Craft of Research

WEEK 3: LITERATURE REVIEWS AND METHODOLOGIES
INSTRUCTOR: YVONNE FARAH
Outline

• IMRD: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion
• Literature Reviews
• Methods
• Upcoming
IMRD Structure

Introduction/Literature Review

Methods

Results

Discussion
IMRD

Introduction/Literature Review
• States the research problem or question
• Provides background and context
• Reviews relevant literature
• Outlines the purpose and significance of the study
Methods

- Describes in detail the materials and methodological approaches used
- Explains how the data was collected and analyzed
- Allows others to replicate the study
**Results**

- Presents the key findings from the research
- Uses figures, tables, and text to summarize the data
- States the results objectively without interpretation
IMRD

- Introduction/Literature Review
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion

- Interprets and explains the meaning of the results
- Relates the findings back to the research question
- Discusses limitations of the study
- Suggests implications and areas for future research
Literature Review

What is it?
An overview of previously published work on a topic, which can be part of a scholarly paper, book or article

Purpose:
Provides researchers and audiences with a general image of the existing knowledge on the topic, situating the current study with the body of relevant literature
Literature Review Key Objectives

1. Establishing familiarity and understanding of current research
   - Summarize and synthesize existing knowledge
   - Understand the background and current state of research area
Literature Review Key Objectives

2. Identify gaps, contradictions and limitations:
   - Critically examine the literature to find areas for further research
   - Identify under research aspects of the topic

3. Informing research questions, hypotheses and methodology:
   - Literature review can support in refining and focusing research questions
   - Gain insights from previous studied to inform research methods
Literature Review Key Objectives

4. Demonstrating scholarly understanding and credibility:
   - Show comprehensive knowledge of key concepts
   - Enhance credibility of your research by grounding in prior work

5. Guiding future research directions:
   - Identify areas to further investigate based on gaps and limitation
   - Suggest new research questions, hypotheses or meta-themes
Writing a literature review

**Prepare**

- Clearly articulate your research topic

**Conduct**

- Identify the scope of your review

**Write**

- Develop specific keywords and search terms
Write a literature review

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<td>Find and organize sources:</td>
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<td>Evaluate Relevance:</td>
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<td>Analyze and Synthesize Selected Papers:</td>
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Write a literature review

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- Create an outline:
- Write with a cohesive narrative:
- Revise and Refine:
Basic organization of literature reviews

A. General Background (1 to 2 paragraphs)

B. Addressing Specific Area (3+ paragraphs)

C. Purpose of Current Research (1 to 2 paragraphs)

Culminates to current research questions/aims/hypotheses
Literature Review Content

• Establishing a Territory
  Demonstrate the importance of the research topic and provide background information

• Identifying a Niche
  Indicate a gap, limitation or problem with the current research that the study is aiming to address

• Occupy the Niche
  Outline objectives, research questions and method of current study
Methodology Section

1. Describe how data were obtained
2. Explain how concepts and variables were used
3. Inform on the techniques utilized to gain the results
Basic Organization of Methodology Section

A. Contextualizing Study Methods
B. Describing the Study
C. Analyzing the Data