

Types of Literature Reviews

Name of Author

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Course

Professor's Name

Date

Types of Literature Reviews

A literature review is a survey of scholarly sources on a particular topic. It provides summaries or general descriptions and syntheses of the sources based on specific themes. The method of searching for the sources is not often provided. The objective of the review is to provide the audience with a general background of a particular topic, including relevant theories, methods, and gaps in research and knowledge. A systematic review specifically evaluates experimental research studies and utilizes a narrow and focused clinical question. It employs a well-designed and precise methodology for the search and selection of sources and research articles (Forward & Hobby, 2002). In addition, this type of review provides an explicit description of the methodology utilized in order to make it possible for other researchers to duplicate the approach and selection of studies. The aim of this type of review is to enable an objective assessment of primary research evidence and arrive at a comprehensive and unbiased conclusion regarding a particular topic.

On the other hand, an integrative review includes non-experimental studies and literature such as observational studies, case studies, and meta-analyses, which provides a broader focus unlike that of a systematic review. Similar to the systematic reviews, an integrative review also includes a description of the precise search and selection methodologies utilized. The selected studies and literature are then analyzed and compared based on the themes identified (Whittemore & Knafl, 2005). In this regard, an integrative review employs the same rigor as that utilized in primary research. The objective of an integrative review is to accentuate gaps and unresolved issues in the existing literature, thus, instilling nursing practice with evidence for use in developing clinical solutions.

References

- Forward, L. & Hobby L. (2002). A practical guide to conducting a systematic review. *Nursing Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingtimes.net/roles/nurse-managers/a-practical-guide-to-conducting-a-systematic-review-10-01-2002/>
- Whittemore, R. & Knafl K. (2005). The integrative review: updated methodology. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 52(5), pp. 546–553.