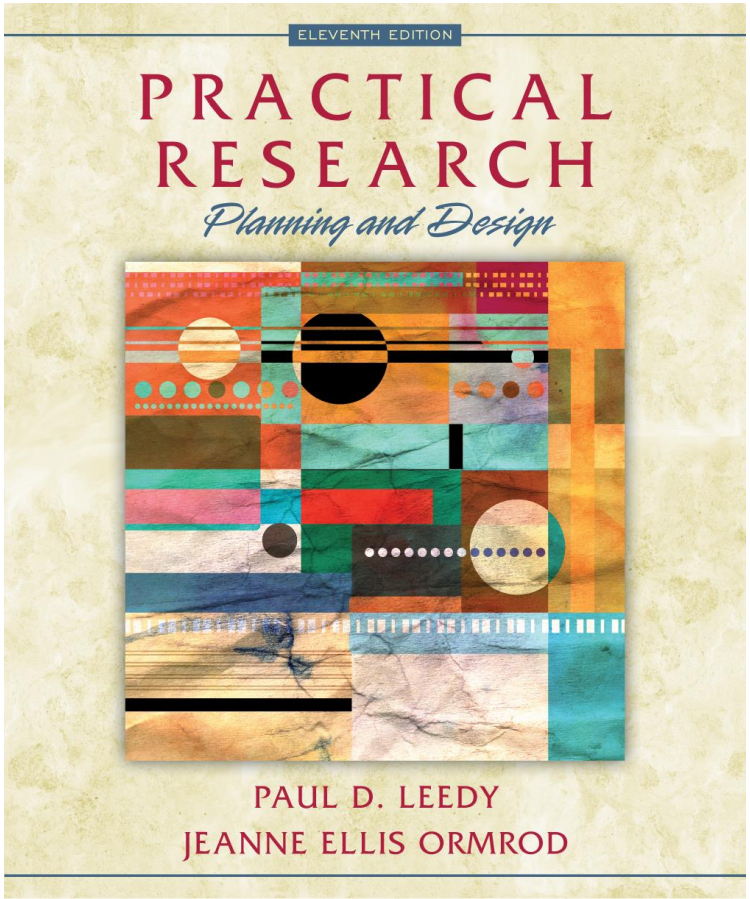
Practical Research

11th edition

Paul D. Leedy & Jeanne Ellis Ormrod



Chapter 3

Review of the Related Literature

Benefits of Conducting a Literature Review

- Discover if **someone has already answered** your research question
- Find new ideas, perspectives, and approaches
- Learn about other **researchers** who conduct work in the same area
- Identify **controversial issues and gaps** in understanding that have not yet been resolved

Benefits of Conducting a Literature Review

- Learn how **others have handled methodological and design issues** in studies similar to your own.
- Uncover **sources of data** that you may not have known existed
- Discover **established measurement tools**
- **Interpret and make sense of your findings and tie your** results to the work of those who have preceded you

Benefits of Conducting a Literature Review

- **Bolster your confidence** that your topic is one worth studying

The more you know about investigations and perspectives related to your topic, the more effectively you can tackle your own research problem

Keywords

- Identify one or more **keywords**
- A **prime source** of such keywords is your statement of your research problem
- Example **google and google scholaring** for PRCL paper start and let go
- **Meta Data** for google of any product

Open source university libraries

- Brown University

  library.brown.edu
- University of New Hampshire

  library.unh.edu
- Universiry of Northern Colorado

  library.unco.edu

Northeastern University

library.neu.edu

- ***The Dewey decimal (DD) classification system.*** Books are cataloged and shelved according to ten basic areas of knowledge and subsequent subareas, each divided decimally. The Dewey decimal system is rhe principal classification system in most public libraries and many other libraries and is probably the most generally accepted system throughout the world

- ***The Library of Congress (LC) classification system.*** Books are assigned co particular areas of knowledge that are given special alphabetical categories. This system is widely used in college and university libraries

Conversion System

TABLE 3.1 A general conversion chart: Dewey decimal classification system (DD) versus the Library of Congress classification system (LC) for various subject areas

DD	Subject	LC	DD	Subject	LC
630	Agriculture	S	070	Journalism	PN
301	Anthropology	GN	400	Language	P
930	Archaeology	CC	340	Law	K
700	Art	N	020	Library and Information Sciences	Z
520	Astronomy	QB	800	Literature	P
920	Biography	CT	510	Mathematics	QA
570	Biology	QH	610	Medicine and Public Health	QS–QZ, W
580	Botany	QK	355	Military Science	U
650	Business	HF	780	Music	M
540	Chemistry	QD	100	Philosophy	B
004–006	Computer Science	QA	530	Physics	QC
550	Earth Sciences	QE	320	Political Science	J
330, 380	Economics and Commerce	HB–HJ	150	Psychology	BF
370	Education	L	200	Religion	B
620	Engineering	T	500	Science (General)	Q
910	Geography	G	301	Sociology	HM
350	Government	JF, JK, JS	790	Sports and Recreation	GV
930–995	History	D, E, F	600	Technology	T
640	Hospitality	TX	590	Zoology	QL

