
LIT REVIEWS AND SYNTHESISING RESEARCH

ACADEMIC SKILLS WEBINAR PROGRAM

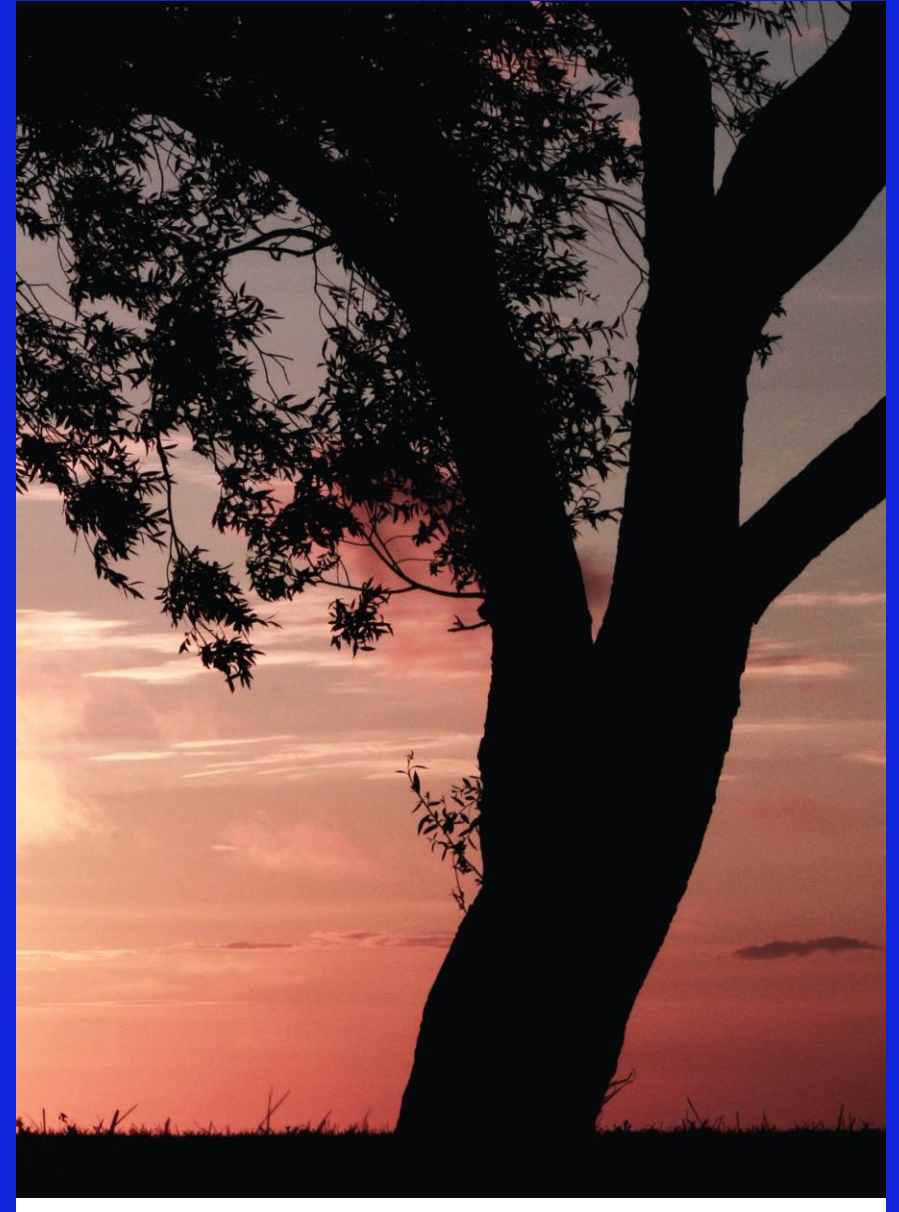
Learning Hub



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia, on the land wherever you may be joining us from and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture.

We pay our respects to all elders past and present.

We recognise those whose ongoing effort to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures will leave a lasting legacy for all future Australians.



