

## Chapter 2: Review of the Literature

This workbook is intended to help you to write Chapter 2 of your proposal. Each section of Chapter 2 contains background information to help you to understand what should be included. Critical points that should be included in each section are presented. Issues that you should consider in terms of alignment with other sections of the proposal are discussed. References to enhance your understanding of what is needed are presented for each section. When you have read each section you should write that section in the space provided. The space contains bullet points for everything that you should address. Finally, the section of the Dissertation Checklist from the Dissertation Handbook is presented along with tips provided by the Research Review Board so that you can self-check your work. When you have completed all sections of this workbook, you can put all the sections together and you should have a finished Chapter 2 of your proposal.

### CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

*Scholarship entails comprehensive understanding of at least one academic community's historical and current treatment of the pertinent topic. In order to argue the legitimacy of the current study, a thorough understanding of what that study will add to the most current literature on the topic is necessary. Literature will be critically analyzed, synthesized, and integrated to produce a story that brings the reader along to understand where the study fits into the current debates and academic edges concerning the topic. Existing and historically seminal literature will provide a contextual framework within which the research design is situated. Additionally, a part of the literature review will provide an academic foundation for the methods and research design chosen. This chapter should be written in past tense. (Taken from Dissertation Checklist)*

The purpose of the literature review is to:

- Place the literature into context to help in understanding the research problem
- To describe and compare the relationship of each research study with others relevant to the topic
- To identify new ways of interpreting prior research
- To find gaps in the literature that your own research may fill

- To present contradictory previous studies and resolve any conflicts between those studies.
- To identify prior research so that you do not duplicate effort
- To present your own research within the context of existing literature

## **Review of the Literature (Main Heading for this Chapter)**

Introductory paragraph (this is not a heading)

### *A. Background Reading for this Section*

This section simply introduces the chapter. Always start with your purpose statement. The purpose statement should be written the same way every time it is presented in your proposal. Then explain how your purpose fits into the dissertation and how the literature review will advance the purpose of your research. You should also restate your topic and your research questions. Then explain what is in the chapter.

### *B. Critical Points to Address for this Section*

Start this section by restating your purpose statement. Explain how the purpose statement fits with the dissertation and the organization of the literature review. Be sure to restate your topic and your research questions. End this section by introducing what is in this chapter.

### *C. Considerations for Alignment*

- Purpose statement must align with the purpose statement in chapter 1
- Research questions must align with the research questions presented in chapter 1

In the space below, write your introduction section addressing each point provided.

- Restate the purpose statement. Explain how it fits in the dissertation and organization of this chapter
- Restate the topic and research questions
- Introduce what is in the chapter

Note to Student: Ensure that your entry is cohesive. The ideas should flow logically and with appropriate transitions between sentences. Box will expand.

#### *D. Self-Check Your Work to the Dissertation Handbook*

##### INTRODUCTION

\_\_\_\_\_ Begins with the purpose of the chapter, how it fits in the dissertation, and the organization of the chapter

\_\_\_\_\_ Frames the review by restating the topic and research questions

### **Search Strategy (Main Heading for this Section)**

#### *A. Background Reading for This Section*

Chapter 3 in Field Guide

Chapter 9 in Field Guide

### **How to do a literature search**

The very first thing that you should consider when starting your literature search is the topic that you are researching. You should not have a topic that is too broad or one that is too narrow. For example, if you are doing a study on domestic violence, a Google search of the words Domestic Violence comes up with 64,500,000 possibilities. This tells me that my search is much too broad so I need to narrow it considerably. So now I type in Victims of domestic violence and my

possibilities go down to 33,000,000. Still way too much information, so now I narrow it further and ask for information on male victims of domestic violence. I am now down to 12,000,000 possibilities. So I add “power and control” to my search request and narrow my search to only 331,000 possibilities.

Then I decide that I really want only peer reviewed research so I decide to check into Google Scholar. I type in “male victims of domestic violence” and come up with 332,000 possibilities. But I want only recent articles so I check the box on the left that lets me find only articles since 2011. My search now reveals 18,600 articles. I can use these as a starting point to find relevant materials.

