

Literature Review

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Economics Research Guide: Home

Guide to resources in Economics

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International Government Data Sources Finance Data Working Papers & Associations Newspaper Articles Web Links Scholarship@Claremont Citing

Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Research Guides

- Britannica Online
- Online Glossary of Research Economics
- Worldmark encyclopedia of the nations
- Archive For the History of Economic Thought
- Data and Statistics Research Guide
- Research Methods in Political Science

(Love Your) Library Workshops & Events

October 2016

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Upcoming Events:

- Zotero Drop-in Clinic
Mon, Oct 24, 2016 9:00am
- Introduction to Zotero
Wed, Oct 26, 2016 12:30pm
- Intro to DSLR cameras
Thu, Oct 27, 2016 11:00am
- R Workshop 3
Thu, Oct 27, 2016 12:00pm
- Zotero Drop-in Clinic
Mon, Oct 31, 2016 9:00am
- Show All

What is data? How does it relate to statistics?

The term data refers to qualitative or quantitative attributes of a variable or set of variables. Data (plural of "datum") are typically the results of measurements and can be the basis of graphs, images, or observations of a set of variables. Data are often viewed as the lowest level of abstraction from which information and then knowledge are derived. Raw data, i.e. unprocessed data, refers to a collection of numbers, characters, images or other outputs from devices that collect information to convert physical quantities into symbols. Statistics is the study of the collection, organization, and interpretation of data.^{[1][2]} It deals with all aspects of this, including the planning of data collection in terms of the design of surveys and experiments.


**Wikipedia.

Strategy For Finding Data.

Ask the question: What organization or agency would likely collect this data?

Government Agencies? Government Agencies collect data at all levels to aid policy decisions. It is generally distributed free via the internet. Organizations? Larger data sets are generally available in SPSS, Excel, SAS or Stata formats.

Subject Guide



Mary Martin

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Subjects:
Economics, Finance, Government,
International Relations, Law, Politics

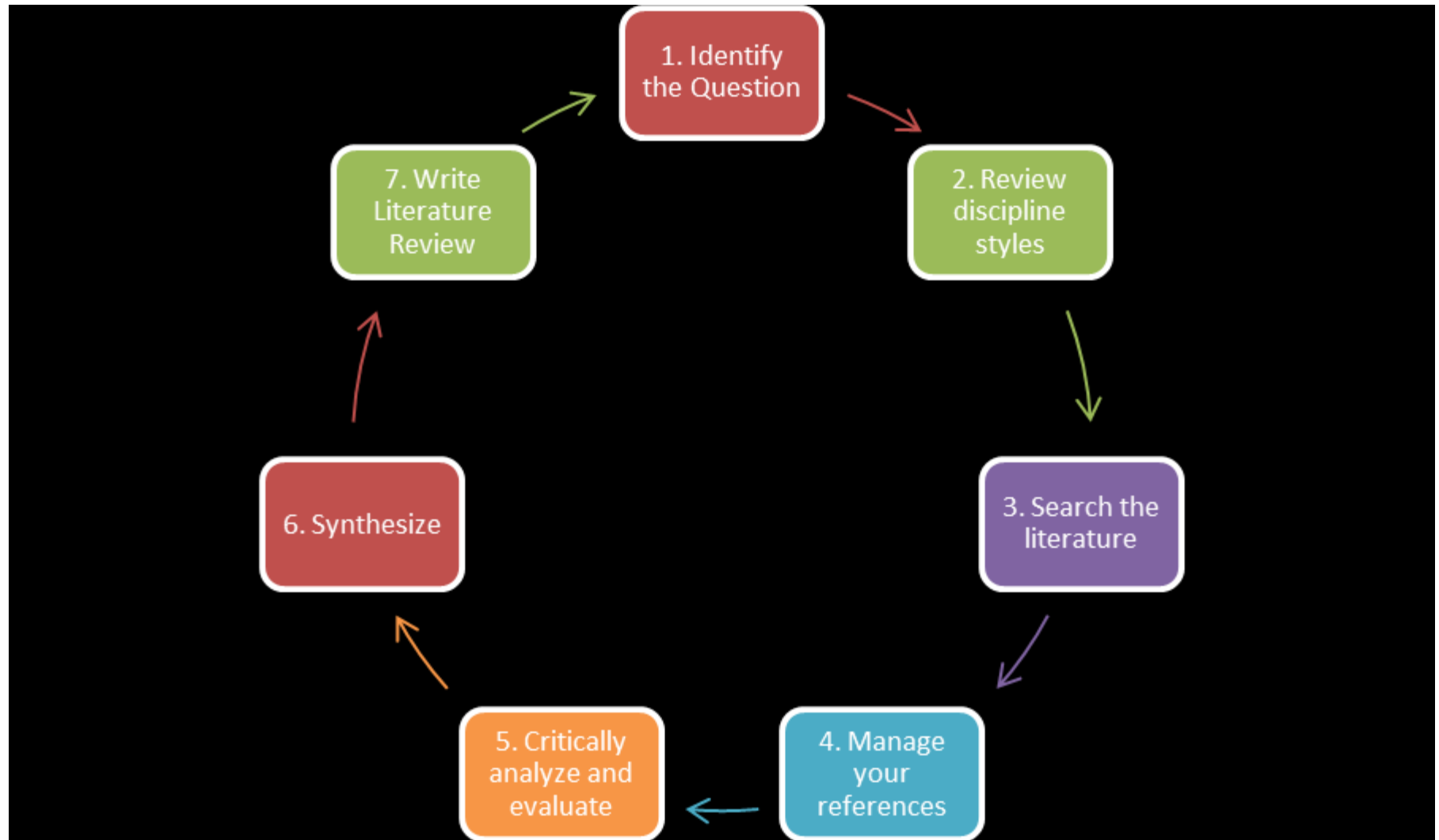
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How to Write a Literature Review