WEBINAR GOALS

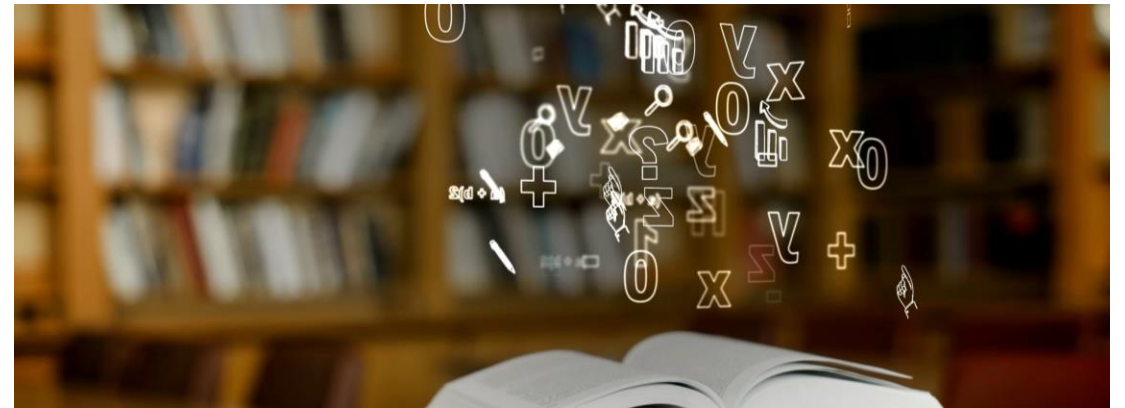
During this webinar you will learn:

- the purpose and structure of a Lit Review.
- how to search for literature.
- how to synthesise research in a paragraph.

WHERE ARE WE AT?

Have you read a literature review before?

Have you written a literature review before?



WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review examines and **critically evaluates** the most **relevant, recent, and scholarly research** on a **particular topic**. A literature review can stand alone or be part of a larger piece of work, such as a report, research proposal or thesis

What do you have coming up?



A LITERATURE REVIEW VS A ESSAY

Traditional Academic Essay

- Uses theory relevant to the argument
- Focus on the knowledge itself
- Past tense
- Third person
- A thesis (line of argument) and a well organised structure
- Formal Language

Literature Review

- Summarizes, interprets, and critically analyses research
- Focus on the authors and research
- Tense: past, present & future
- Third person
- A thesis (line of argument) and a well organised structure
- Formal language

THE CONTENT OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

The content of a literature review centres around conveying what knowledge is available on a topic and analysing the material found. Therefore, your literature review needs to:

- identify existing scholarly knowledge on a particular topic
- compare and contrast current research
- evaluate the research by highlighting strengths and weaknesses
- identify problems or gaps in existing knowledge

THE CONTENT OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

If the literature review is part of a research project, it will also need to:

- show how your research links to current knowledge
- highlight how your study is attempting to address a gap in the research
- provide a rationale or justification for your study

Let's check out the example on page 6 of the language guide:

https://sls.navitas-professional.edu.au/sites/default/files/resource/literature_review_language_guide_apa_7_v1.pdf

THE CONTENT OF A LITERATURE REVIEW

The existing literature on homelessness strongly suggests that there are many problems associated with life without a home. Studies have shown that homelessness is associated with problem behaviours in children (Di Biase & Waddell, 2014; Edleman & Mihaly, 2009), strained family relationships (Nyamathi et al., 2015; Vostainis et al., 2006), higher exposure to trauma (Buhrich et al., 2016; Hien & Bukzpan, 2015), increased anger and depression (Marshal et al., 2004), and the negative psychological impact of social stigma (Lankenau, 2013). Because of the methodological difficulties related to studying homelessness, it is unclear whether factors such as depression and alcohol abuse are causes or effects of homelessness. While prior history of mental illness is undoubtedly responsible for homelessness in a least some cases, there is evidence to suggest that the experience of homelessness causes or exacerbates many psychological problems. In a study by Shlay (2016) for example, homeless people were found to report greater emotional well-being and fewer behavioural problems in their children after positive changes in their economic and social status.

Synthesises multiple findings from research

Critical evaluation looking at the quality of the studies

SEARCHING THE LITERATURE STEPS



THE RESEARCH QUESTION

Identify and Articulate the Topic

1. Identify a problem or area of interest.
2. Read literature in and around the general topic.
3. Articulate the topic by writing a hypothesis or thesis statement.
4. Refine and Clarify the Topic



TYPES OF LITERATURE

- Research Literature
- Theory-based Literature
- Philosophical Literature
- Empirical or Practice-based Literature
- Statistical Reports
- Grey Literature
- Books
- Journal Articles
- Audio visual material
- Government policies & reports
- Statistical reports
- Legal resources
- Conference papers
- Websites

WHERE TO SEARCH

You can use these databases in the library website search resources:

- MultiSearch
- A-Z Journal Databases
- A-Z eBook Databases
- A-Z Reference Works
- Google Scholar & Google Books

