Literature Reviews
Literature Reviews
What is a Literature Review?

And why should you conduct one?
What Is It?

- First step in research process
- Collect & analyze existing research
- Standalone work or part of research paper
- Not arguing a point
- Not presenting new ideas
- Not simply summarizing articles
Why Conduct One?

- Build your understanding of subject
- Illustrate your competence
- Provide overview of theories & concepts
- Focus/revise your research question
- Develop your hypothesis
- Identify useful research methodologies
- Find gaps in current research
- Verify originality of your research question

Your Research Topic
What effect do right to work statutes have on the Teachers' Union in rural towns across Wisconsin
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What effect do right to work statutes have on the Teachers’ Union in rural towns across Wisconsin
Potential Searches

- Unions in rural areas
- Right to work and Teachers' Union
- Right to work and Wisconsin
- Right to work in rural areas
Finding Articles

- Seminal works
- Forward searching: https://goo.gl/7jwUes
- Backward searching: https://goo.gl/Hbgf7v
- Review articles: https://goo.gl/MjdMiH
- Working papers: http://goo.gl/EU3o7A
- Subject headings: http://imgur.com/8zeWR4m

Organizing Your Research

- Identify a system early in the research process
- Summarize articles as you go
- Try a synthesis matrix or use Excel
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Organizing Your Research
- Create a list of articles
- Categorize articles by subheadings
- Use a database to manage your references
Options for Organization

- Chronological
- Publication
- Trends
- Thematic
- Methodological

Tips for Writing
- Use other literature reviews as models
- Be selective
- Use quotes sparingly
- Know when to stop - repeating patterns
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Reminders

• Use a citation manager
  • Endnote: http://libguides.uww.edu/endnote
  • Zotero: http://libguides.uww.edu/zotero
• Interlibrary Loan
• Business Librarian
  • Email: howella@uww.edu
  • Phone: 262.472.5519
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