

# **Review of literature: unit 4**

**Nursing Research - Principles and Methods 7th Edition by  
Polit and Beck.**

*Foundation of nursing research fifth edition by Rose Marie  
Nieswiadomy*

# Objectives

On the completion of this lecture you be able to :

- 1- Determine the purposes for the literature review .
- 2- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources in research literature.
- 3-Writing a Literature Review

A research **literature review** is a **written summary** of the state of existing knowledge on a research problem.

The most important reason for reviewing the literature before conducting a research study is to determine what is already known about the study topic , previous studies are located and theoretical or conceptual basis for the study is (look for) in the literature

# **PURPOSES OF A LITERATURE REVIEW**

Literature reviews can serve a number of important functions in the research process—as well as important functions for nurses seeking to develop an evidence-based practice.

For researchers, familiarity with relevant research literature and the state of current knowledge can help with the following:

1. Identification of a research problem and development or refinement of research questions or hypotheses
2. Orientation to what is known and not known about an area of inquiry, to ascertain what research can best make a contribution to the existing base of evidence
3. Determination of any gaps or inconsistencies in a body of research
4. Determination of a need to replicate a prior study in a different setting or with a different study population

5. Identification or development of new or refined clinical interventions to test through empirical research
6. Identification of relevant theoretical or conceptual frameworks for a research problem
7. Identification of suitable designs and data collection methods for a study
8. For those developing research proposals for funding, identification of experts in the field who could be used as consultants
9. Assistance in interpreting study findings and in developing implications and recommendations

A literature review helps to lay the foundation for a study, and can also inspire new research ideas.

A literature review also plays a role at the end of the study, when researchers are trying to make sense of their findings.

Most research reports include summaries of relevant literature in the introduction.

A literature review early in the report provides readers with a background for understanding current knowledge on a topic and illuminates the significance of the new study.

Written research reviews are also included in research proposals that describe what a researcher is planning to study and how the study will be conducted.



## Types of Information to Seek

Researchers performing a review of the literature ordinarily come in contact with a wide range of material and have to decide what to read or what to include in a written review.

literature sources may be classified as primary or secondary sources.

**A primary source** in the research literature is a description of a research study written by the original investigator(s).

**A secondary source** in the research literature is a summary or description of the a research study written by someone other than the study investigator(s).

For a literature review, you should rely mostly on primary source research reports.

Secondary sources typically fail to provide much detail about studies, and they are seldom completely objective

A primary source for studies are frequently found in journal articles.

The beginning researcher may be tempted to rely on secondary sources. Often times summaries of studies or theories are quicker to read and easier to understand than the original work.

Secondary sources may provide valuable insight into the material, but it is the original or primary sources that should be read when possible, to check the study findings and to draw conclusions about the research study.

There is always a danger that the author of the secondary source may misinterpret information or leave out important information that might be valuable to the reader.

Try to begin your search with the most recent primary sources. Read the abstract or summary of the study to determine if the source should be read in depth. These primary sources will frequently contains reference citations for earlier research reports that may be relevant to your proposed study.

Literature sources can be located through print sources and electronic sources. Print sources include indexes and abstracts.

Indexes are used to obtain references to periodical articles .

Abstracts contain brief summaries of articles and contain the purpose , methods, and the major findings of studies.

Electronic sources include online catalogs, CD\_ROMs, and online bibliographic database.

On line journals and magazines called e-journals and e-zines are becoming popular

In preparing a written review, it is important to organize materials in a logical, coherent fashion. The preparation of an outline is recommended, and the development of summary charts often helps in integrating diverse studies.

The written review should not be a succession of quotes or abstracts. The reviewers' role is to point out what has been studied, how adequate and dependable the studies are, what gaps exist in the body of research, and (in the context of a new study), what contribution the study would make.

\*The literature should be summarized in your own words

\*The review should be objective, to the extent possible. Studies with findings that conflict with personal values should not be omitted.

\*The review also should not ignore a study because its findings contradict other studies. Inconsistent results should be analyzed and the supporting evidence evaluated objectively.

## **Style of a Research Review**

Students preparing written research reviews often have trouble figuring out an acceptable style for such reviews.



# Examples of Stylistic Difficulties for Research Reviews:

## **INAPPROPRIATE STYLE OR WORDING**

- It is known that unmet expectations engender anxiety.
- Responsibility is an intrinsic stressor.
- Attitudes cannot be changed quickly.

## **RECOMMENDED CHANGE**

- Several experts (Greenberg, 2001; Cameron, 2000). have asserted that unmet expectations engender anxiety.
- According to Doctor A. Cassard, an authority on stress, responsibility is an intrinsic stressor (Cassard, 2000, 2001).
- Attitudes have been found to be relatively enduring attributes that cannot be changed quickly (Dodge-Hanson, 2000; Woodward, 2001).

## TIP

When describing study findings, you should generally use phrases indicating summary or brief results, such as the following:

- \* *Several studies have found . . .*
- \* *Findings thus far suggest . . .*
- \* *The results are consistent with the conclusion that . . .*
- \* *Results from a landmark study imply that . . .*
- \* *There appears to be fairly strong evidence that . . .*

# Self-test

1- which of the followings is most important reason for conducting a review of the literature before conducting a research study?

- A. The research design can be copied from a previous study.
- B. A determination will be made about the existing knowledge in the identified problem area
- C. An instrument may be uncovered that will be appropriate for the proposed study
- D. The feasibility of the study can be determined

2-A primary source for nursing research study is

- A. The retrieval mechanism that is first used in locating the research study.
- B. An index that directs the researcher to the research study
- C. A description of the study written by the researcher who conduct the study
- D. A summary of the research on the study topic

3- Most research articles that appear in the journal research in nursing and health are example of

- A. Primary sources
- B. Secondary sources
- C. Both primary and secondary sources
- D. Neither primary or secondary sources

4- which of the following sources would provide the most current information on literature sources?

- A. Printed indexes
- B. CD\_ROMs
- C. Online database

5- In conducting a literature review , the reader is least interested in which of the following information about a research study.

- A. Research study results
- B. Opinions about the research study
- C. How the research variables were operationally defined
- D. Research study methodology

6- Summary of description of a research study written by someone other than the study investigators.

a: Secondary source

b: Constructs

c: Concepts

d: Primary study

7- Which of the following communication mediums is the most efficient means of presenting research findings?

A. Books

B. Journals

C. Research seminars

D. Poster sessions