The Information Skills tab in the library website can guide you through steps to searching:

https://libguides.navitas.com/information_skills

DEVELOP A SEARCH STRATEGY

Employ a Systematic Approach

1. Copy and paste the same search term into numerous sources opened in multiple tabs across the top of your internet browser
2. As you pick up new key terms by reading the material you find, often a new set of criteria will emerge with which to search the literature.
3. Record each search as you go using the research tracker template

Advanced Searching

- Use **Search Boxes**
- Use a Boolean Operator to connect search terms – **AND/OR/NOT**
- **Select a field** in drop down menus
- Use the **Refine Results** menu

The Information Skills tab in the library website can guide you through steps to searching:
https://libguides.navitas.com/information_skills

CITATION CHAINING

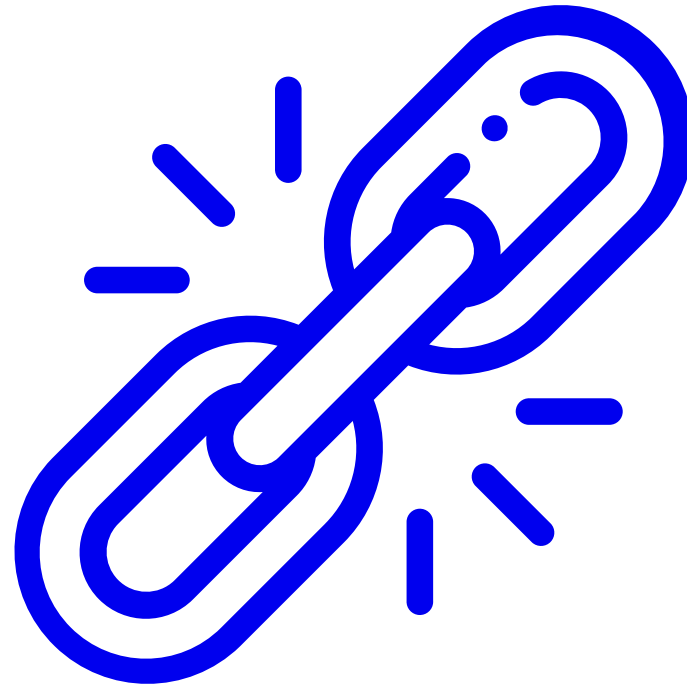
Backwards and forwards chaining to find more research on a topic

Backwards Chaining

Finding articles and books that are cited in the resources that you have already found.

Forwards Chaining

Finding articles and books that cite a resource that you have already found.



REFERENCE MANAGEMENT

- Saving references / sources to your eShelf or personalised folders
- Exporting bibliographic data to referencing management tools such as Mendeley (RIS)

Reference Management Software

- Mendeley
- Zotero
- ZoteroBib

<https://navitas.libcal.com/appointments/>



EVALUATING THE LITERATURE NOTETAKING

Let's check out the note taking guide for lit reviews

[note-taking organiser - literature review v1.docx](#)
[\(live.com\)](#)

