

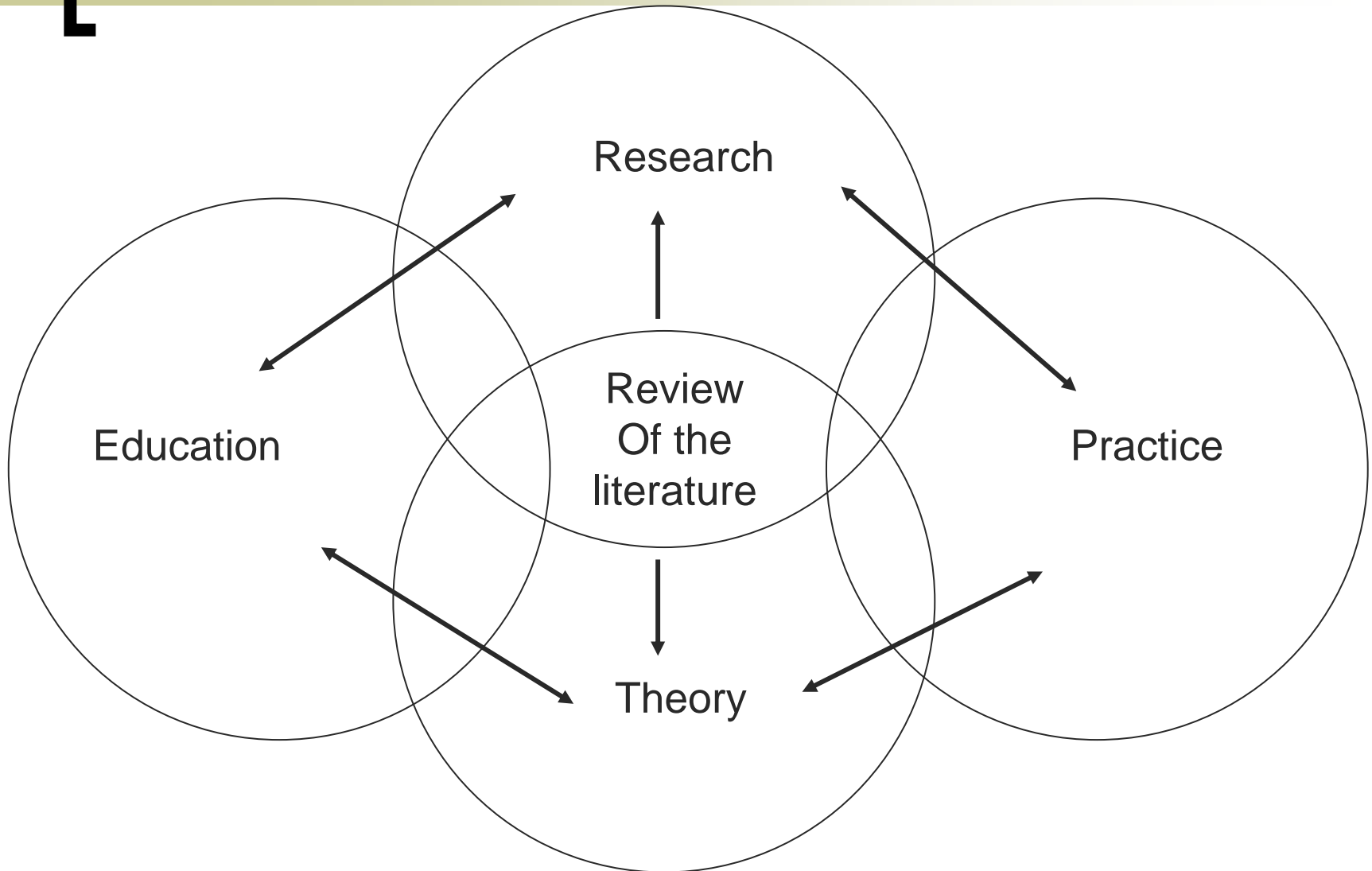


Writing the literature review

[Objectives]

- **relate the particular purpose of the literature review in their individual study to the method of searching, reviewing and reporting;**
- **appreciate the importance of the review and decide where it will appear in the thesis;**
- **plan and manage the literature review for their thesis.**

Relationship of review of literature to theory, research, education & practice



Literature Review and a Research Thesis

- integral part of thesis;
- way of becoming an expert in the field of inquiry;
- rules and convention have inbuilt logic;
- rationale for decisions regarding choices should be obvious in order to justify position and persuade readers/examiners.

[Purpose]

- The purpose of the literature review depends on the research question.
 - Testing a hypothesis;
 - Exploring a phenomenon in context;
 - Establishing a pattern.

[Purpose of the review (1)]

- Develop a strong knowledge base to carry out research.
 - what is known and not known;
 - determine gaps, consistencies and inconsistencies;
 - discover unanswered questions;
 - discover conceptual traditions used to examine problems;

(Schneider, Elliott, LoBiondo-Wood & Haber2003, 74)

[Purpose of the review (2)]

- uncover a new practice intervention, or evidence for new practice;
- generate research questions and hypotheses;
- describes the strengths and weaknesses of designs/methods used in earlier works;
- need for replication of a well designed study or refinement of a study;
- develop framework for discovery.

[Supports/leads to the:]

- question;
- methodology;
- design;
- data collection instruments.

[Steps]

- search;
- select;
- appraise;
- synthesise;
- interpret;
- report.

archive

[Search strategy]

- methodical;
- comprehensive relative to its purpose;
- rigorous;
- reported.

[First sweep]

- Test the data bases;
- Refine key terms;
- Write protocol.

[Protocol]

- Name of study:
- Research question:
- Purpose of the literature review:
- Type of review (narrative summary, analysis and synthesis of empirical data):
- Data bases to be searched:

[Cont...]

- Search terms - combinations
- Inclusion criteria:
- Exclusion criteria:
- Critical appraisal tools:
- Data extraction sheets.

Results and report of the search

- 'x', 'y' & 'z' data bases searched from the years ** to **.
- Keywords/terms used (per data base).
- hits per keyword or combination.
- Abstracts reviewed (+ - inclusion/exclusion criteria).
- Number of papers retrieved.
- Number of papers included in the review.
- Rationale for inclusion or exclusion.

[Overall results]

- research – (level of evidence);
- theoretical papers;
- policy;
- art (variety of texts);
- opinions.

[Archive system]

- Endnote;
- Filing system;
- Data extraction sheets.

Critical appraisal tool for research

- RAPID – JBI website;
 - Websites
 - Textbooks.
-
- Select/reject/use with reference to limitations

[Data extraction]

- Content analysis
 - Speed read all the papers;
 - Develop a framework for the review;
 - Code to the main developments in the review

Eg. Summary tables

Citation/ title	Design	Summary	Rationale
Smith D, 2004, The effectiveness of tap water for wound cleaning in the community.	RCT to compare sterile normal saline and tap water for cleaning leg ulcers. n=100 control and 40 in intervention group. Outcomes healing time and infection rates.	There was no significant difference between the two groups.	Numbers in the intervention group were too small. Poor control of variables.

[Writing]

- just as important as reading;
- craft and mould a position;
- inform, justify and persuade.

[Timing]

- Vital information for the design of the project
- Chapter no. 2 – prominent place in the proposal;
- Creates a background for the study and a rationale for need – Chapter no.1 – significance and purpose of the study;
- Part of the interpretation – results chapters