Locating Related Literature

Identify one or more *keywords* and then:

- Use the library catalog and browse the holdings
- Use indexes, abstracts, and other general references
- Use online databases
  - PsycINFO
  - ERIC
  - Google Scholar™

Online Databases

TABLE 3.3

Examples of online databases

Database	*Subject Area(s) Covered*
Academic Search Premier	Education, humanities, multicultural issues, sciences, social sciences
America: History and Life	History of the United States and Canada
Applied Science Full Text	Applied sciences and technology (e.g., computing, engineering, resource management, telecommunications, transportation)
Art Full Text	Broad range of art topics (e.g., advertising, architecture, art history, folk art, graphic arts, video)
Biological Abstracts	Biology, medicine
Business Source Premier	Business, economics
Dissertation Abstracts International	All disciplines (dissertations)
EconLit	Economics
ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center)	Education and education-related topics
Historical Abstracts	World history (excluding the United States and Canada; for these, use America: History and Life)
IngentaConnect	All disciplines
JSTOR	Business, fine arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences
Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts (LLBA)	Language
MathSciNet	Mathematics (pure and applied), statistics

Surf Internet Freely

- You may not have access to journal papers but you can
  - Record URLs and use later
  - Record the document DOI in case the exact location of the document is changes

Locating Related Literature

- Consult with reference librarians
- Surf the Internet using a search engine
- Examine citations and reference lists from published work

