



SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL ARTS **Symbiosis International (Deemed University)**

(Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)

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Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M. Sc., Ph. D. (Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India)

Workshop on Skill Development: Writing A Literature Review

Date: 25 July 2020, Venue: Online on MS Teams, Duration: 2 hours

Objectives of the Workshop

Every year, the Research Cell at SSLA conducts a series of research workshops aimed at providing the students with all four batches of resources and guidance for proper research and writing. The workshops are open to faculty, staff, and other members of the SSLA community as well. A part of this series was a workshop on the basics of a literature review called "Writing A Literature Review". The workshop aimed to provide students with an introduction to what a literature review is, along with tips and techniques to help write a sound literature review for research in order to make the academic writing process easier.

Workshop Facilitator



Dr. Vaidyanatha Gundlupet has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and is Assistant Professor for Political Science at the Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts. His research and teaching interests focus on political rhetoric, international relations theory, and international security issues, particularly the impact of nuclear proliferation on strategic stability and diplomatic practice. He has a passion for thinking about philosophy of science, its implications for the practice of research, and teaching qualitative research methods.

Number of workshop participants: 53

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Workshop Outcomes

The following topics were covered in the workshop -

1. What is a literature review – Under this, the facilitator elaborated on what are the 6 important questions that must be answered by a research paper and where does the literature review play a role in them. Next, the difference between data sources and a literature review was highlighted.
2. Types of literature review – Under this, the two broad types of literature reviews were introduced – Review essays and Analytical Literature Review. The purpose, use, format, and contents of each were then distinctly explained.
3. Purpose of a literature review - Why should a literature review be included, debates in the academic research niche on the importance and use of a literature review, how to prove the relevance of your research through a literature review, and how to identify research gaps were explained.
4. How to write a literature review – The facilitator further explained how a literature review is written, what are its constituents, and the process of preparation and research for a literature review.
5. Organizing the literature review – Toward the end, the facilitator explained how a literature review is organized, how reviews from similar themes and authors are grouped and how varying themes are grouped and the necessity of separating the wheat from the chaff by focusing on important authors and central arguments.

The workshop also included explanations, tips, do's, don'ts and demonstrations of the techniques involved, a question and answer session with the students, and general feedback.



Screenshot from the workshop on "Writing a Literature Review" conducted by Dr. Vaidyanatha Gundlupet on 25 July 2020.

Tips

- > **Read** review essays
 - Helps to avoid repetition
 - Identify areas of agreement, issues of debate and gaps in the literature
- > **Read** literature reviews in recent theses/ dissertations on your topic
 - PhD theses tend to have extensive literature reviews
 - ProQuest Digital Dissertations
 - JSTOR, EBSCO and other databases
- > **Write** annotated bibliographies
 - Short summaries of the reading
 - Research question, main argument, methodology,
 - Critique
 - Reasoning and evidence, what you like, don't like, why is it important for you

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