

Literature Review

Definition

- A literature review synthesizes and evaluates existing scholarship on a specific topic to provide a critical overview of the current state of knowledge of a topic. Unlike primary research, a literature review does not present novel experimental or archival data but rather interprets and organizes already published findings.

When to Use:

- To map the state of knowledge on an issue.
- To assess methodological or theoretical approaches across disciplines.
- To identify structural gaps, biases, or silences in existing research.

Expected Format

- **Front Matter**
 - Title (concise and descriptive)
 - Author name(s), major(s), and class year(s)
 - Email address of corresponding author(s)
- **Abstract (150–250 words)**
 - Clear summary of the topic, key findings or arguments, and significance (rationale for conducting the review)
 - Keywords (7–10) related to your manuscript
- **Introduction**
 - Contextual background, research question or central claim, and scope
- **Materials and Methods (if applicable)**
 - Explanation of the review methodology including databases searched and inclusion/exclusion criteria
- **Thematic or Chronological Sections (main discussion of paper)**
 - Presentation of findings
 - Information may be synthesized via a chronological, methodological, or thematic organization
- **Discussion (relation of everything)**
 - Discussion of implications, limitations, and societal and/or scientific relevance
- **Conclusion**
 - Concise restatement of contributions and key takeaways
 - May include suggestions for future research
- **Back Matter**
 - Supplementary Materials, Author Contributions, Acknowledgements (if applicable)
- **References**

*for more information on what a literature review is and resources on writing and structuring your own literature review, you may visit [this site](#)

Research Article

Definition

- A research article is the final product of a scientific study. It presents original findings derived from empirical, theoretical, or methodological investigation

When to Use:

- To report new experimental results or other primary data, computational analyses, or interpretations based on archival discoveries
- To propose and validate new methodologies

Expected Format

- **Front Matter**
 - Title (concise and descriptive)
 - Author name(s), major(s), and class year(s)
 - Email address of corresponding author(s)
- **Abstract (150–250 words)**
 - Clear summary of the topic, methods, key findings, and implications
 - Keywords (7–10) related to your manuscript
- **Introduction**
 - Contextual background including a short review of relevant literature, research question or central claim, and scope
- **Materials and Methods**
 - Include all the methodologies and/or resources used for the research
 - If applicable, include a description of data sources, participant selection criteria, analytical methods, and ethical considerations
 - Figures and tables may be included within this section
- **Results**
 - Presentation of findings
 - Figures and tables may be included within this section
- **Discussion**
 - Discussion of implications, limitations, and societal and/or scientific relevance
- **Conclusion**
 - Concise restatement of contributions and key takeaways
 - May include suggestions for future research
- **Back Matter**
 - Supplementary Materials, Author Contributions, Acknowledgements (if applicable)
- **References**

*for more information on designing a primary research experiment, you may visit [this site](#)