

The literature review



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Using some slides from Vanessa Van der Haam's presentation on literature reviews
-Albany Campus

What is a literature review?

- Focuses on what has been researched before on the topic
 - Areas of agreement/disagreement
 - Contributions of the research
 - Limitations
 - Gaps in the research

(Davidson & Tolich, 1999, p. 94)
You're constructing **an argument** about previous research on the topic

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Some important considerations

- How can the literature review be used to justify the topic?
- What format is useful for arranging the review?
- How do you start?

(Hart, 1998)

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Purpose: To inform and persuade

Literature review



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Different uses of literature review

- Review leading to research questions/ hypotheses
- Review leading to conclusions on the topic (and recommendations)
- Review leading to new or adapted theoretical model or framework for new model

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An examination of the key research on a topic

Involves:

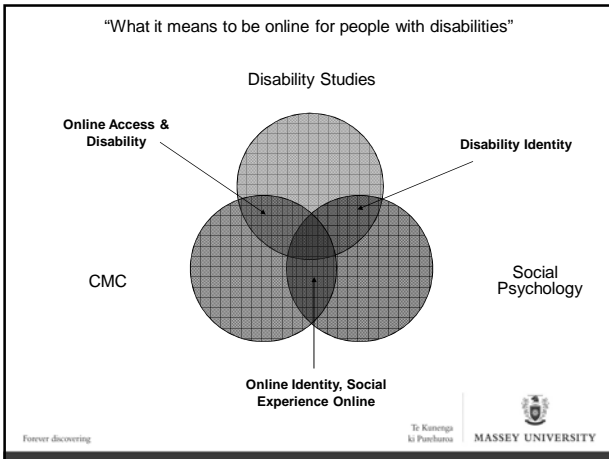
- The selection of available documents on the topic, which contain ideas, data and evidence
- The effective evaluation of these documents in relation to [your research]
- The synthesis of information into a coherent "story" of knowledge on the topic

(Hart, 1998; Davidson & Tollich, 1999)

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The impact of Leadership on Teachers' Motivation and Job Satisfaction: Implications for Schools in a Developing Country

- What is meant by concepts of leadership, motivation and job satisfaction and how are they assumed to relate to each other?
- How strong is the evidence from educational organisations and elsewhere that leadership can positively influence the motivation and job satisfaction of those for whose work leaders are responsible?
- To what extent does the evidence for leaders having a positive influence on the motivation and job satisfaction of those for whose work they are responsible apply to schools in a developing country?

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Research history forms the starting point for your research

- All research has a history
- It is this history that provides the precedent for further work
- It is what forms the starting point for your research.

(Hart, 1998, p.175)

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Smith 1979	Billet & Ouster 1980	Morgan & Tuffin 1981	Kevinstan 1985	Jacquet 1988
Anders 1988	Fieldman & Roberts 1989	Christians 1990	McDonald & Buidt 1990	Johnson 1991
Bleet 1992	Smith & Kettle 1992	Jones 1994	Bush & Thomson 1995	Solomon 1995
Frankens 1996	Johansen 1998	Smart 1999	Dickens 2000	Engels 2001
Little & Scott 2002	Nettle 2002a	Nettle 2002b	Nettle 2002c	Winston 2003

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How is a literature review organised?

- by key themes or findings
- arranged in headings and sub-headings
- as an **argument** that *flows*
information from various sources is *synthesised* to form a coherent argument
- Try to ensure each part justifies your research

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What's my story/argument?

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Teacher Burnout: A Study of Occupational Stress and Burnout in New Zealand Schools

- 2.1. The Nature of Stress
- 2.2. History of the Stress Concept
- 2.3. Main Approaches to Definitions of Stress
- 2.4. The Stimulus Based Definition
- 2.5. The Response Based Definition
- 2.6. Summary of Response and Stimulus Approaches
- 2.7. The Transactional or Interactional Definition of Stress
- 2.8. The Burnout Concept
- 2.9. Defining Burnout
- 2.10. Cherniss's Model of Burnout
- 2.11. Golebiewski's Model of Burnout
- 2.12. Conservation of Resources (COR) Theory
- 2.13. Conceptual Framework
- 2.14. Measurement of Burnout
- 2.15. Correlates of Burnout
- 2.16. Studies on Teacher Stress and Burnout
- 2.17. Conclusion

Stress

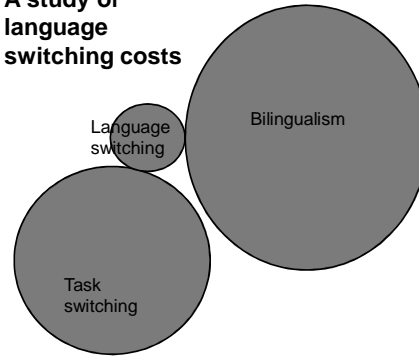
Burnout

Stress and Burnout

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A study of language switching costs



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- Task switching
 - Theories of the origins of switching costs
- Language switching in speech production
- Bilingualism
 - Defining
 - Language selection
- Bilingual models of speech production

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Introducing your review

- Be clear about the purpose of your review
- Establish the importance of your research topic
- Tell the reader how the review is structured

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This chapter begins with theories of the origins of switching costs from the task switching literature as a framework from which to proceed. The main controversy is

This is followed by a review of task switching studies that involve shifting between languages. This provides the basis for a more in-depth review of bilingual issues starting with a definition of ..

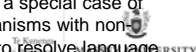
According to X find themselves in different language modes along a continuum ..This sets the scene for how the bilingual deals with a changing language environment..

A series of language interference studies are then described which provide evidence for this changing activation level of ... The review then focuses on the actual languages and how they are organised.

Moving from structure to process, a review of models of speech production ...

As such language switching can be seen as a special case of task switching sharing certain control mechanisms with non-linguistic tasks but at the same time having to resolve language specific conflicts

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Are you in control?



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Recommended sources

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