

Table 7.2 Steps and strategies for writing a literature review

Steps	Strategies
Locate relevant literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key authors and journals</li> <li>Use state-of-the-art articles</li> <li>Use computerized searches</li> <li>Use Google Scholar</li> <li>Scan tables of contents from key journals</li> <li>Use reference lists from articles, books and chapters</li> <li>Read primary sources</li> <li>Avoid the popular press</li> </ul>
Critically read the literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify themes in the literature</li> <li>Identify strengths and weaknesses of individual articles</li> <li>Identify strengths and weaknesses of the field as a whole</li> <li>Collect photocopies of articles</li> </ul>
Prepare to write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate expected length and format of the literature review</li> <li>Make a preliminary outline</li> <li>Organize the literature you will cover</li> <li>Limit the scope of the review to the topic at hand</li> </ul>
Write the review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write the introduction</li> <li>Write sub-sections</li> <li>Use transition markers and metatext</li> <li>Synthesize and critically evaluate the literature</li> <li>Be careful not to plagiarize</li> <li>Practise summarizing and paraphrasing actives</li> </ul>
Indicate the gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the review to lead to your study and research question/s</li> </ul>