Literature Review: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

REVIEWING EXISTING LITERATURE TO REFINE AND GROUND YOUR RESEARCH STATEMENT

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Contents of Presentation

- **Purposes**
  - Ground
  - Refine

- **Steps**
  - 1. Identify major concepts
  - 2. Select relevant documents
  - 3. Read and evaluate documents and show connections:
    - a) Empirical: state the main findings and show how it benefits the statement of your research opportunity
    - b) Methodological: state the main research method used and show how it benefits the statement of your research opportunity
    - c) Theoretical: state the main theory used and show how it benefits the statement of your research opportunity

- **Write**
  - Introduction: Show the themes and Patterns discovered and how they relate to the statement of your research opportunity
  - Body: Critical Synthesis: use the statement of your research opportunity to evaluate/assess the empirical, methodological, and theoretical findings and show what separates the statement of your research opportunity or problem from the existing literature
  - they benefit your statement
  - Conclusion: Confirmation
The main purposes of your literature review are:

1. A) to ground statement of your research opportunity or problem:
   - That is, to confirm the originality and importance of the statement of your research opportunity or problem.

2. B) to refine or modify the focus of your statement of research opportunity or problem
Steps of Literature Review

- There are four major steps of doing a literature review.
• Step #1:
  - Identify the major concepts or key words in the statement of your research opportunity or problem.
STEP #2: RELEVANT LITERATURE

- Stept#2:
- Select scholarly books and articles, research reports, Master’s theses, and PhD dissertations that relate directly to the major concepts or key words in your statement of research opportunity or problem.

- Sources of Relevant Literature (Leedy and Ormrod 2010):
  - Academic Indexes and Abstracts
  - Library’s Online Databases
  - Government Publications
  - Archives
  - Internet
  - Citations and reference Lists of Publications you review
STEP #3: CONNECTIONS

- Step #3:
- Read and evaluate/assess your selected literature about your research statement and show the exact connections the statement of your research opportunity or problem has with the existing knowledge.
  - WHAT empirical, methodological, and theoretical connects the statement of your research opportunity or problem to the existing literature?
- Exclude literature that has no direct relationship to the statement of your research opportunity or problem.
Step #4a:

Write an introductory paragraph, showing the major themes and pattern in the literature and how they relate to the major concepts/key words in statement of your research opportunity or problem.

- Use these themes as titles or headings for the body of your written literature review.
STEP #4b: CRITICAL SYNTHESIS

- Step #4b:
- In the main body of your written review show the contributions of the documents you reviewed to grounding and refining or modifying the focus of your research statement.
- Show how your research focus and scope are different from, not better than, that of the reviewed literature.
  - WHAT Separates the statement of your research opportunity or problem from the existing literature?
Step #4c:

In your conclusion show how the reviewed literature confirms or questions the originality and importance of the statement of your research opportunity or problem.

- What modifications does the literature suggest for your research statement?