



INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
MEDICINE

INMED Scholarly Project Literature Review Composition Guidelines

A literature review is a search, summary, and analysis of reputable publications surrounding the chosen subject. It describes the state of the art with respect to the subject. An INMED Literature Review Scholarly Project is focused on a chosen subject of special relevance to the learner.

A literature review has three primary objectives:

- Survey the scholarly publications on the subject
- Synthesize the information into a summary
- Critically analyze the information to identify gaps, show limitations of theories, and propose areas for further research

Structure of a literature review

A literature review should have an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion.

1. Introduction

The introduction should:

- Define the subject
- Establish the reasons for reviewing the literature
- Explain the scope of the review: what is included and what is not

2. Main body

The main body should:

- Organize the information into common themes
- Describe advances in the subject area
- Describe the relationship of the themes to one another

3. Conclusion(s)

The conclusion(s) should:

- Summarize important elements of existing knowledge
- Identify important gaps in existing knowledge
- Recommend areas for future investigation
- Specify how the learner will apply to the conclusion(s) to their own work or professional goals

Specifications

The INMED Scholarly Project Literature Review should conform to the following specifications:

- Approximately 5000 words
- At least 20 references
- References may be in any recognized style (AMA, APA, etc.), and the same style should be used throughout
- Footnotes are preferred over endnotes