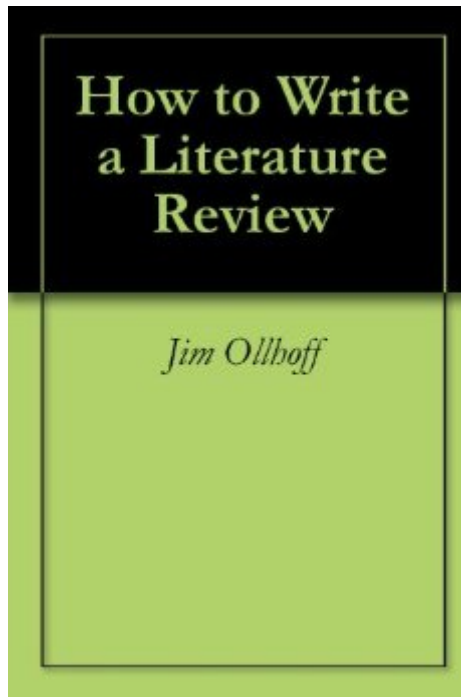


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# How To Write A Literature Review



## Synopsis

This short document (about 5400 words) explains the definition of a literature review. It helps explain what a literature review is and is not, and gives ideas on how it differs from other types of academic writing. It is full of tips for easy reading. The sister publication *How to Write a Literature Review: Workbook in Six Steps* gives an easy step-by-step process to write a literature review. Following the six steps, one by one, will help you write a dynamic paper with a minimum of anxiety. Each step has activities that you can do if you feel stuck, that will help propel you toward completion.

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book as a refresher to the lit review process for my dissertation, and found it was a great value for the price. The author offers 10 chapters of credible insight in creating your lit review. This book is not a book on lit review tips, but does provide solid writing strategies for creating the lit review. It's worth the investment, and gets right to the point! This book will allow a writer to get right to work in a matter of hours of reading.

This is a short book with useful advice that helps when confronted to writing a literature review in a PhD thesis. However, sometimes the book gives contradicting advice. One of the most frustrating examples is the one on Chapter 3: "Characteristics of a literature review". These two paragraphs belong to the same page :S1. "...in the literature review, you remain dispassionate and objective. You simply report what research says."2. "If you just summarize what you've found, then it's a book report, not a lit review (...) A literature review is different. It doesn't just report on what the research says, but it critically analyzes that literature." Maybe the biggest issue is that most of the book is devoted to show the (theoretical) properties of a good literature review, as well as to show how to detect bad literature reviews (it includes 10 real examples). However, it does not offer a single example of a proper literature review. This book is good, but don't expect it to be very practical. It tells what properties your literature review should have, and shows some bad examples, so you can check during or after your writing process, but it offers no clue or proper examples to help you start or guide you through the process.

I think author talked more on what not to do than what we should be doing. Readers should have been given what to do side by side with what not to do.

I'm currently a grad student at USC studying for my Master's in communications....although conveyed at a high level, the information on Research is crucial to the program and is the foundation for writing objectively. Solid and good info. here.

I chose the rating because of the easy to understand way the book approached lit reviews, I grasp what is expected of my work now and look forward to writing the review. Recommended for grad students.

Pithy and direct, Ollhoff surveys the basic guidelines and principles for writing a literature review. The book will be of greatest value to students in Masters or early in doctorate programs. Advanced students, faculty, and advanced researches may find nuggets worth mining; but will surely find the book helpful in training those they are mentoring. A solid work.

This is a good book for undergraduates writing a lit review. The book is too basic for graduate students or researchers. I was looking for something more substantive. I will recommend this book to my students, most of whom never have written a lit review.

This book is so easy to read and understand. I have been having major trouble understanding how to write a literature review as part of my studies. This however is in terms that I can understand and am a lot more confident to write my literature review in the coming months.

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