

INTERROGATING THE ESSENCE OF LITERATURE REVIEW TO SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCE RESEARCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Olufade George TAYO, (Ph.D inview)

olufade200@gmail.com

Ukpeli PETER, (Ph.D inview)

Independent Researcher

Sirdon4life@gmail.com

&

Aliyu Ozovehe ILIAS, (Ph.D Inview)

ilias4512@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper is on Interrogating the Essence of Literature Review to Social Science and Management Science Research in the 21st Century. The explanatory survey research design was used in this paper and the secondary method of data collection was adopted to provide explanation on literature review which is a very important item on social and management science research. There are two challenges facing literature review application in the 21st century and those are the wrong use of literature review and the other one is the temptation by the review to apply outdated literatures, it is based on this that this paper recommends that supervision of writeup is required, so as to help research determine the most favourite type of literature review to be used and researchers and presenters are advise to avoid outdated literature to support their writing, it is also suggested that literature outside ten years should be avoided.

Keywords: *Literature Review, Social Science, Management Science, Research, 21st Century.*

DOI: 10.58934/jgss.v4i15.182

1. Introduction

The world is full or filled with challenges, some are natural while others are “man-made” especially in this 21st century. The need to provide answer to these problems is one that cannot be ignored and the process of finding solution(s) to these problems is through a planned and systematic collections, analysis and interpretation of data which have formed the integral parts of easing curiosity. One of these integral parts that cannot be treated with lavity is a research item called literature review.

Literature review in other society is known as the literature research, in the field of social sciences, it is specially dedicated to see the work of other scholars, presenters and authors in order to provide comprehension to the “meat of the matter” in social science research, no wonder a research chapter is specifically dedicated to literature review, at times it is regarded as Literature Review and Theoretical Framework of the chapter two of most departments in the field of social sciences like Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Geography, Military Science and Psychology. In recognition of the information Literature Review presents, it is usually the longest chapter or the most voluminous part of a research study, which research supervisors and examiners lay emphasis on in other to determine the quality of study carried out by the individual or set of individuals as the case may be.

The 21st century is fraught with challenges arising from, fire incidents, flood, erosion and draught. These are natural challenges that have bedeviled countries of the world aside the “man made” challenges arising conflict, insecurity, war, economic recession, poverty, unemployment, armed robbery, kidnapping, corona virus epidemic etc. The quest to provide solutions to natural and man made disasters must be an outcome of research and there is no research that will not consider the review of literatures for such solutions to be achieved. So interrogating the role literature review play in the social science research as this time will not be out of place considering the impeccable nature of research in finding answers to both man made and natural challenges in this period of human history. The field of social sciences is a unique aspect of science that does not focus on the objective reality which most often exist outside and independent of consciousness, rather the uniqueness of social sciences is that it studies human behaviour in relations to its environment, social life and institution, in respect to the fact that in social science human beings are the most important variable among variables. This is due to the fact that human beings are both the inquirer and the object of inquiry and that

is why in social sciences human beings are the most essential “object” of study (Osuala, 2005:29).

Research study on social science discipline whether at undergraduate or post graduate level in form of research project, dissertation and thesis holds that humans are highly rational being which is not possible to be predicted and also may not be able to provide verification and generalization on social science phenomenon. In most university(ies) literature review is considered as a basic chapter in the field of social sciences with the highest mark earmarked for it during examination and award of marks. That with poor literature review, it may be impossible for such student that is a researcher to be graduated (Biereen-Nnabugwu, 2006:11).

In the view of the presenter, literature review simply means on account of what has been published in relation to the topic under review by an accreditate scholars and researchers, it could be published or unpublished in nature.

2. Conceptual Clarification

In the academia, especially in the field of social sciences, management sciences, arts and humanity research project is a prerequisite for both undergraduate and post graduate graduation. Just as research project is empirical for graduation. Literature review is an integral part of such research in most of the institution in Nigeria. Literature Review is indicated in chapter two of a project work and supervised by a project supervisor allocated by the department with certification from the Head of Department, Dean of Faculty and external examiner.

