



Your Full Guide to Literature Review APA Formatting

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A literature review is an explanation and summary of a current and complete knowledge on a limited topic published in journal articles and academic books. A literature review is neither using a qualitative nor a quantitative method but is just a summary of a complete knowledge.

How do you write a review of a literature?

Find your working topic: You need to check a certain area of study. Make notes of what interests you and as much as possible, talk to your professor, do some brainstorming as well as read recent issues and lecture notes about periodicals related to your topic.

Review the literature: By using certain keywords, search the database of a computer. A good thing to do is to make use of at least two databases that are has something to do in your field. Bear in mind that the list of references of the reviews and recent articles lead to essential papers.

*Focus on your topic and choose papers accordingly. **You need to consider the following:***

- ↪ What interest others?
- ↪ What interests you?
- ↪ Time span that you will consider for your research
- ◆ Read chosen articles and evaluate them thoroughly.
 - ↪ What assumptions do most researchers did?
 - ↪ What methodologies did they use? What subjects, testing procedures and material tested?
 - ↪ Synthesize and evaluate research findings as well as conclusions drawn
 - ↪ Note theories, methodologies and results
 - ↪ Watch some theories that are popular and how they have changed over the past years
- ◆ Organize chosen papers by checking for patters and developing subtopics: Make note of things like:
 - ↪ Contested or common findings
 - ↪ 2 or 3 essential trends in the research
 - ↪ Most influential theories
- ◆ Develop your working thesis: Write 1- or 2-sentence statement that summarizes your conclusion about the major developments and trends that you see in some researches, which can be done on your subject. Organize your paper based on findings 4 and 5:

Develop your headings and subheadings. If you want a literature review that is extensive, seek for large table surface and make notes to organize your findings according to categories. Move them if you have decided that they fit under different headings or you need new topic headings.

◆ Write the body: Be sure to follow your plan for developing your paper and ensure that every section links is logical. You should also divide the sections by subtopics or themes, not by reporting others work.

◆ Check what you have written; focus on your analysis and not on the description. Read each of your paragraphs and read if your sentences are in a clear position and it is logically developed from the beginning until the end. If your paper has not yet been defined by guiding concept or it is not critically analyzed, what you should do is to make a new outline based on what you have written for every section and paragraph.

How do you do APA format?

- References should start on a new page. On the reference page, put "References", center it at the top of the page.
- Make sure that all entries be in alphabetical order.
- When it comes to your first line, it should be flushed in the left margin. Every additional line must be indented (it can be done with the key TAB).
- An earlier version of APA format requires one space after every sentence, but the next sixth edition of the manual style recommends 2 spaces.
- In the reference page of a section, it must be double-spaced.
- All the resources cited must appear in-text and on the reference page. All references appearing in your paper should be mentioned or credited on your reference page and all items that appear in your reference page should be included in your text body.
- Books titles, newspapers, magazines and journals should appear in italics.
- The format for every individual reference may differ depending on whether you're referencing author, journal article, book, or electronic source.
- The font should be 12 points and font style is Times New Roman. The header should contain a running heading as well as page number on each page, which includes the title page. Keep in mind that the page number should always be placed at the "top right" corner of every page.
- The title page should introduce the running heading having a tag "Running Heading (in all caps). Your title page must contain your title, author, your complete name and the name of your institution. It should be all double-spaced and must be centered at the middle of the page.

What type of method is a literature review?

A literature review is not a method, but it is a part of a paper or dissertation. Based on this, you will build theoretical foundations for your interview questions, research questions or hypothesis.

When it comes to your conclusion or discussion part, you need to refer to certain points because a reader of your literature review should get an insight on what has been written about a particular topic, what are the gaps and what are the missing aspects.

Make sure to introduce your research having an aim of fulfilling gaps in order to contribute to the overall knowledge of your researched topic.

A literature review is neither quantitative nor qualitative method, but it is a review of related works, which can fall under quantitative design or qualitative design. It becomes an argument for

a research study. Additionally, the premise of the literature review about understanding the knowledge is an incremental exercise.

Bear in mind that literature review is not part of others research and it is not counted as a method. Therefore, it is better to use content analysis because a literature review can't be regarded as a research method.

How do I put a running head and page number?

Contents of page header:

- ◆ **Running head:** The content at top left page of every page should be written in all capital letters.
- ◆ **Page numbers:** Content at "top right" of every page.

Running head

- It is a condensed or shortened type of a paper's title and it cannot go beyond 50 characters, which include the punctuation and spacing.

In adding a running head using MS Word:

- Double click the header portion at the top of your document.
- In header and footer tools tab for "Design", press the box for the "Different 1st Page" box.
- In header, type the Running head and then following is a shortened title that is in capital letters.
- Scroll or make a 2nd page to the paper.
- If not yet selected, you have to double click in header to choose it and input the same "running head" that was written on your title page.

Page numbers

Inserting page #s in MS Word:

- Place cursor to right of your running head and then press the button for "Tab" twice on the keyboard.
- Click "insert tab" in top menu.
- Choose "Page".
- On the second page, select the Page Number, and then the "current position" before selecting the Plain Number from the available options. Your page number will appear with consecutive # in each page in your header.
- Be sure not to forget to modify the header styles and font size to 12.

There you have the full guide in writing a literature review. Whenever you need help in writing your literature review, check the tips outlined here. It will help you to get some ideas and give you a reference for what things to consider and not. Finally, always read your work to ensure that all important points and discussions are included.

**Need a hand in formatting your literature review in APA style?
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