This is NOT what you need for this assignment
The Questions that a Literature Review can answer

• What are the key sources?
• What are the major issues and debates about the topic?
• What are the political standpoints?
• What are the origins and definitions of the topic?
• What are the key theories, concepts and ideas?
• What are the epistemological and ontological grounds for the discipline?
• What are the main questions and problems that have been addressed to date?
• How is knowledge on the topic structured and organized?
• How have approaches to these questions increased our understanding and knowledge?
What does a literature review look like?

Introduction – Introduce the guiding question or topic (for this paper 1-2 paragraphs)
• Why are you researching
• What is the world saying

Methodology – Explain how you got your information (1-2 paragraphs)
• What resources did you use (not full citations, but give the reader an idea of the quality of resources used)
• Did you limit your selections by any criteria such as DATE or to specific journals?

Results of Your Research – “Recent research indicates that...” (2-4 pages)
• Contains statements about what scientists have said
• Review what studies have revealed – all of it, not just what supports your paper.

Analysis of Research – Discuss and interpret what you have found (1-2 pages)
• Your ideas and interpretations!
• What patterns, contradictions, concepts did you find?
• Are there apparent omissions or lack of information

Conclusion – Do NOT introduce new ideas. Summarize what you have found in all four of the previous sections. (1-2 paragraphs)
Tips to organize a Literature Review Paper on a Specific Topic

1. Use an Excel Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Citation (in APA format)</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author’s research question and/or purpose</th>
<th>Sample (who and how did the author sample?)</th>
<th>Research Methods</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses / Limitations</th>
<th>Topic Category</th>
<th>Key Findings</th>
<th>Key Terms</th>
<th>Relevance to my research question</th>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Quotes to cite (with pg number!!)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Use the Excel Sheet to track your information

- Will help you identify the areas of content that you lack/have plenty of information on
- Will help you identify if different authors have different ideas - can speak to these in your paper
- Not every field need have an entry for every category - if the article does not speak to everything, that is OK
- Can sort by the category so you can more easily see your notes to synthesize the information into your own knowledge

2. Use RefWorks

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![ProQuest RefWorks](image-url)
Planning a Literature Search

• **DEFINE THE TOPIC:** Start with some general reading to familiarize yourself with the topic. Consult subject-specific dictionaries and reference works. Take notes on the concepts and note which authors are cited. Prepare a list of terms for searching, for example, of the library catalogue. Begin to think about the shape of the topic so that you can map it out at a later stage.

• **THINK ABOUT THE SCOPE OF THE TOPIC:** Ask questions about which language or languages it might be necessary to search; what time frame, i.e., how far back you might need to search; and what subject areas might be relevant. Make a list of terms and phrases you will use to search: this is known as the search vocabulary.

• **THINK ABOUT OUTCOMES:** Your proposal for your research will have stated an aim pertinent to the search and review of the literature. Think therefore about what it is you want to get out of the search and why you are undertaking a search in the first place.

• **THINK ABOUT THE HOUSEKEEPING:** Design a means by which you will record what you find and how you will cross-reference materials. It is important to keep consistent records not only of what you have searched but how you searched. This is because you may need to go back to undertake further searches of the same source using different terms. Your search might also be required to be written up as part of the methods by which you did your research.

• **PLAN THE SOURCES TO BE SEARCHED:** Prepare a list of likely relevant sources of information such as reference materials, secondary sources from a Discovery search, and primary sources. What databases or resources will you search to locate these? An interview with a librarian can be very useful at this stage. Also use library for the different disciplines that might apply. They will guide you to the most relevant material and possibly show you how to use some of the technology available.

• **SEARCH THE SOURCES LISTED:** Work through the list of sources you have made. Start with the general sources, for example, reference materials, moving on to secondary and primary resources. Remember many of your primary sources may be located through the citations of your secondary materials. Be systematic and thorough, making consistent references as you go along. Make notes on possible further leads and ideas to be followed up. As each source is searched cross it off the list.
Understanding a Body of Literature?!?!?

• May not be well-defined prior to your topic
• Likely has writings from various disciplines
• Requires reading “across” literature
  – Not viewing independently
  – Is there consensus or disagreement
  – What are limitations or gaps of existing writing
Body of Lit. example

What areas of study should a literature review of research projects examining the sustainability of community-managed forestry practices in Papua New Guinea cover?

- Sustainability
- Forestry practices
- Community-management of forestry resources
- Government and community management