However, literature review can also be regarded as library research and it is the part of the entire project that provide us with basic concepts, laws, theories etc. that underpin the research topic as well as provide information and knowledge available in that field and related area, it also indicated whether the research is necessary at all or in the manner in which it is presently conceived (Yekeen, 2006:105). Literature review is a predominant exercise carried out by a researcher or an enumerator in search of documentary and reliable information in a published or unpublished print and or electronic (Tolulii, 2011:74).

Again, literature review can be defined as an intellectual excursion into the existing body of knowledge in one’s chosen topic of research, it could further be seen as an adequate survey of the existing literature in the library or other sources that relate to one’s research work (Adedayo

and Ajibade, 2007:23). The use of adequate in this context means that the researcher must ensure that literatures exploited must be related and reliable to the topic under discussion or reviewed, literature covered is advised to be within ten years from the date of publication. While survey under this context refer to the coverage which implies that the project through this must provide most pertinent related studies and show an awareness of promising practice in term of theoretical scheme, comprehensive, assimilative, focused and analytical (Hassan and Fayeye, 2007:25).

Purposes of Literature Review

The purpose or philosophy behind literature review in social and management science research are;

- a. Literature review provide choice and or modification for a research to be discussed, explained and modify for the benefit of the general public and further research (Yekeen, 2006:107).
- b. Literature review assist a researcher not only in the design and re-designing of the research objective, it allows a researcher to be apt and concise in the objective for which the work is anchored.
- c. Literature review allows knowledge and peep in past studies with the intent of an empirical review to be achieved with the advantage of improving on past studies.
- d. Literature review allows for the achievement into search for appropriate and reliable concepts, theories and method which will help in assimilation.
- e. Literature review provide a foundation for discussions and making generalization of result in a research (Adebayo and Ajibade, 2007:26) etc.

Sources of Literature Review

The source of literature review is a statement or words used to explain where a published and unpublished information or data can be derived. Literature can be sourced according to the importance and reliability on the field it is required. Broadly speaking, the source of literature review can be classified into five namely;

- i. Community Sources of Literature Review
- ii. National or Regional Sources of Literature Review
- iii. International Sources of Literature Review

- iv. The Library Source of Literature Review
 - v. Internet Source of Literature Review
1. **Community Sources of Literature Review:** At this level of source of literature review information and data are obtained and retrieved from records, local newspapers, hand book, bulletin, magazine and selected speeches by people in the community that dwell on the subject under review e.g. A speech by the leaders of Paiko on Community Development will assist a researcher whose study is on Rural Development in Gwagwalada Area Council of the FCT (Taylor et al, 2006:34).
 2. **National or Regional Sources of Literature Review:** At this level, the researcher relied on information from Federal, State, Ministries and Agencies of Government in providing literature on the topic under review e.g official gazettes, decrees, constitution, acts of national or state House of Assembly, new letters, briefs, bulletin and releases. Those information from this source can be published or unpublished put deal with issue the researcher is looking for (Osuala, 2005:29).
 3. **International Source of Literature Review:** At this level of source, information and data can be obtained from publications of the bilateral and multilateral organization such as the United Nation and African Nations agencies like UNEDO, UNICEF, ILO, ECOWAS, SADC etc. A researcher conducting a study on any of these field must rely on international sources (Toluhi, 2011:9).
 4. **Library Source of Literature Review:** At this level, the researcher exploit the libraries through the use of designated section that have CD – ROM for the search of related and reliable literature, so that the researcher through these designation has access to books, articles, newspapers, newsletters, magazines, thesis, dissertation, journals and articles and other published and unpublished material which are very vital source for the review of literatures (Asika, 2011:33).
 5. **Internet Source of Literature Review:** This is the most recent and the fastest growing source of obtaining information from the World Wide Web (www). The use of the internet to access information and or data for the purpose of research, however, certain factors must be considered to include;
 - a. You must consider the quality of information from the internet.
 - b. You must consider the suitability of the literatures.
 - c. You must consider the reliability of e-journal.

It is worthy to note that the three mentioned above factors must be considered because the internet is a home to all “junks”, it is a house that houses information for the general public or general audience and information in it lack evaluation and editorial board, so caution and extra care is required for it assessment.

3. Body of Work

In this section, the presenter shall be considering the typologies of literature review, elements and significant of literature review. The significance of literature review as well as the pitfalls or challenges of literatures review in the 21st century.

