Review of literature

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⇒ Outlines:-

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- Definition
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- Criteria of good literature review
- DATABASES FOR LITERATURE REVIEW
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⇒ **Introduction:-**

Literature refers to published materials. The value of each publication varies according to the type and quality of information it contains. Information or research mainly comes from previous research studies. It puts the present study onto the context of what is known about the phenomenon. It stimulates the researchers thinking and can provide a wealth of ideas to the researcher. It forms the backbone for intellectual and logical discussion of ideas. Understanding of what has been done already provides direction and guidance to offer something in return, towards the total body of knowledge

⇒ **Definition:-**

Review of literature: It is a comprehensive, in depth, systematic scanning and critical review of selected literature to find out how it can be useful to present study. It includes scholarly publications, unpublished scholarly print materials, audio-visual materials and personal communications.

⇒ **Purposes of literature Review :-**

1. It enables the researcher to gain up to date knowledge on the work which others have done.

2. It enables the researcher to choose areas with positive findings, which are likely to add knowledge in a meaningful way.

3. By reviewing the relevant literature the researcher can avoid unintentional duplication of well-established finding.

⇒ **Functions of literature Review :-**

1. Help to brings clarity and focus to the research problem.

2. It serves as a source of research idea.

3. It provides ideas about the kind of research studies that need to be done.

4. It helps to determine what has been already done on a research problem, thereby avoids duplication.

5. It provides theoretical background to the study.

6. It helps to refine and improve the research methodology.

7. It helps to contextualize the findings.

⇒ **Types of literature review:-**

The two types of literature review are:

1. Embedded.

2. Free-standing.

⇒ **Embedded Review:-**

It is seen as a sub-section or part of research study. It is done in two stag

1. **Initial review:** Initial review helps in generation of useful questic activities. It acts as a source of research ideas and gives orientation to what has been already done.

2. **Further review:** It helps in systematic identification of and anal Scholarly 1ntormation pertaining to the problem being

selected for study. It helps to define the concepts, identify the conceptual frame identify the research methodology, assess feasibility and identify for comparison or replication.

⇒ **Free-standing:-**

It is an end in itself, more research findings help in new understanding conceptual and contextual nature of knowledge.

⇒ **Criteria of good literature review**

Good literature review should satisfy the following criteria.

1- Objectives of literature review are met.

2- Quality studies that were relevant are included.

3- Study's purpose, sample size, design and specific findings are present succinctly.

4- The study's strength and weakness are critiqued briefly.

5- Adequate primary sources are reviewed.

6- Sources are paraphrased and summarized rather than directly quoting of ideas.

7- There is logical flow of content.

8- Honesty of information and ethical issues are considered.

⇒ **DATABASES FOR LITERATURE REVIEW:-**

The ability to locate relevant literature requires knowledge and skill on technologies, internet usage and making use of print resources.

Relevant literature can be located through

a) **Electronic Databases:**

Electronic databases are the bibliographic files that can be accessed by computer. One can do it by their own through online search or CD-ROM. Online search means communicating directly with a host computer through telephone or internet. CD-ROM means compact disks that store

Electronic databases which are useful for nurse researchers are:

1- Cochrane: Cochrane collaboration is an international, non-profit, independent organization, established in 1993, to ensure up-to-date accurate information about the effects of health care interventions, and is readily available worldwide. Abstracts of Cochrane reviews are freely available to everyone on the internet. The Cochrane library also provides links to MEDLINE abstracts, the 1SI web, and reterences to journal articles.(www.cochrane-sacn.org

2- Medlars: Medical literature analysis and retrieval system (MEDLARS), is a computerized biomedical bibliographic retrieval system. It is offered by national library of medicine. The online version of it is called MEDLINE (MEDLARS ONLINE).

3- Medline: contains a separate file called "special list nursing" that includes citations from journals. Author name, title, abstract, language and indexing terms are used to generate information's from MEDLINE search. It is updated semi-monthly. The database can be accessed online or by CD-ROM. Online can be accessed through internet by using various websites as pub med. (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed).

4- ERIC Program: Education resources information center (ERIC) is an online digital library of education, research and information. It provides ready access to educational literature to improve the practice in learning. Teaching, educational decision making and research. It enhances online services; expand access to full text materials and increase the number of journal and non-journal sources indexed in the collection. It provides unlimited access to bibliographic records of journal articles and other education related materials, with hundreds of records added twice weekly.

b- Print Resources

Print resources can be searched either manually or electronically. The print resources can be located by the use of print indexes and abstract journals. Print indexes are books to locate. It includes journals, periodicals, books dissertations, publications of professional organizations and government documents.

The indexes available for nurses are:

2. Cumulative index to nursing and allied health literature.

3. Nursing study index.

4. Hospital literature index.

⇒ **Sources of literature review:-**

The sources of literature review can be primary or secondary.

1- **<u>Primary Source:</u>** A primary source is written by the person who originally responsible for the published ideas, developed a theory or conducted a research.