One thing to consider is the search terms that you use. Consider the term “domestic violence.” When I go to the thesaurus I don’t find a lot of different words for domestic violence. However, if I go to the word “abuse” I find more possibilities. If you have Word, there is a thesaurus available on the Review tab. If not you can find synonyms for search words at <http://thesaurus.com>. You can also find synonyms in ProQuest. When you type in words in the search bar, various options surrounding that topic will appear. This gives you additional ideas for search words. Google Trends (<http://www.google.com/trends/>) will display searches related to known search terms. When I type in “domestic violence” in this search engine. I am given information on how relevant the topic is currently as well as world-wide. I am also given other search words related to Domestic Violence. This gives me new areas to take my search.

One good thing about most of these data bases is that when you get to the article, there is usually a tab called “cite.” This will give you the correct citation for the article. Simply copy and paste it into your reference list.

*Now you try it*

*Write your topic here:*

*Write potential search words that you can use to find articles on your topic.*

Go to GoogleScholar or some other search engine that allows you access to articles and books and find potential articles. Remember that the majority of your articles should come from the past five years. So be sure to click the box that indicates you want only articles published in 2011 or beyond.

One thing that you might want to consider is the field of study for your research. For example if your study is in the field of psychology you might want to look at PsychInfo or SocialWork Abstracts. The library has many different search engines to choose from. In addition there are search engines such as EbscoHost and Proquest that will help you to find articles. EbscoHost provides full text access to thousands of different journals, magazines, pamphlets, and newsletters on a broad range of topics. Proquest provides access to thousands of peer-reviewed journals in a wide range of topics.

In the library you can find many tutorials on how to do a literature review, how to make certain your references are in APA format. The following comes for the Rockies' Library website listing some of the tutorials available to you.

### **Introduction to Library Research**

- [University of the Rockies Library Research Tutorial](#)  
This comprehensive research tutorial introduces you to the UoR Library and also takes you step-by-step through the research process, touching on topics such as developing a topic, search techniques, accessing journals and ebooks, citing your sources in APA, searching for/evaluating credible websites, and many more. This is a great place to walk yourself through your first research paper, or to get a refresher when writing future papers.  
(Source: University of the Rockies Library)

### **Using the University of the Rockies Library**

- [Searching for Articles](#) (6 minutes) - This video demonstrates how to search for articles in the UoR library databases.
- [Finding an Article When You Have the Citation](#) (4 minutes) - This video explains how to find an article for which you already have the citation, such as a required reading for a class.
- [Finding Full Text Articles](#) - This tip sheet explains how to limit your search so that you only see results where the full article is available to you through the University of the Rockies Library.
- [Talking to Databases](#) (3 minutes) - This video demonstrates how to turn a research topic into a format that library databases will understand. (Source: Kent State University)

- [Searching for Dissertations](#) - This document explains how to find dissertations in the UoR Library and also gives tips for optimum searching.
- 
- [Generating Search Terms](#) (5 minutes) - This video discusses generating effective search terms for Internet or database searching. (Source: CLIP)

### Other sources of relevant information

There are other sources to find relevant material. The internet provides sources for systematic reviews that collate material that addresses a specific research question. The sources below deal primarily with reviews of medical data. There are many more.

- [The Cochrane Library](#) provides systematic reviews on articles in the health care field.
- [Effective Public Health Practice Project Systematic Reviews](#) provides systematic reviews in the public health care sector
- [Public Health +](#) provides systematic reviews on public health
- [Health Evidence](#) health promotion and intervention systematic reviews
- [Database of promoting health effectiveness reviews](#) provides systematic and non-systematic reviews of effectiveness in health promotion and public health worldwide
- [The Campbell Collaboration Library](#) provides systematic reviews in psychology, behavior, etc.
- [PubMed](#) provides systematic reviews in medicine.

### What is good research?

After you have found articles, how will you know that the articles are worth using. Certainly using only peer reviewed sources is a good start, but you need to ask yourself additional questions regarding the quality of the research.

First, is there a research bias? Most researchers go into their work with some bias so it is important to consider how that bias was addressed. Some researchers go into research with a set agenda based on funding, publication bias and conflicts of interest. The Office of Research Integrity ([https://ori.hhs.gov/case\\_summary](https://ori.hhs.gov/case_summary)) provides a summary of cases that have been charged with research misconduct so this is not a rare occurrence unfortunately.

Another consideration is whether the researcher is knowledgeable about the field of research. If not, are all assertions carefully documented?