Typologies of Literature Review in Social Sciences

The types of literature review available varies from faculty to faculty, institute to institute and from college. In social science faculty, there are several types of literature review but in the field of political sciences, sociology, economics and psychology which are core social science disciplines, the typologies of literature review are;

- i. Thematic Type of Literature Review
- ii. Historical Type of Literature Review
- iii. Argumentative Type of Literature Review
- iv. Comparative Type of Literature Review
- v. Expository Type of Literature Review etc.

1. Thematic Type of Literature Review: This is taking intellectual excursion into an existing body of knowledge base on headings and or sub-heading, e.g. if a researcher topic is “The Impact of Nigerian Women in Politics in the Fourth Republic”. The literature review as it affects thematic typology would be to create headings or sub-headings which are;

- i. Women Participation in Nigeria Politics
- ii. Women Contributions to Nigeria’s Politics in the Fourth Republic (Udo, 2004).
- iii. The Challenges of Women Participation in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic etc.

The essence of this is to review literatures that suits the themes presented.

2. Historical Type of Literature Review: Which is also called chronological review, in this type of review, the researcher take an excursion into memory lane in other to create a better

understanding of the topic under review for example, still considering the topic “Women Participation in Politics in the Nigeria’s Fourth Republic”. The researcher or enumerator even though the topic is on Fourth Republic, he or she begins by looking at Women Participation in the First, Second, Third and before arriving at the Fourth Republic. The essence of this is to create a chronological understanding with the hope of closing the gap that exist in such memory lane for better assimilation (Odama, 2019:19).

3. **Argumentative Type of Literature Review:** This is also known as debate type of literature review. The researcher without necessarily critiquing the work of other scholars tries to pick holes in scholarly literatures with the mind of reconstruction or re-reconstruction, it is one of the types of review that is mostly used in the field of social sciences and humanities it has the advantages of creating varieties of ideas and information for the good of topics under review and also create relativeness of information in an academic world that is universal (Obi, Okolie & Obikeze, 2017:69).
4. **Comparative Type of Literature Review:** This is the type of literature review where the researcher take an intellectual excursion into scholarly work by considering the differences and similarities of a variable with the intent of pin-pointing gaps and closing these gaps for the general public or would be researcher(s). e.g. if the researcher is considering “The Impact of Women Participation in Politics in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic”. The comparative type may consider Women Participation in Politics in other African countries with a view of drawing analogy and making informed discussion (Omorieg & Godwin, 2019:41).
5. **Expository Type of Literature Review:** This is the type of literature review where social and management researchers take intellectual discussion into scholarly work by providing vivid explanation into the item(s) of discussion using pilotoc evidence to create an understanding of topic under review. E.g., a study on rural development in social sciences need to show rural community visited on the course of study for future readers, again in management science, researcher carrying out the role on incentive in providing performance need to show by experiment where this has been demonstrated, no wonder in some palace it is called experimental or demonstrative type of literature review (Obasi, 2008:33).

Elements of Literature Review

There are four (4) elements associated with literature review and they are;

- a. Conceptual Review/ Conceptual Clarification

- b. Theoretical Explanation/ Theoretical Review
- c. Empirical Review / Content Review
- d. Gap-in-Literature

a. Conceptual Review: This is also known as conceptual explanation. It is an element that provide definition and intellectual excursion into various concept that represent the topic or title under discussion. The purpose of this is to provide assimilation to the topic under review for example, if a researcher is carrying out a topic on; “Implication of Vote Buying on Nigerian Democracy” the concept to be reviewed are; Vote Buying, Democracy and Nigerian Democracy.

b. Theoretical Explanation: Is another element of literature review where a researcher provides scholarly explanation on the topic under consideration using citations such as footnotes and endnotes to provide elaborate writing using particular theories, models or laws to create academic “illumination” on the topic under review.

c. Empirical Review: Which is also known as content review or content explanation is an element of literature where the research have to assembly literatures related to the topic under review important part extracted that support the study and the difference why it is not the same with the study under consideration.

d. Gap – in – Literature: This is another element of literature review. This is providing differences noticeable during the content review and providing solutions to these noticeable differences (gaps) and creating techniques by which these gaps was closed. These gaps can be gaps in period, gap in content and gap in methodology

Significance of Literature Review to Social and Management Science Research

The usefulness or importance of literature review to social and management science research are;

- i. Literature review exposes the research to other levels of knowledge
- ii. Literature review helps in providing an edge on the understanding of the research
- iii. Literature review provides access to knowledge available so as to answer research questions
- iv. Literature review provides directions to the research to arrive at research finding

- v. Literature review assists the researcher in managing research challenges

The significance of literature reviews as highlighted above is exposing the researcher on various level of knowledge which help the research determine which way to go in terms of the contribution the study set out to make.

