

Assignments #6 & #7: Draft and Final Literature Review

Overview

For this assignment you will prepare a draft and final literature review for your planning report. You will submit the draft literature review to your advisor by March 30. The final version of the literature review, due by April 13, should incorporate the feedback received from your advisor.

Purpose

In-depth knowledge of the field you wish to study is a pre-requisite for credible research. The literature review is your chance to show that you are familiar with the literature pertinent to your general topic of research, as well as to your more specific research question. A well-written literature review will help you identify the main themes and debates in your field of research.

For example, if you are conducting research that examines the impact of the growth management (GM) program of a region “x” on that region’s supply of affordable housing, the literature review should identify broad themes in the literature. Such themes might include: a) the impact of regulatory policies on housing markets; b) issues of housing affordability; c) the economic structure of housing markets; and d) the characteristics of various regional- and state-level growth management programs that may impact housing markets. In addition to identifying general themes, the literature review should also identify the main debates in this field. For example, you might discover that there is a debate in the literature about whether or not regulatory interventions in housing markets increase housing prices.

Another example: In your 298 you want to design an urban plaza so that it is less prone to criminal activity. Some debates might be about: a) whether design interventions help reduce crime; and b) what kinds of design interventions would most likely reduce crime. Some themes might include: a) the importance of design in crime reduction; and b) various theories explaining how design can help – such as the “defensible space,” “the broken window effect,” and “crime prevention through environmental design” theories.

What not to include in the literature review:

You will read many documents while thinking about, researching and writing the 298, but not all documents should be part of this literature review assignment. Keep in mind that you are only reviewing those documents – or those parts of larger documents – that help you to write about the objectives described above. The literature review should contain items that are analytical in nature, reflecting on what is known (or not known) about a particular topic. Many of these items will be academic or professional pieces that report on a particular research project completed on your topic; others might be published literature reviews prepared on your topic.

One type of document you should not include in the literature review is “primary documents” that you intend to analyze as part of your work. For example, you would not

review the city of San Jose's building code if the primary objective of your 298 is to suggest improvements to that code. (However, you might include a review of a journal article that critically evaluates building codes of several other cities). You also would not include in your literature review other city documents like the zoning code and general plan, even though they may be critical to your 298 report. Similarly, if you plan on using case studies, you also may exclude from the literature review the documents you might read for writing these case studies.

Important Note: In some instances you might find that your specific area of interest does not have extensive published literature. However, please keep in mind that in such cases literature that looks at other closely related fields might be very helpful. For example, if you find that there is very little literature on crime-related aspects of urban plazas, then it might be useful to review literature that examines how the issue of crime has been addressed in the design of public spaces similar to urban plazas.

Tasks

Assignment #6: Draft Literature Review (due March 30)

Organize your draft literature review into five clearly identified sections titled "Introduction," "Main Themes and Debates," "Conclusion," "Annotated Bibliography," and "List of On-Line Databases, Catalogs and Keywords."

The "Introduction" will describe the aim of the literature review. It should also explain for readers how the rest of the literature review is organized.

The second section, titled "Main Themes and Debates," will describe major themes and debates in your area of study.

The "Conclusion" will recapitulate the important findings of the literature.

The "Annotated Bibliography" should include a table with the following information for each source of literature:

- a) A properly formatted citation of the source that follows the citation style guidelines explained in the 298 green sheet; and
- b) Identification of the type of literature (peer-reviewed journal article, article from a popular journal, book chapter, book, newspaper article, magazine article, dissertation/thesis, internet web page, etc.). For a detailed description of the types of sources and their credibility, see:
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill20.html>.

Template for Annotated Bibliography

Citation	Type
Ezzet-Lofstrom, Roxanne. "Metropolitan Quality of Life: The Roles of Labor Markets, Land Markets, and Amenities." PhD diss., University of California, Irvine, 2002.	PhD dissertation
Rosenblatt, Louise. "The Transactional Theory: Against Dualisms." <i>College English</i> 54, no. 4 (August 1993): 38-70.	Peer-reviewed journal article
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Make sure that you review at least 30 different sources of literature, of which at least 15 should be peer-reviewed journal articles.

The last section titled "List of On-line Databases, Catalogs and Keywords" will list all the on-line library catalogs and databases you searched. For each catalog/database searched, list the keywords used.

Email a copy of the draft literature review in MS Word form to your advisor by March 30. In the subject line of the email, write the following: "Submitting URBP 298 assignment #6: Draft literature review from [your last name]."

Assignment #7: Final Literature Review (due April 13)

Prepare a revised literature review that incorporates the feedback received from your advisor.

Email a copy of the final literature review in MS Word form to your advisor by April 13. In the subject line of the email, write the following: "Submitting

URBP 298 assignment #7: Final literature review from [your last name]."

Grading

Draft: You will not receive a letter grade, but you will receive comments from your advisor on the following:

1. Does the literature review include the required number of peer reviewed articles and total number of items?
2. Is the "List of On-Line Databases, Catalogs and Keywords" completed satisfactorily?
3. Does the literature review clearly identify the main themes and debates in the literature?
4. Does it discuss the main themes and debates in sufficient depth?
5. Does it critically evaluate and synthesize the literature?
6. Is the writing grammatically correct and free of typos?
7. Is the writing clear and easy to understand?
8. Are all citations in both the footnotes and bibliography properly formatted?

Final: Your advisor will assess the paper on the above criteria and assign the literature review a letter grade. To pass the course, you must receive a grade of “B” or higher.

Note on late papers: Submit the assignments on time. Late submission may result in substantially delayed feedback from the advisor.