

Weeks 4 & 5 Topics

I. Literature review

- Why? What to include? How to develop?

II. Additional factors to decide

- Purpose, time dimension

III. Important terms & relationships in research

- IV, DV, Hx, types of relationships between variables



I. Literature Review

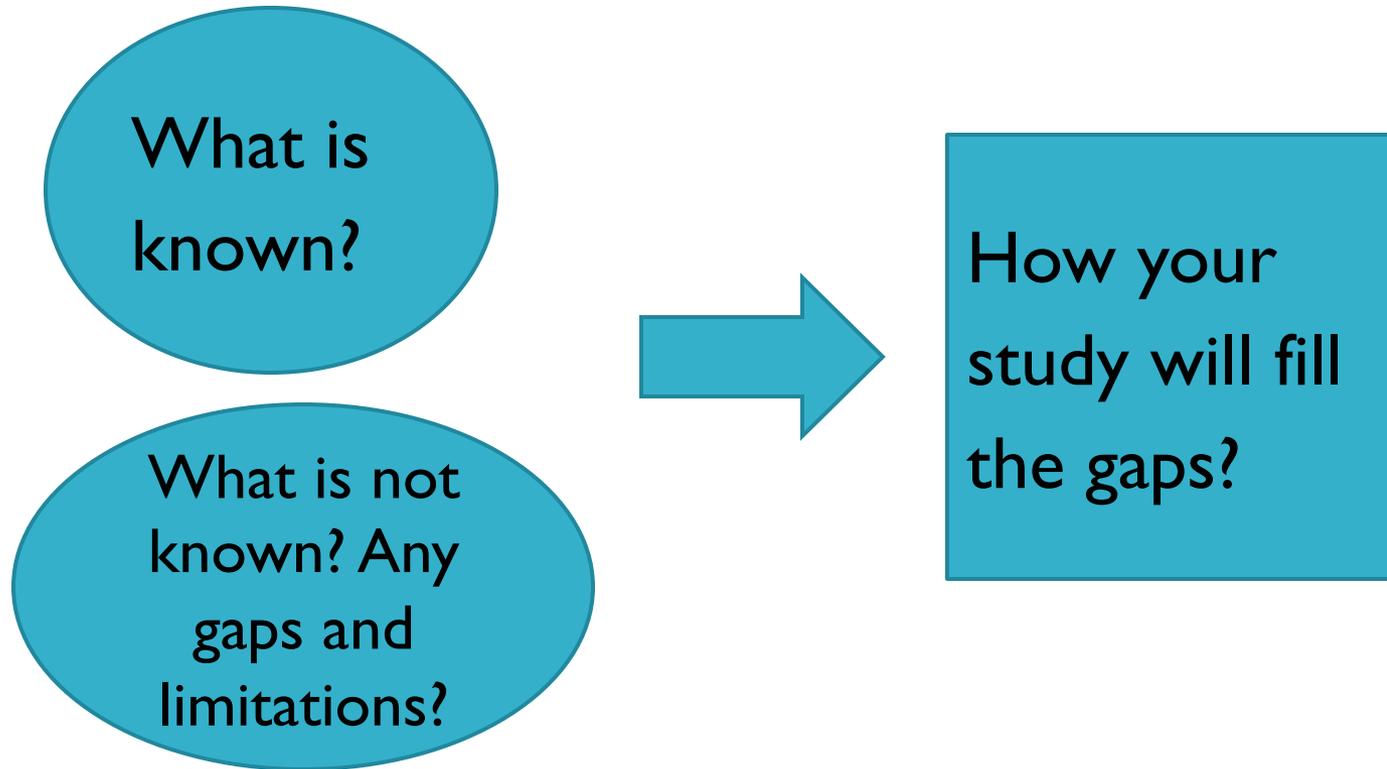
A. Why Lit Review?

1. Familiarize with the current state of knowledge
2. Help narrow focus of the study
3. Refine research questions
4. Methodological considerations and design issues



I. Literature Review

B. What to Include in Lit Review?



****NOT A SUMMARY OF EACH STUDY WITH DETAILS****

****START EARLY****



Try to answer:

1. What questions have been asked by others in my area?
 2. What populations have been studied, and what level?
 3. What constructs and variables were used?
 4. What instruments (tests) or other measures are commonly used?
 5. What theories exist which tell me how to think about my area?
 6. What kinds of designs are used in the work I read?
 7. What are the main findings in my area?
 8. What are the next questions that should be asked in my area?
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Summarizing Literature

_____ (author(s)) _____ (date) conducted a study of _____ (fill in topic) by _____ (interviewing, surveying) on _____ (#) of subjects. The subjects included (brief overview of most relevant characteristics like age, race, and gender). They found _____. However, _____ (this is where you point out a major limitation that leaves something unknown related to your topic).



Summary Paragraph

Four articles were found addressing the subject of _____. Overall these studies report _____. However, _____ (*this is where you highlight problems* (1) comparing the results if the study samples or measures were very different; (2) generalizing to your population of interest if it was not included; (3) generalizing results due to the small samples or type of samples; (4) the inadequacy of data collection approach or measurement).



I. Literature Review

C. Developing Lit Review

1. Organize by theme, not by source
2. Outline is essential
3. Extensiveness, depth & breadth
 - Amount and quality of lit research
 - Types of references
 - Ranges of perspectives



I. Literature Review

C. Developing Lit Review

Additional tips:

- Establish the importance of your study
 - State purpose of your study early
 - (Develop headings to show your organization)
 - Know when to use direct quotes
 - Don't quote someone who is quoting someone else
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II. Additional factors to decide

A. Purposes of Research

- 1. Exploration**
- 2. Description**
- 3. Explanation**
- 4. Evaluation**



II. Additional factors to decide

B. Time Dimensions

1. Cross-sectional
2. Longitudinal
 - 1) Panel study
 - 2) Trend study
 - 3) Cohort study



II. Additional factors to decide

B. Time Dimensions

- ### 3. Longitudinal vs. cross-sectional?
- Advantages and disadvantages
 - Nature of problem and practical considerations



III. Terms and relationships in research

A. Terms

1. Concepts
 2. Variables
 3. Attributes
 4. Relationship
 5. Independent variable
 6. Dependent variable
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Exercise: Identify IV and DV

- ✓ What is the relationship between the level of emotional distress experienced by child sexual abuse victims and various characteristics of the abuse experience?
- ✓ Is sex-role orientation a predictor of contraceptive behavior among adolescent females?



III. Terms and relationships in research

A. Terms

7. Hypothesis

- *Ex: The less traditional an adolescent woman's sex-role orientation, the more likely she is to use contraception*
 - *Ex: Successful completion of a social skills training program will increase the success rate of mentally retarded adults placed in supportive work settings.*
 - *Ex: We test the hypothesis that the well-being of abused children will be better after they are placed with relatives than after they are placed in foster care not with relatives.*
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III. Terms and relationships in research

A. Terms

Developing hypothesis:

- Value-free, testable, clear and specific
 - *Welfare reform legislation should be repealed.*
 - *Welfare reform is harmful to the children of welfare recipients.*
 - *Welfare reform policies that move parents off welfare by increasing recipient work requirements will increase the number of children who lack health insurance coverage.*



III. Terms and relationships in research

B. Types of relationships between variables

1. Positive
2. Negative (inverse)
3. Curvilinear



NEXT SESSIONS:

Week 6: Measurement & assignment #1 due

Week 7: Sampling

Week 8: Exam I (covering weeks 1 – 6)

