

A LITERATURE REVIEW IS NOT:

- a summary of what the literature says
- a 'quick grab' of a few relevant sources, ignoring the rest of the literature
- purely descriptive, with no analysis (examination) of the literature

A LITERATURE REVIEW IS:

- comprehensive, covering most of the relevant literature
- up to date, covering literature published recently
- historical, depending on the subject area
- based on scholarly (academic) literature
- a critical evaluation, which weighs up the pros and cons of the arguments in the literature
- unbiased, looking at the merits and otherwise of the literature