Learning Development

University of Northampton

Systematic literature review grid

The aim of a literature review is to make connections between different studies, in order to help you evaluate the state of knowledge in a field as a whole. Completing a table like this one can help you to identify the key features of studies and sources in order to help you compare. This table should help during the reading and note-taking stage of your literature review. Once you have filled in the table, you will need to identify areas where the studies connect, such as contrasting findings, similar themes, different methodologies, and so on. You could even colour code the columns in the table and use the same colours when you read the sources to help you find the relevant information.

You may need to modify the headings depending on the particular aim of your literature review.

Reference	Aim / focus	Methodology	Results	Themes	Criticisms/ Limitation
e.g. Chung *et al.* (2005)	Impact of night work on women's fertility	151 nurses Quantitative self-report survey and schedules	No association between night work and menstrual regularity or fertility	Fertility	Relatively small sample Single location