

Doing the Literature Review

Professor Lawrence Jun Zhang, PhD

lj.zhang@auckland.ac.nz

Faculty of Education & Social Work

The University of Auckland, Auckland
New Zealand



- What is a literature review?
- The literature review at different degree levels
- Why is it important to undertake a literature review as part of your research?
- Where do we find the literature review in a dissertation or thesis?
- Structuring your literature review

Multiple purposes

- Historical background
- Contemporary context
- Theoretical underpinnings
- Definitions and discussion of terminology used in the research
- Signalling a gap in previous research and using this to justify your own
- The significance of a problem for research



- What is a literature search?
- What are the purposes of a literature search?
- Sources of information
- Evaluating online sources of information
- Different types of research
- Tools for finding relevant sources
- The process of conducting a literature search
 - The use of key words and Boolean logic
 - Keeping up to date: RSS feeds and email alerts