The next area to look at is the section on reliability and validity. Has the researcher addressed these areas adequately? Are the measures used valid? Is the instrumentation sound? Consider sample size. Is it adequate for the study? In qualitative research has data saturation occurred. In quantitative studies, does the sample size give sufficient power to the statistics? Who were the people that comprised the sample? Are they representative of the population being studied? How was data collected? How was data analyzed? It is not enough to simply read the abstract of an article. In order to really know whether the conclusions are based on sound research, it is important to ask the critical questions noted above.

Canada's [National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools](http://www.nccmt.ca/registry/view/eng/87.html), provides a free online learning module called Critical Appraisal of Intervention Studies (<http://www.nccmt.ca/registry/view/eng/87.html>). The tool is a great resource to help you to determine whether an intervention can be applied to another setting. You can use it to get a sense of how to appraise literature. The [Critical Appraisal Skills Programme](#) also found at that site provides links to PDF documents on critically evaluating different types of studies.

### **Organizing your research.**

While you are finding articles, it is important to keep your articles organized. There are several online programs that can help with this. EndNote, RefWorks, Zotero and Mendeley are the best known programs. All of these sources allow you to create a matrix of your literature review.

**Below is a comparison of the four programs with hyperlinks to their webpage**

<b>Tool</b>	<a href="#">EndNote</a>	<a href="#">RefWorks</a>	<a href="#">Zotero</a>	<a href="#">Mendeley</a>
<b>Cost</b>	Can get a trial version. Student discount available so costs \$113.95.	Can get a trial version. Cost for program is \$100.00	Free and open source	Free and paid versions available
<b>Mac or PC</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Can use on mobile device?</b>	iPad app available	Via mobile website	Third party Apps	iPhone, iPad app
<b>Integrates with MS Word to create/format in-text citations</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>and reference lists?</b>				
<b>No. of citation styles</b>	4500+	1000+	Small number pre-loaded; Nearly 7000 available for download from Zotero	Over 1180
<b>Duplicate record detection?</b>	Yes	Yes	yes	yes

Wikipedia also provides a comparison of reference management software. Click on this link to access this material [Comparison of reference management software](#)

Another way to organize your citations is to create a Literature Review Matrix.

One approach is the Taxonomy Matrix: This allows you to include all relevant information from an article for use later.

Full APA Article Reference	Problem That Motivated the Study	Knowledge Gap being addressed	Objectives for the Study	Type of Research Method	Type of Research Design	Research Questions include Hypotheses (if Quant)	If Quant: Variables (dep, indep, mediating, moderating) and how they are defined/measured	Description of the Sample (Size and Characteristics)	Key Findings	Limitations Noted by Author/Limitations Noted by You	Areas Noted by Authors for Future Research

A simplified literature review matrix is below. This version allows you to place all references related to a specific theme in the same area. This will make it easier to synthesize the material when writing the literature review.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>IMPORTANT POINTS</b>	<b>RELEVANT QUOTES add page number</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>
<b>Provide main topic</b>	<b>(include sample, Variables,</b>		



	<b>themes, conclusions, limitations etc</b>	<b>Quotes should be used sparingly</b>	

An important thing to remember is that you should save your search strategies. Save the words you used as well as the search engines you used. In your literature review you will need to write a section on how you conducted your search. Keeping notes during your literature search will make writing this section much easier. Many search engines allow you to save your searches which will provide a handy reference for use later.

### **The Gap in the Literature**

Doing a thorough literature review will help you to find the gap in the literature. But what is a “research gap?” Simply put, a research gap is a question or problem that has not been studied enough or answered thoroughly. The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2012) has published a Framework for identifying research gaps at <http://www.nccmt.ca/registry/view/eng/118.html>. This provides a tool to help find the gaps in the literature. Here are some other approaches to finding research gaps.

- Read relevant articles. Look at their suggestions for future research. Look at their conclusions. Generally the author will provide suggestions for future research that were not addressed by their study
- Read systematic reviews. These were mentioned earlier. These reviews look deeply into the literature and examine trends in the field. In this regard, meta-analysis reports, content analysis reports, and citation analysis reports can be helpful in finding gaps.
- Another approach to finding gaps is to go to the website of prominent journals in your field of study. Most journals have a “Key Concepts” section which allows the journal’s readers to see the central themes in that field. Look at how much was published in each area.

There are also tools available to make the search for the gap even easier.

