



METHODOLOGY OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW: A COMPARISON OF SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW AND NARRATIVE LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

In general, a literature review of a research aims to obtain an understanding of the exist studies as well as current theory involving in a research topic. It is necessary to debate field of studies when conducting a literature review to help researchers gain knowledge in this field. In this paper, the author will introduce a comparison of two methods of literature review; they are systematic literature review and narrative literature review. The systematic literature review set a goal to identify and evaluate relevant studies with synthesis evidences, while the traditional narrative literature review is to provide the interpretation of existing publications.

Keywords: Methodology, literature review, systematic literature review, narrative literature review

INTRODUCTION

It is not easy to distinguish the differences between systematic literature review and narrative literature review. Both of the methods of literature review provide a exist literature summary involving in the research topic (Paola Demartini, Francesca Maria Cesaroni, Paola Paoloni, 2019). The goal of literature review depends on which is type of literature review. In term of working with systematic literature review, the goal is to answer a specified as well as concentrated research questions. That is why the method of systematic literature review can reduce risk of bias for a research (Andrew Booth, Anthea Sutton, Diana Papaioannou, SAGE, 2016). Whereas, traditional narrative literature review is a qualitatively evidence summary of the



field of research. It can be used informal methods to gather as well as critical analysis the studies. In simple word, the purpose of traditional narrative literature review is to show overview of topic (Sharma Suresh, 2010).

Methodology: Systematic literature review

Systematic Literature Review refers to a type of review with a well-planned review with the purpose of answering the research question. It uses a systematic and clear methodology in all stages of identifying, selecting and critical evaluating study results. One of the most important things of Systematic Literature Review is that the pieces are required original works because of using methodological approach (Daniela and Cristina, 2017). Whereas, although Narrative literature review type have been contributed an important function when they provide scholars up-to-date knowledge for a particular theme. However, there is a big drawback of this review type. Narrative Literature does not describe methodological approach while it is required in term of answering specific quantitative research questions (Bernard et al, 2012). One of the noticeable aspect of Systematic Literature Review is that it uses repeatable analytical methods to collect data before analyse it (Bettany-Saltikov and Josette, 2012). When doing part of Systematic Literature Review, it seem be more helpful method of finding the main work in a specific field because with older publication it is likely that analysis of citation is biased (Nansubuga et al, 2021). As found in (Sally, 2011), there are few recommendations for researchers who plan for doing with systematic Literature Review. The first stage is *establishing a research question*. A well-prepared research question is an important task for starting stage of Systematic Literature Review. The second stage is *Locating Studies*. Researchers need to use a number of sources in order to locate relevant studies. The third stage is Critical Evaluation of the studies. It needs to employ a clear criterion to evaluate and determine which validity studies among selected studies are. Regarding the excluded studies in literature review, they must be cited as well as made rationale. The fourth stage is *Data Collection*, in the step it is required to show methodology approach and main findings of each study. Regularly, it contains information of variables, sample, measurements, and data analysis. Based on that, it allows comparing these things between selected studies. Fifth stage is *Data Analysis and Reporting*. For doing this task, selected studies need to be gathered according similarities of their methodology approach. The sixth stage is *Interpretation of the Findings*. It is necessary to show strong evidence of the findings that refers to both pros and cons. The seventh stage is *Refining and Updating the Review*. When a new study is produced it need to be updated the review

Methodology: Traditional Narrative literature review

In general, traditional narrative literature review is defined as a critical as well as objective analysis about a research topic (Lisa Werkmeister Rozas & Waldo C. Klein, 2010). It is required to show theoretical framework in the stage of literature review. Therefore, narrative literature review can help research to find out the gaps or inconsistencies' in a body of knowledge (Jill Jesson, Lydia Matheson, Fiona M Lacey, 2011). Traditional narrative literature review will focus on examining how theory can shape a research (Emmanuel Manu, Julius Akotia, 2021). There are some description of research methods and its design of traditional narrative literature review. One of the most noticeable point in traditional narrative literature review compare with systematic literature review is that it has no clear approach of methodology (Michael Coughlan, Patricia Cronin, 2016). Information is presented as summary of the findings. And the research is to have purpose of discussing the literature from theories or studies which are relevant to the research (Nola Schmidt, Janet Brown , 2011).

A comparison

Table 1. A comparison of systematic literature review and narrative literature review

Features	Systematic Literature review	Narrative Literature Review
Purposes	The systematic literature review purpose is identifying , evaluating as well as summarizing relevant studies to show a synthesis of evident on the field	The traditional narrative literature review is to provide the interpretation of existing publications. Moreover, it aims to find out the relationships of studies in context of its contribution to the field and other studies.
Research question	The systematic literature review starts with a very clear research questions, then the hypothesis will be tested	The traditional narrative literature review require clear research questions, but not included hypothesis statements in general
Searching for relevant studies	The systematic literature review requires to show how to locate relevant studies involving in the research topic	The traditional narrative literature review does not require for showing how to locate publications
Decision of studies includes or excludes	The systematic literature review require showing description about	The traditional narrative literature review just requires relevant

	which studies to include or exclude to have limitation on the collection.	studies.
Evaluation studies	The systematic literature review requires criteria to evaluate relevant studies, to make sure the high quality studies will be reviewed in the later stage, and eliminate low quality studies	The traditional narrative literature review seem be seldom reported
Limitation	The systematic literature review has a limited scope, because it has to be designed by defined query, search terms. Moreover, have to have criteria for selected studies, in some cases; it may not have many studies for reviewing due to this.	The traditional narrative literature review usually are not known the plan as well as assumption. moreover, the selection studies bias is normally not known

CONCLUSION

To sum up, there are some big differences between two types of literature reviews. The purpose of the systematic literature review is more clear and explicit than narrative literature review. While the methodology of the systematic literature review is required to show a specific methodology. With traditional literature review, authors only can gather relevant studies and summaries and discuss them. However, with systematic literature review, it has to be an Evaluation all the selected studies before going to analyse them critically. Based on the comparison, it can show that the systematic bring more advantages for researchers in term of reducing risk of bias for the research, however traditional literature review is more simple to conduct than systematic literature review

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