1. A literature review is the text of a scholarly paper which discusses the current state of knowledge including substantive findings, as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Literature reviews are secondary sources, and do not report new or original experimental work.
2. Begin with a well-defined topic
actual search is more focused, less random

How to Write a Literature Review

3. Survey scholarly articles, books, dissertations, conference proceedings relevant to a particular topic and provide a description, summary and critical evaluation of that work.
4. Summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas of others without adding new contributions
5. Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the field



How to Write a Literature Review

The easiest way to write a literature review is to have someone else write it for you

1. Published papers on the same topic should contain a literature review near the beginning
2. Textbooks are really literature reviews
look at textbook chapters, footnotes, bibliographies
3. Journal of Economic Literature (JEL)
specialists inform non-specialists about the current state of knowledge
some articles have bibliographies with more than 100 entries

Literature Search

1. ECONLIT (economics literature)

All newly published articles and books in economics

If it does not appear in ECONLIT, it is probably not economics

2. ABI/INFORM (business database)

3. Some Journals specialize

Monetary policy : *Federal Reserve Bulletin*

Labor Market : *Monthly Labor Review*

Legal institutions : *Journal of Law and Economics*

Which papers are more important?

- Some papers are cited more frequently
 - Social Science Citation Index (measures the impact of a given paper on future research)
- Some journals are more prestigious
 - *American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Econometrica, Review of Economic Studies*
- Some papers are more current
 - NBER working papers (National Bureau of Economic Research)

Citing References

- In the text
 - Lucas (1988) argues that long run growth is important. But Engle and Granger (1987) find results which are unrelated.
- References
 - Lucas, Robert Jr., 1988. "On the mechanics of economic development," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, Elsevier, vol. 22(1), pages 3-42, July.
 - Engle, Robert F & Granger, Clive W J, 1987. "Co-integration and Error Correction: Representation, Estimation, and Testing," *Econometrica*, Econometric Society, vol. 55(2), pages 251-76, March.

Organizing the Literature Review

The literature review should be organized.

1. Chronologically
2. Theoretical perspective
3. Methodological type
4. Order of importance
5. Any structure that is logical and fits the contents
6. Choose one of the above

Literature Reviews

- NOT a list of the literature
- Should be a discussion of the similarities and differences, strengths and weaknesses, of the literature
- You want to compare, contrast, critically review, and comment on the relative merits of the literature
- Should have a clear line of argument
- How is your research going to contribute to this literature?

Warning

- **Plagiarism:** the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own
- Be careful to separate your ideas from another author's ideas
- Use citations and footnotes
- Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided by citing sources. Usually acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is enough

Types of Lit Reviews

- Argumentative Review
- Integrative Review
- Historical Review
- Methodological Review
- Systematic Review
- Theoretical Review