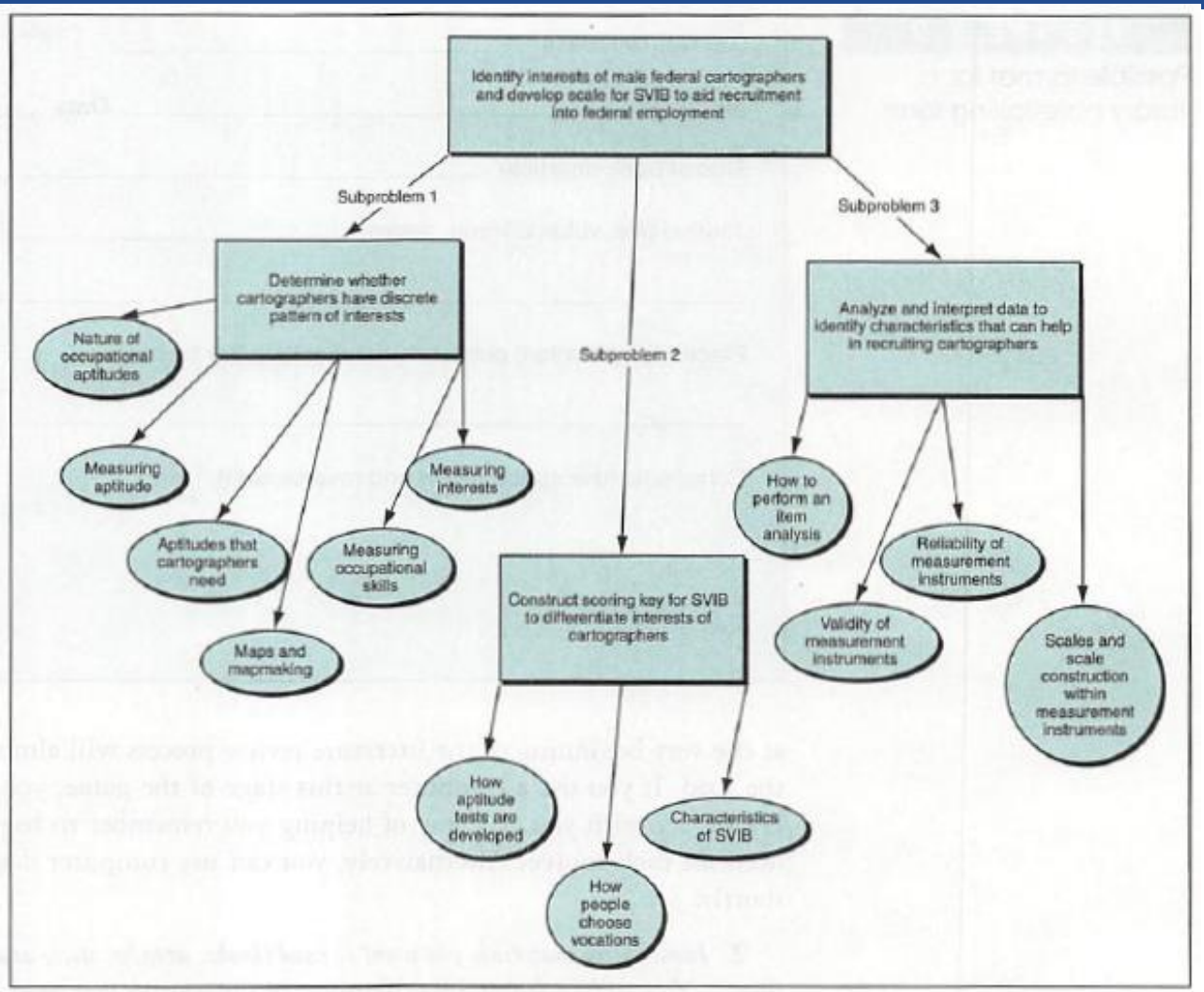
Practical Applications

- 1. Write the problem in its entirety at the top of the page or computer screen
- 2. Write each subproblem in its entirety as well
- 3. Identify the important words and phrases in each subproblem
- 4. Translate these words and phrases into specific topics you must learn more about. These topics become your "agenda" as you read the literature
- 5. Go ro the library catalog, its online databases, and the Internet to seek out resources
- related ro your agenda
- 6. Read!

Planning a Literature Search

- Write down the problem (on paper, the computer, brainstorming software)
- Write each subproblem
- Identify important words and phrases
- Translate these words and phrases into specific topics (your agenda)
- Seek out resources related to your agenda
- Read

Inspiration Software for Literature Review



Use Your Library Time Efficiently

- Set up your own database or spreadsheet in advance
  - Consider bibliographic software
- Go to the library armed with data-gathering tools
  - Notebook, laptop

Example Library Note Sheet

Call No./Database _____

Author(s) _____ Date _____

Title of book or article _____

Journal title, volume/issue, pages _____

_____

Place of publication, publisher, date, edition (for books)

_____

Comments (use space below and reverse side)

Use Your Library Time Efficiently

- Identify the materials you want to read, then determine if they are available in your library
  - Keep records of each search
  - Take advantage of computer technology

Use Your Library Time Efficiently

- Develop & implement a plan to find the sources you've identified, including those not immediately available
- Search in the library
  - Hold or recall books that are checked out
  - Use Interlibrary Loan
  - Use an online document delivery service
  - Order your own copies of books
- Read and take careful notes

Evaluate, Organize, Synthesize

- Determine for yourself whether the conclusions are justified based on the data
- Organize the ideas to address the problem

Evaluating Research of Others

CHECKLIST

Questions to Consider When Evaluating Research

1. In what journal or other source did you find the research article? Was it reviewed by experts in the field before it was published? That is, was the article in a *juried* (refereed) publication?

2. Does the article have a stated research question or problem? That is, can you determine the focus of the author's work?

3. Does the article describe the collection of new data, or does it describe and synthesize previous studies in which data were collected?

4. Is the article logically organized and easy to follow? What could have been done to improve its organization and readability?

5. Does the article contain a section that describes and integrates previous studies on this topic? In what ways is this previous work relevant to the research problem?

Evaluating Research of Others

_____ 6. If the author explained procedures that were followed in the study, are these procedures clear enough that you could repeat the work and get similar results? What additional information might be helpful or essential for you to replicate the study?

_____

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_____ 7. If data were collected, can you describe how they were collected and how they were analyzed? Do you agree with what was done? If you had been the researcher, what additional things might you have done?

_____

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_____ 8. Do you agree with the interpretation of the results? Why or why not?

_____

_____

_____ 9. Finally, think about the entire article. What is, for you, most important? What do you find most interesting? What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of this article? Will you remember this article in the future? Why or why not?

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Knowing when to quit

- When might you know that you have completed a reasonably thorough literature review' In theory, the answer might be "**Never**‟ You may keep finding more and more information....
- The decision when to stop depends upon **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Evaluate, Organize, Synthesize

- Synthesize what you've learned
  - Identify common themes
  - Show how approaches to the topic have changed over time
  - Compare and contrast theoretical positions
  - Describe general trends
  - Identify and explain discrepant or contradictory findings

Writing a Clear and Cohesive Literature Review

- Get the proper psychological orientation
  - Know what you want to do
- Develop an organizational plan or outline
- Emphasize relatedness
  - how the literature is related to the problem
- Use logical transitions

Writing a Clear and Cohesive Literature Review

- Use appropriate paraphrases and citations
  - Changing a just few words is still plagiarizing
  - Credit people whose ideas you are using
  - Use direct quotations only when necessary
- Summarize what you've said
- Plan to revise
- Ask others for advice and feedback