- The Essential Science Indicator ([http://wokinfo.com/products\\_tools/analytical/essentialscienceindicators/](http://wokinfo.com/products_tools/analytical/essentialscienceindicators/)) will help you to determine the most influential authors and publications in your field as well as the latest trends in your field of study.
- Thomson Reuters also has an Essential Science Indicator that tells you the most cited papers in your field as well as developing trends. Both indicators cost money but may be available through a library.
- Another approach is to find data sets. An easy approach is to go to Google, type in “data set search engines”. This gives you a lot of different possibilities.
- You can also go to <https://cse.google.com/cse/publicurl?cx=002720237717066476899:v2wv26idk7m>. This takes you to Google Custom Search. You can then put in your search words and see what you can find
- Google trends is another way to find Gaps. Google Trends allows you to compare various topics and see which ones are more popular. There is also a section on regional interests which shows which topics are popular in which countries. In addition, Google Trends provides a section on related searches which provides searches similar to yours and names of authors who have written on the topic.

When you search the literature, ask yourself what is missing. Are there certain populations that have not been explored? Is there a different approach to researching the problem? Is the data outdated? Any data that is more than 10 years old is outdated and could signify a gap in the literature.

*Practice exercise in finding the gaps.*

Using some of the resources above, find the gaps in your topic. Based on your review list five potential gaps in the literature in your topic field.

### *B. Critical Points to Address for this Section*

In this section you must describe the strategy that you used to collect data. Indicate the search engines that you used and list search terms that were used. It is also important in this section to indicate how you identified the classical studies in your field of research. You must indicate the time frame for most of your literature review. Remember that the majority of your articles should be less than 5 years

old. If you are using older articles you must justify their use. You should also discuss your strategy for focusing on research that resembles your own study. In reading this section, the reader should have a good idea on how you did your literature review. Sometimes creating a table that indicates the number of books, articles, dissertations etc that were reviewed from the various search engines is helpful.

### C. Considerations for Alignment

- Your search strategy should align with your problem statement
- Your search strategy should align with the methodology you will be using.
- Your search strategy should align with your research questions.

### D. Suggested Resources for Enrichment

Fink, A. (2010) *Conducting research literature reviews: from the Internet to paper*. Sage.

Hart, C. (2001) *Doing a Literature Search A Comprehensive Guide for the Social Sciences*, Sage.

Knopf, J. W. (2006). Doing a literature review. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 39(01), 127-132.

Price, B., & Walker, C. (2009). Guidance on conducting a literature search and reviewing mixed literature. *Nursing Standard*, 23(24), 43-9; quiz 50, 52.  
Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/219908407?accountid=458>

In the space below, write the section on your Search Strategy addressing each point listed.

- Describe your search strategy
  - Indicate which engines were used
  - List search terms
- Indicate how historical studies were identified
- Justify time interval for sources
- Explain reasons for no current literature if applicable.

Note to Student: Ensure that your entry is cohesive. The ideas should flow logically and with appropriate transitions between sentences. Box will expand.

*E. Self-Check Your Work to the Dissertation Handbook*

SEARCH STRATEGY

- \_\_\_\_\_ Describes the strategy used to collect relevant literature
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indicates which search engines were used
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lists which search terms were used
- \_\_\_\_\_ Indicates strategy for identifying historically seminal (classic) studies and theorists' writings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Justifies most appropriate time interval for current sources (last 2–3 years? Last 5 years?)
- \_\_\_\_\_ If applicable, explains the lack of currency of the most recent publications
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reviews strategy for focusing in on empirical research that most closely resembles the current study

**REVIEW OF RELATED RESEARCH AND LITERATURE (This is a Main Heading for this Section) [REVIEW OF RELATED RESEARCH AND LITERATURE]**

*(The rest of the literature review should include logical headings that aid the reader in understanding the content and organization of the chapter. The actual headings will differ for each student's work.)* Taken from Dissertation Checklist.

*A. Background Reading for this Section*

Chapter 3 in Field Guide  
Chapter 9 in Field Guide

### **Writing the Literature Review**

The next stop in the process is actually writing the literature review. There are many books that will help you in this process. See the Suggested Resources for Enrichment for articles and books on this topic.

Some things to consider when writing the literature review:

- Use headings and subheadings to divide the various segments of your review
- Cite references. Anything that is not common knowledge must have a reference.
- Analyze the literature. Do not simply summarize what the literature says.
- Use scholarly language and write in third person.
- Use quotes sparingly. Quotes should only be used if they really add something to the discussion.
- Review literature that presents opposing points of view.

