What is a Literature Review and How do I do one?
Literature Review

Review → Summarize → Evaluate

Existing knowledge on a particular topic

Its purpose is to produce a position on a state of that knowledge; that is your thesis.
Basic Literature Review

Research Interest

Research Thesis

Research Topic

Literature Review
Discover the Literature to Review
Your topic statements provide the direction & boundaries of your search.
Questions to ask:

- What is the subject of your inquiry?
- What literature must you include that will tell you about the subject?
The Literature Review Process
Step 1: Select a Topic

- Topic must be stated as a well-defined question
- Specify the language
- Refine the focus of the interest
- Select the academic vantage point

**Question:**

_Does looking at pictures of cute animals put people in a better mood?_
Step 2: Search the Literature

- Determine what information will be in review
- Find data that provide the strongest evidence to support thesis
Step 3: Develop the Argument

- Form your case by arranging your claims logically
- Present your case by organizing the relevant data into a body of evidence that explains what is known about the topic
Step 4: Survey the Literature

- Literature survey assembles, synthesizes and analyzes the data to form the argument about the current knowledge on the topic.
- The evidence creates a logical and defensible set of conclusions or claims.
- These conclusions provide the basis for addressing the research question.
Step 5: Critique the Literature

- The literature critique interprets the current understanding of the topic
- It analyzes how previous knowledge answers the research question
Step 6: Write the Review

- Through composing, molding and refining, the written literature review becomes a work that accurately conveys the research
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