

Checklist for writing your literature review

This list of criteria will help you in the evaluation of your literature review. The criteria are grouped into three categories: form, content, and sources.

Criteria on FORM	√
Coherent, clear text structure	
Table of contents (if the document consists only in a literature review)	
Introduction	
Overview of the subject, theories	
Review of the existing methodologies	
State of existing researches in relation to the project	
Summary	
Conclusion	
Each major section contains an introductory paragraph and a conclusion	
Appendix (if necessary)	

(Garson, 2002; Day, 1998; SDSU, 1999)

Note: Commonly, the literature review is an independent section of the main body of the work and we suggest an optional structure. However, according to the nature of your research project, it is possible that the literature review covers several chapters, as in the case where several theories, methodologies or algorithm developments are studied, and may not be reasonably covered in one block (Lovitts, 2007, p. 180).

Criteria on CONTENT	√
Justified inclusion and exclusion of literature sources	
Coherent, clear structure of terminology; no jargon (Day, 1998)	
Distinguished what has been done in the field from what needs to be done	
Critical analysis of the research methodologies	
Finding balance between previous research and new perspectives on the literature	
Synthesis of the ideas processing	
Offered new perspective	
Rationalized the significance of the research problem	

(Boote & Beile, 2005)

Criteria on INFORMATION SOURCES	√
Accuracy and consistency of bibliographic references	
Relevancy of sources	
Credibility of sources	
o Author	
o Date of publication	
o Number of editions or releases	
o Credibility of editor	
o Credibility of journal (e.g. impact factor, peer review)	

(Brusaw, Alred & Olin, 1993; Davis, 1997; CUL, 2004; Middleton, 2005)

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