The easiest approach to doing your literature review is to outline the literature review. Start with a historical perspective in order to put your topic into context. Consider your thematic categories and your variables if you are doing a quantitative study. Consider your conceptual or theoretical framework. Think about the methodology you are using, the population you are researching and the context in which the research is being done. All of these need to be part of your literature review.

#### **. Thematic categories**

It is now necessary to put your literature review into thematic categories. Remember, your literature review is NOT a book report. Instead it should be a synthesized review of the literature surrounding relevant themes. A handy tool that I have found to help me to categorize themes is through a free program called TheBrain. <https://webbrain.com>. This program allows you to create a mindmap of the relevant themes and how they interface with each other. You can even put websites into relevant spots for easy access at a later time. There is an easy tutorial that explains the program. Tech support is also available.

*So let's start with themes for your topic. What are the major themes?*

*Now list 15-20 articles that relate to one of the themes that you found*

*Now deconstruct the articles using one of the templates above to find the themes in the articles and what is said about them.*

*Pick three articles from your list and synthesize them into one relevant topic surrounding the theme that you picked. Look for patterns in these studies. Compare and contrast what the different authors have said. Compare methodologies. Look at the consistencies in the findings. Discuss how the findings advance knowledge. How do they relate to your proposed research? Are there opposing views?*

*Next build out your theme. Write several pages about the theme using several articles to highlight various aspects of that theme. Remember to write critically! And present opposing viewpoints when you find them.*

**Webinar by Dr. Ken Sherman on doing a literature review.**

*B. Critical Points to Address for this Section*

Your review should be an integrated critical analysis and synthesis of the literature. The majority of your articles should be within the past five years. However, it is also important to provide a historical context to the theory, variables or themes you are studying. The literature review should give a thorough understanding of what is known about your topic to date. You should compare and contrast theories and research results. Do not simply write an annotated

bibliography. Your writing should have depth and should display a thorough understanding of the major areas of your research based on the work of prior scholars. You should also show how your proposed research fits into the context of the research to date.

Your reference sources should come primarily from peer-reviewed journals or academic books. If you use other material, you should justify their use. Do not use sources such as Wikipedia or the online dictionary. These are not considered scholarly sources.

Your literature review should be organized around major ideas or themes or organized historically. It should be comprehensive. This means that most of the important theories or research findings upon which your research problem is based will be covered in the literature review. Be certain to relate your study to the previous research. Identify how your study will extend what is known.

If you are doing a quantitative study you should define the important aspects of the theory that you will examine or test. Be certain to discuss the variables and the research regarding them.

If you are doing a qualitative study you must substantiate your conceptual framework for your study. Discuss the major themes that you have found in your reading.

Your literature review should also include a discussion of differing and common methodologies previously used to study the research problem. You should include the strengths and weaknesses of those studies and methodologies.

### *C. Considerations for Alignment*

- Literature review should align with the Statement of the Problem
- Literature review should align with the research questions.
- Literature review should align with the hypothesis (if quantitative)
- Literature review should align with the population
- Literature review should align with the context or setting of the proposed research.
- Literature review should align with the Purpose of the Study

### *D. Suggested Resources for Enrichment*

Garson, G.D. (2013) *The Literature Review in Research and Dissertation*

Writing (Statistical Associates Blue Book Series). Ashboro NC: Statistical Publishing Associates.

Marshall, G. (2010). Writing... a literature review. *Synergy*, , 20-23. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/212425664?accountid=458>

Pautasso, M. (2013). Ten simple rules for writing a literature review. *PLoS Computational Biology*, 9(7), e1003149.

doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1003149>

Ridley, D. ( 2008) *The literature review A step-by-step guide for students*. London, England. Sage

Rhoades, Ellen A, EdS,L.S.L.S.Cert A.V.T. (2011). Literature reviews. *The Volta Review*, 111(3), 353-368. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/917532740?accountid=458>

Scutt, D. (2008). How to review literature. *Radiologic Technology*, 79(4), 306-308.



In the space below, write your section on Review of Related Research and Literature. Be sure to address each of the points listed below.