EVALUATING THE LITERATURE NOTETAKING

LITERATURE REVIEW SCAFFOLD - NOTETAKING

sls.navitas-professional.edu.au/

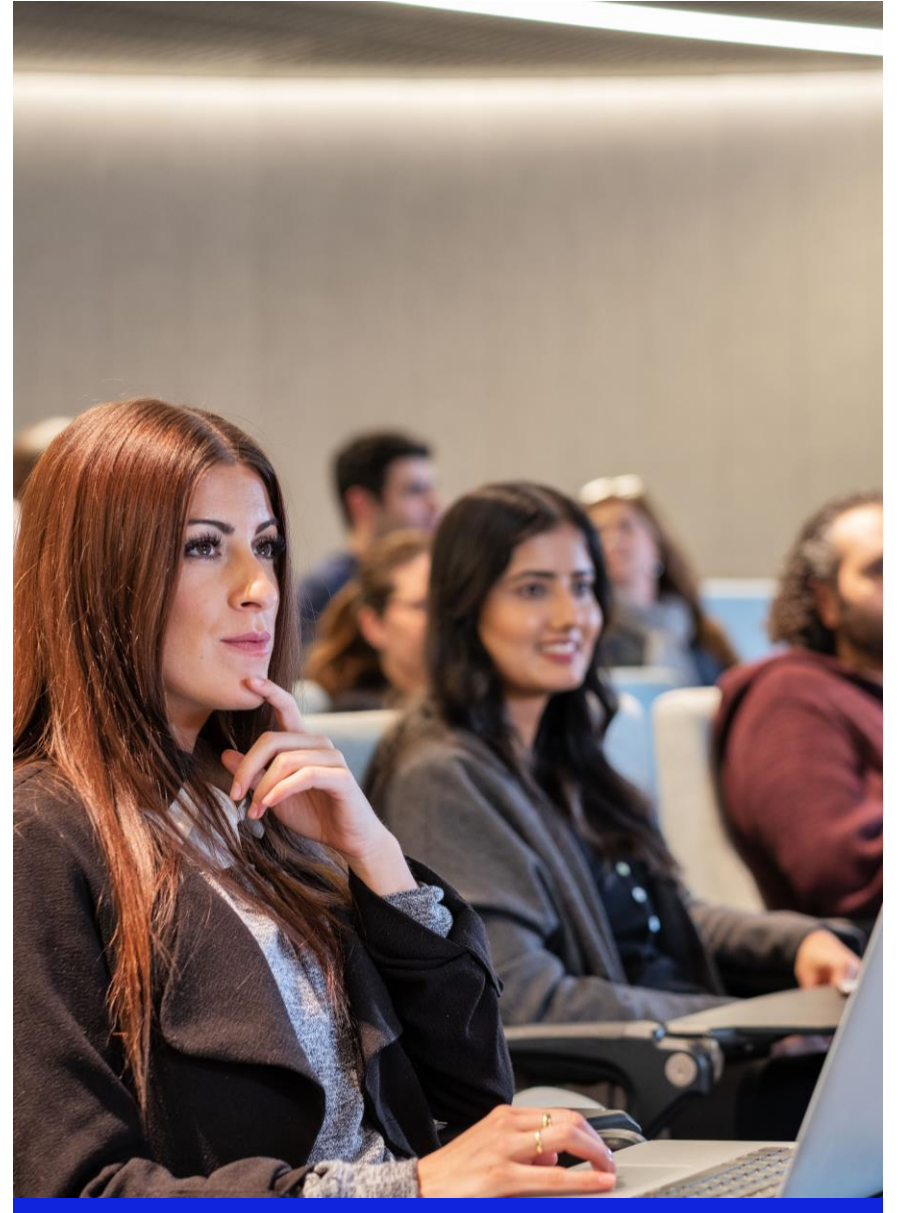


Article information	Article 1		Article 2	
	Title: Author: Date: Authority:	Method Used: Sample Size:	Title: Author: Date: Authority:	Method Used: Sample Size:
Main Findings / arguments/ recommendations				
Similarities to other articles				
Differences to other articles				
Strengths				
Weaknesses				

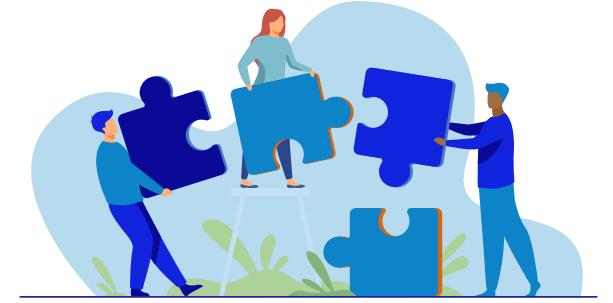
ORGANISING YOUR LITERATURE REVIEW

Approaches to organising your literature review:

- Historical approach
- Comparative approach
- Problem-solution approach
- Opinion-reason approach
- Methodological approach



SYNTHESISING INFORMATION



After reading **several texts** relevant to your assignment questions, the critical work of synthesising (combining / blending) the information you have gathered begins...

- Synthesising involves **combining ideas** from a range of sources in order to group and present ideas, themes and issues in a logical and meaningful manner
- You can group the literature into themes, issues, approaches, methods, models/frameworks
- One way to make connections between texts and ideas is to mind map.

Synthesising resource: [synthesising information v1.3.pdf \(navitas-professional.edu.au\)](#)

SAMPLE PARAGR

- What is the theme of the paragraph?
- How has the writer synthesised?
- What is the structure of the paragraph?

https://sls.navitas-professional.edu.au/sites/default/files/resource/literature_review_language_guide_appendix_7_v1.pdf

The passage below shows how a student has taken an **analytical approach** to the literature by:

Comparing and contrasting, **reporting** and writing using their 'voice' (Discussed below)

Existing research does not agree on the impact which physical environment can have on care home residents' perception of autonomy. After studying residents and staff from two intermediate care facilities in Calgary, Alberta, Smith (2004) **concluded** that except for the amount of personal privacy available to residents, the physical environment of these institutions had minimal if any effect on their perceptions of control (autonomy). **However**, French (2005) and Haroon (2013) **found that** availability of private areas is not the only aspect of the physical environment that determines residents' autonomy. Haroon (2013) interviewed 115 residents from 32 different nursing homes known to have different levels of autonomy. **It was found** that physical structures, such as standardized furniture and heating that could not be individually regulated limited residents' feelings of independence. **Moreover**, Hope (2002), who interviewed 225 residents from various nursing homes, **substantiates the claim*** that characteristics of the institutional environment such as the extent of resources in the facility, as well as its location, are features which residents have indicated as being of great importance to their independence. While Smith's (2004) findings appear to differ considerably from those of French (2005), Haroon (2013), and Hope (2013), this could be because only Smith interviewed staff as well as residents and this may have impacted on the results.