Secondly is that literature provide an edge on focusing of the research as the challenges, purpose and model to be used is often discovered and this has allowed most researcher to retitle their study, purpose and the ideal model to be used.

Again is that literature review provide access to the knowledge available, the availability of information created variety which allows the research to choose the most suitable information in providing solution or suggestion to the question.

Fourthly, is provision of direction, through literature review, models, design and findings are revealed and the presence of these through literature provide a guide to the present study under review (Yekeen 2006:106).

Lastly, is that literature review help the researcher in the management of challenges arising from paucity of data, the unscientificness of the topic etc. as literature review help in opening up these challenges by the careful review of other scholarly materials.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

Literature review is one of the best exercise in research writing, paper presentation, seminar review and book presentation, as indicated in this paper. The purpose, objective and type of literature review form the philosophy for which literature review is been dedicated to a particular portion or chapter in any presentation. Literature review may not have a particular problem, but the challenges of literature review is the wrong choice of the type of review to be used in a particular writing, again is the challenge of the use of outdated literatures in providing explanation. It is based on this challenge that this paper is by way of suggestion is recommending that;

- a) Supervision of writeup is required, so as to help research determine the most favourite type of literature review to be used.
- b) Researchers and presenters are advise to avoid outdated literature to support their writing, it is recommended that literature outside ten years should be avoided.

REFERENCES

- Adedayo, A. F. & Ajibade, L. T. (2007). A Contribution on Review of Literature, In Further Readings on Research Methodology, Ilorin; Faculty of Business and Social Sciences Publishers.
- Adedayo, A. F. & Ajibade, T. A. (2007). In Hassan, A.S. and Fayeye, J. O. (ed); Further Reading on Research Methodology, Ilorin; University Press.
- Asika, N. (2001). Research Methodology in the Behavioural Sciences, Ikeja; Longman Nigeria PLC.
- Asika, N. (2011). Research Methodology in Behavioural Sciences, Ikeja; Longman Nigeria PLC.
- Biereenu – Nnabugwu, M. (2004). Fundamental of Political Inquiry, Enugu; Quintagon Publishers.
- Biereenu – Nnabugwu, M. (2006). Methodology of Political Inquiry; Issues and Technique of Research Methods in Political Science, Enugu; Quintagon Publishers.
- Hassan, S & Fayeye, J. O. (2007)ed. Further Reading on Research Methodology, Ilorin, University of Ilorin Press Ltd.
- Obasai, I.N. (2008); Research Methodology in Political Science, Enugu; Academic Publishing Company Nigeria.
- Obi, E.A., Okolie, A.M. & Obikeze, S.O. (2017). State and Economy “Interrogating the Rate of the State in Development Process” Onitsha, Book Point Education Ltd.
- Odama, J.S. (2019)ed. Element of Statistics, Abuja, University of Abuja Press Ltd.
- Omorie, E & Godwin, C.M. (2019). Political Parties and Internal Democracy in Nigeria Fourth Republic; An Analysis, In Journal of Political Studies Vol 3 No 1. Abuja Chartered Graphic Press.
- Osuala, E. C. (2005). Introduction to Research Methodology Onitsha; Africana – FEP Publishers.

Taylor, D. & Procter, M. (2006). *The Literature Review; A Few Tips on Conducting*
www.utoronto.ca

Toluhi, J. O. (2011). *Fundamentals of Research Methodology*, Ilorin; Victory Publication.

Udo, G. O. (2004). *A Guide for Modern Research Methods*, Enugu; Institute for
Development Studies.

Vaverka, K. & Fenn, S. (2004). *Background to Research/Review of Literature*
<http://Faculty,Fullerton.ed>

Yekeen, A. O. (2006). *Research Methodology in Business and the Social Sciences*, Abuja;
Al-Maliq and Company.