The minimum requirement regarding data would be to include your mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) for each variable.
- You can include visuals such as table charts or graphs to help you present your data
- Percentages are displayed in parentheses with no decimal places
- Not an in-depth report
Saving Charts/Tables

1. Select File top left side
2. Click on “Export”
3. Under Document Type: select “PDF” or “Word” option
4. Type in desired file name
5. Select “Browse”
6. Retype file name
7. Select where to download PDF – desktop, documents
8. Click on “Save”
9. Click “Okay” – bottom right side

NOTE: PDF will begin to download, charts may take longer to load than result tables
Discussion

This part of the paper is where you describe what you have written in your body paragraphs and the literature that supports your hypothesis.

Then you explain your study and the results you have collected!

While your results show significance, data results and other statistical jargon, your discussion gives you the opportunity to explain those numbers.
Discussion

Limitations

• Explains any setbacks you had during your study, including insignificance

Example:

• Not enough diversity
• Weak Validity of measure (some items did not ask what you were measuring)
• Errors on SPSS
Discussion

Future Research

Recommendations on the study for future research (i.e., what could be done differently?)

What does your study help in society?

New ideas for variable relatability
Resources

Video on how to format a word document for your APA 7th edition style research paper:

➡️https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9hXY1xiZjo

Video on how to manually create a table using Word

➡️https://youtu.be/Xt_2ohUL9BI

Video on how to manually create a table using Google Docs

➡️https://youtu.be/-L12VmUPJQY