2- **<u>Secondary Source:</u>** Secondary source is the summary of content of primary source. The authors of the secondary source paraphrase and describe the study or studies of the Original researcher.
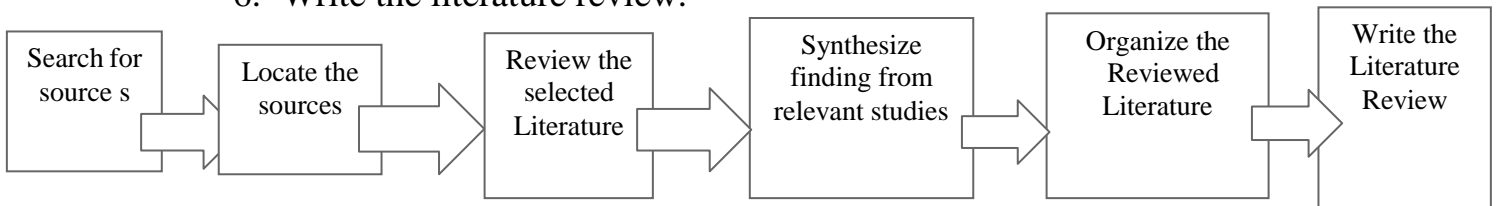
$\Rightarrow$ **The useful sources are:**

- Journals
- books
- Conference proceedings.
- Government or corporate reports.
- thesis and dissertations
- Internet.
- CD-ROM.
- Magazines.
- Guide to library.
- Research reports.
- Newsletters, pamphlets and leaflets.

⇒ Steps of Literature review:-

Literature review is a systematic search for information, which follows the following Steps;

1. Search for sources.
2. Locate the sources.
3. Review the selected literature
4. Synthesize findings from relevant studies.
5. Organize the reviewed literature.
6. Write the literature review.

| Search for source s | ⇨ | Locate the sources | ⇨ | Review the selected Literature | ⇨ | Synthesize finding from relevant studies | ⇨ | Organize the Reviewed Literature | ⇨ | Write the Literature Review |

1- Search for Sources

To search for sources, one should have some idea on the broad subject area and the problem to be investigated. Identify the focus question, state the objectives of the study, and try to conceptualize the question from a different viewpoint to get a broader concept. Based on the knowledge obtained, start the search for literature. The ways to search for literature can be: Manual or Using computer

2- Locate the Sources

Locating sources involves the following steps as:

o Organize the identified sources.

o Record references systematically.

Organize the identified Sources: Organization of identified sources helps to locate all, within a journal, or book. Journal sources may be organized by journal name and year. Books can be organized by author or subject. Organization of sources helps to eliminate duplicated references.

Record References Systematically: Information obtained from various sources should be recorded systematically should be copied and filed for future use, Cross-check the citations two or three times to prevent errors.

3- Review the Selected Literature

Critically read the identified books and articles to pull together themes and issues that are associated. Use separate sheets of paper for each article or book. Sufficient notes to be taken to identify gaps in the report and the study's strengths and limitations. The kinds of information to be recorded are complete bibliographic citation, the research question or hypothesis, the theoretical framework used, research methods used and the major findings and conclusions.

4- Synthesizing Findings from Relevant Studies

A comprehensive scholarly synthesis of the literature is needed to identify, analyze and synthesize the results from independent studies to determine what is known and not known in a particular subject area. Synthesis involves clarification and paraphrasing the research report. Paraphrasing is expressing an author's idea, clearly and concisely in researchers own words, Synthesis and paraphrasing help

to combine and interrelate ideas from several studies to determine the current knowledge of a topic.

5- Organize the Reviewed Literature

Critical task in the literature review is organization of the gathered information. : The way of presentation of review should be logical, provide meaningful integration and lead to conclusion of what is known and not known about the topic. For example, to show the trends over time chronologic order may be used, to show relationship between the work of different researchers and references can be organized alphabetically by author name. Certain references do not fit anywhere, in that case revise and reorganize the outline or discard those particular references.

6- Write the Literature Review

Development of a detailed outline will act as a guide to write the literature review. A literature review should include the current knowledge of a selected topic. The essential content of literature review is:

- **Introduction**: There should be brief and interesting introduction describing the organization of sources, eg. From least important, to most (current) important.

- **Content:** The content should include study's purpose, sample size, design, findings and brief critique of study's strengths and weakness. Paraphrase discussed in-depth. Studies with similar findings need to show similarities and dissimilarities to prevent replication. Always present the findings in logical manner without distortion, give due

consideration to the ethics. Document accurately the credits of authors work without blaming.

➕ **Summary**: It should present concisely the research knowledge of the topic including what is known and not known.

⇒ **Advantages of literature review:-**

a. **It provides rationale for the current study:** The rationale of the study must be relevant, clear and convincing. It must be supported by research findings, statistical data and expert opinion. Thus, literature reviews provides a reason for the current study and try to convince the reader that the study is important.

b. **It puts the present study into the context of what is known about the topic:** Literature review sheds some light on what is already known about the topic, key concepts, variables and issues. The researcher presents a Summary of what is known on relevant aspects of the topic by referring to research and non-research literature.

c. **Review of relevant literature:** Review of previous studies helps the researcher to explain what has been achieved so far and provides opportunity to learn from achievements and mistakes of other researchers.

d. **It provides theoretical and conceptual basis of the study:** Review of relevant literature provides an idea to the researcher about the frameworks available and their utilization in nursing research.