### **Review of Related Research and Literature**

- Provide an integrated critical analysis and synthesis of the relevant research and literature on your topic
- The majority of the literature should be within the past five years.
- Compare and contrast theories and research results.
- Evaluate critically previous research
- Put the research into context historically
- Address how your proposed research fits into the context of previous research.
- Make certain that references are from credible peer reviewed sources.
- Literature review should be organized around major ideas or themes or placed in a historical context.
- Discuss how your study relates to prior research and how your study will extend current knowledge.
- Define the most important aspects of the theory that will be examined or tested (for quantitative studies)
- Substantiate the conceptual framework (for qualitative study)
- Relate the literature review to the Statement of the Problem
- Discuss different methodologies previously used to study the research problems.
- Include a description of research variables (if quantitative) or central phenomenon or factors of interest (if qualitative)
- Include literature pertaining to the population and context or setting.
- Include literature related to the method and design. Be sure to use major and foundational sources for that design and its application to the research problem.

Note to Student: Ensure that your entry is cohesive. The ideas should flow logically and with appropriate transitions between sentences. Box will expand.

*E. Self-Check Your Work to the Dissertation Handbook*

- \_\_\_\_\_ The review is an integrated, critical analysis and synthesis of the relevant research and other scholarly literature published on the topic
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Includes the most current scholarship and important historical theory and research, when appropriate, to situate the topic
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Synthesizes prior research to illustrate what is currently known about the research problem
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Compares and contrasts different theories and research results
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluates previous research and related theory
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Integrates various studies and theories to relate a story of the historical and current state of knowledge on the topic
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Addresses how the proposed research fits in the context of research to date
- \_\_\_\_\_ Draws mostly from published journal articles in peer-reviewed journals or sound academic books containing primary material; provides justification for using other sources
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has a specific organization for the review. For example, organizes the review around major ideas or themes or organizes the review historically
- \_\_\_\_\_ The literature review needs to be *comprehensive*, covering the most important theories or research findings upon which the research problem (and hypotheses) was based.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Relates the study to previous research
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Identifies how the study will extend current knowledge
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Defines the most important aspects of the theory that will be examined or tested (for quantitative studies)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Substantiates the conceptual framework for the study (for qualitative studies)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clearly relates the review of the related research and literature to the **Statement of Problem** as expressed in the
  - \_\_\_\_\_ research questions
  - \_\_\_\_\_ hypotheses (quantitative)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ population
  - \_\_\_\_\_ context/setting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Includes a discussion of differing and common methodologies previously used to study the research problem, including their strengths and limitations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Includes a literature-based description of the research variables (quantitative studies) or central phenomenon, situation, or factors of interest (qualitative studies)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Includes literature pertaining to the population and context or setting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reviews literature related to research method and research design, including major and foundational sources in that design and its application to the research problem

#### *F. Tips from the Research Review Board*

\_\_\_\_\_ Covers historical and current literature pertinent to the variables, the population, and the setting.

### **Summary (This is a main heading for this section)**

#### *A. Background Reading for this Section*

#### *B. Critical Points to Address for this Section*

Your summary should summarize the main points of your study's research questions and the literature. In addition, you should summarize your studies contribution to the literature. You should also introduce Chapter 3 by summarizing

the literature based arguments for choosing your particular methodology and design.

*C. Considerations for Alignment*

- Summary should align with the material in chapter 2.
- Summary should align with research methodology

In the space below write your section on Summary addressing each of the points listed.

**Summary**

- Summarize the key points of the relationship between your study's research questions and the literature
- Summarize your study's contribution to the literature
- Introduce Chapter 3 by summarizing the literature based arguments for your chosen method and design.

**Note: Your literature review should be 30-50 pages in length.**

Note to Student: Ensure that your entry is cohesive. The ideas should flow logically and with appropriate transitions between sentences. Box will expand.

*D.. Self-Check Your Work to the Dissertation Handbook*

SUMMARY

\_\_\_\_\_ Summarizes key points of the relationship between the study's research question(s) and the literature

\_\_\_\_\_ Summarizes the study's contribution to the literature

\_\_\_\_\_ Bridges to Chapter III by summarizing literature-based arguments for choosing a particular methodology

- \_\_\_\_\_ Conforms to the recommended length of 30–50 pages for Chapter II
- \_\_\_\_\_ States the sequence of steps followed in conducting the research from development of the research instrument(s) to data analysis
- \_\_\_\_\_ Details all steps in a way that another researcher could follow the steps to reproduce the study
- \_\_\_\_\_ Explains the relation of the pilot study to the full study, if applicable

*E. Tips from the Research Review Board*