Topic sentence outlines the main idea of the paragraph

Substantiates the claim: * shows supporting evidence and synthesises knowledge

Critical analysis: Points out limitations of the study

Adapted from: Queen Margaret University. (2014). Writing a literature review. <https://www.qmuc.ac.uk/media/5524/lit-review-2014.pdf>

Feak, C. B. & Swales, J. M. (2009) *Telling a Research Story*. The University of Michigan

WHAT IS A LITERATURE REVIEW?

Features of literature reviews are:



Introduction

- defines the topic
- provides an appropriate context for reviewing the literature
- explains the organisation of your literature review

Body

- organised on the basis of ideas
- the literature is grouped according to common themes
- use headings and subheadings to organise your work - check with your Educator

Conclusion

- summarises the major findings of the literature review.
- makes an evaluative statement about the current literature on the topic
- points out major gaps or flaws
- outlines areas for future study.

Tip: Your literature review needs to critically examine the sources, rather than to just simply summarise them.

LANGUAGE FOR COMPARING AND CONTRASTING

Language for Comparing and Contrasting

The majority of Numerous Several Some A few	{	studies authors	{	found demonstrated examined questioned suggest
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[p. 3 Lit Review Language Guide](#)

Despite x, the However the In contrast the Similarly Furthermore	{	author(s)	{	found perspective is argument is findings are view is
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[Academic Phrasebank](#)

The literature Research Findings Recommendations	{	is/are	{	consistent inconsistent clear unclear
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Author takes a	{	similar different complimentary contrasting conflicting	{	view perspective argument view
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HANDY TIPS

Checklist for completing your literature review:

- Is the purpose and scope of my literature review clearly identified?
- Is the structure of my review clearly stated?
- Are key terms and concepts defined?
- Is the review focused on the most relevant issues and recent developments and research?
- Have I interpreted and evaluated what I have read?
- Have I demonstrated that I have read widely yet remained focused on the topic?
- Have I identified gap in the research literature and areas for future study?
- Have I grouped ideas and themes clearly?
- Is there a logical flow to my writing?
- Have I acknowledges all sources of information according to APA 7th rules?



RESOURCES

More information on reading strategies

<http://www.mindtools.com/rdstratg.html>

<http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/studyskills/studyskills/reading.html>

Chrome extensions

Weava Highlighter - <https://www.weavatools.com/>

Spread Speed Reading Extension - <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/spread-speed-reading-exte/hpnjoanfahcolkdgnfecmncnlfklnllk>

Lit review websites:

<https://www.litmaps.com/>

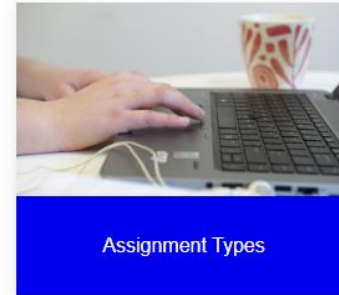
<https://www.connectedpapers.com/>



WHO CAN HELP ME?

Questions about my assignment and class content	Questions and advice about how to develop study skills and improve my academic writing	Timetable, Attendance, Enrolment, Course Planning, Extension, Special Consideration, Accessibility, Counsellor	Class Space, Login, Email, Office 365	Fees
Your educator	Academic Skills Advisor	The Student Engagement Team	IT support	Fees & Loans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q/A Discussion forum • Direct message • In the class space • Email educator 	LearningHub@acap.edu.au	Email: studentcentral@acap.edu.au Phone: 1800 061 199 Online Chat Service: via student portal or ACAP website	Email: helpdesk@acap.edu.au	feesandloans@acap.edu.au

ACADEMIC SKILLS RESOURCES



<http://sls.navitas-professional.edu.au/>

HOW DID WE DO?

Tomorrow you will be sent an email with a **survey link** and a link to these slides.

We would appreciate your feedback on this webinar to help us improve our service.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/AcademicWebinarSurvey

Thank You!



THANK YOU

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