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# Conduct Literature Search and Review



## Contributors

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# What is a Literature Review?



- An extensive examination of research sources to generate a picture of...
- What is known and not known about a clinical problem to determine if the knowledge is ready for use in practice

# Purpose of the Literature Review (1)



- Clarify the research problem
- Verify the significance of the research problem
- Specify the purpose of the study
  
- Identify relevant studies and theories
- Develop a research framework
- Clarify objectives, research questions, or research hypotheses

## Purposes of the Literature Review (2)



- Develop definitions of major variables
- Identify limitations and assumptions
- Select a research design
  
- Identify methods of measurement
- Direct data collection and analysis
- Interpret findings

# Critiquing the Literature Review



- Are relevant studies identified and described?
- Are the studies critiqued by the researcher?
- Are the references current?
- Is a summary of current knowledge provided?
  
- Also see the assignment guideline, entitled “Major content sections of a research report and related critiquing guidelines”

# Information Required within Seconds



- Systematic reviews, periodically updated, of randomized trials of the effects of health care
  - From all sources, in all languages
  - The Cochrane Collaboration: [www.cochrane.org](http://www.cochrane.org)

# Review the Following Terms



- What is conceptual literature?
- What is data based/empirical literature?
- What are the differences between primary and secondary literature?
- What are the advantages of each of these four types of literature?

# Conceptual Literature



- Literature that deals with ideas and topics from a theoretical or personal point of view
- Not include research studies or other data based literature
- The advantages of conceptual literature include:
  - A perspective that may be personal or subjective to an expert or one that provides an overview of a large amount of knowledge
  - Sometimes this may be all we know, i.e., there is no empirical literature on a topic

# Data Based/Empirical Literature



- In this type of writing, we see work that has gone through a formal process of research or scientific analysis
- There is DATA that is used to demonstrate a point
- An advantage would be that there is an OBJECTIVITY not found in conceptual literature
- One must be careful, after all, researchers are human and are certainly capable of skewing data!

# Primary Literature



- This is literature where the author is the actual developer of the material
  - Example: Jean Watson's writing about how the theory of caring can be applied to CHF clients
  - Example: Jones' reporting on the results of her study on outcomes
- In this case the work is FRESH from the horse's mouth, so to speak. The primary advantage of primary literature!

# Secondary Literature



- **The author presents the work of another, such as a theory or a study**
  - Example: The writer writes an article about how he or she used Jean Watson's theory of caring or how his or her students like that work
  - Example: The writer summarizes the literature in a particular area from, such as, a review of the literature on pain treatment

# Summary of 'Review the Important Terms'



- A good literature review for a research study takes all these types into consideration
- There should be a preponderance of primary data based literature
- Secondary and conceptual literature may round out the review but should NOT be the dominant forms
- The only exception would be if there is NO data based literature

# Apply What You Know...



- The next slide has a variety of citations from the literature
- Review these one by one, and write down on a piece of paper whether they are
  - Primary versus secondary sources
  - Conceptual versus data based
- On the following slide you will find the answers

# Primary or Secondary? Conceptual or Data Based?



1. Andrews, H. A., & Roy, S. C. (1986). *Essentials of the Roy adaptation model*. Norwalk, CT: Appleton-Century-Crofts.
2. Barnett, K. (1972). A survey of current utilization of touch by health team personnel with hospitalized patients. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 9, 195-209.
3. Simes, S. (1987). Relaxation training as a technique for helping patients cope with the experience of cancer. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 12, 583-591.
4. Dixon, N. (1997). The quality of mercy: Reflections on provider-assisted suicide. *The Journal of Clinical Ethics*, 8, 290-302.
5. Jones, M. T. (1991). This I believe about touch. *American Journal of Nursing*, 22(4), 657-660.
6. Rawsky, E. (1998). Review of the literature on falls among the elderly. *Image*, 30(1), 47-52.
7. Hendrich, A. (1988). An effective unit based fall prevention plan. *Journal of Nursing Quality Assurance*, 3, 28-36.

# Check Your Answers Here...



- # 1 is primary, conceptual
- # 2 is primary, data based
- # 3 is primary, data based
- # 4 is primary, conceptual
- # 5 is primary, conceptual
- # 6 is secondary and probably considered as data based, although it includes both conceptual literature and empirical data
- # 7 is primary, data based

# Notes



- Unless the author indicates it's someone else's work in the title, you may not be aware of secondary literature until you read the article
- It is important to get the primary study whenever possible