

CHAPTER 6

REVIEWING THE LITERATURE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this chapter the student should be able to:

- Source appropriate literature.
- Evaluate the quality and utility of literature sourced.
- Review literature.
- Create a theoretical framework.
- Write a literature review.

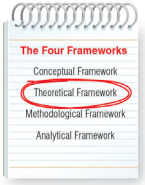
RESEARCH SKILLS

At the end of this chapter the student should, using the exercises on the accompanying online platform, be able to:

- Create a theoretical framework for a given research project.
- Critique a given literature review.

The aim of this chapter is to consider and explain the literature review. The chapter begins with a definition of 'literature' in the context of research. This is followed by a discussion on where to source literature and a discussion on the importance of exercising discernment in relation to literature he/she reviewed. There are explanations of how to select appropriate literature and how to use literature. The way in which to construct the theoretical framework, the second of the frameworks within the four frameworks approach to the research project, is also discussed. There is a demonstration of how to write a literature review. In the case study at the end of the chapter two sample literature reviews are presented, the first is an example of a poorly written literature review, the second an example of a better literature review.

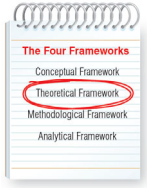
RESEARCH DIARY ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITY 6.1

In your research diary, outline and develop a search strategy for the literature review you intend to carry out for your research project.

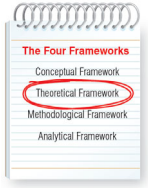
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 6.2

In your research diary, sketch the structure of the literature review you intend to carry out for your research project. To begin with write an outline of the literature review. Then write down the sub-headings you intend to use for each of the sub-sections of the literature review. Then write a short synopsis of the content of each of the sub-sections.

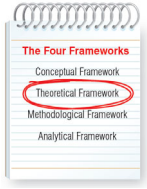
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 6.3

In your research diary, write a note on the argument you intend to make in your literature review. Explain the argument and write a brief justification of it.

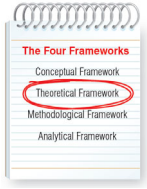
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 6.4

In your research diary, develop a plan of how you intend to present your argument in your literature review. In the plan, detail what aspect of the argument or what ideas about the argument you intend to present in the first main sub-section, and what aspect of the argument or what ideas about the argument you intend to present in the second main sub-section, and so on.

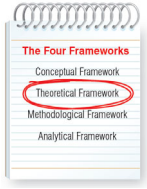
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 6.5

Engage in a critique of the plan you have develop for presenting your argument in the literature review. In developing this critique make a list of the strong aspects of the plan and make a list of the weak aspects of the plan. Then list the changes you intend to make to the structure of your argument and the manner in which you intend to present it in the literature review.

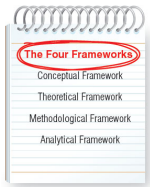
ANSWER:



ACTIVITY 6.6

Read the end of chapter case study (Chapter Six) and carry out the research diary exercise proposed in the case study; i.e. in your research diary write down in short phrases why one of the literature reviews presented is a poorly written literature review and why the other is a better literature review.

ANSWER:



YOUR RESEARCH DIARY

Please use this section to start your own Research Diary and keep accurate records of your research as it progresses

DATE:

RESEARCH ELEMENT/ASPECT:

Detail the topic or section of research being undertaken

SOURCE:

Record website addresses, book citations, library references, contact details etc.

SUMMARY:

Reflect on your experiences, thoughts, ideas and developments

NOTES:

Make general notes on your research, for example questions for further reflection and/or investigation, your thoughts, your observations and plans for future research.