A literature review is a desktop-based research of previous projects and other initiatives that can inform and support the need for a project, as well as provide a foundation for the work to be undertaken.

The review should identify what similar work has been done, what works, and what doesn't, so that you do not have to re-invent the wheel. The review should ideally have recommendations to inform the need for a project and the project design.

It is important to make sure that the literature review does not just describe similar works, but evaluates them in relation to the intended project. It must therefore involve a critical review of works in relation to your intended project.

Literature Review Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
Provides an understanding of existing knowledge on a subject, including past projects or information	Requires time and research skills
Existing knowledge may reduce the need to re-invent the wheel	May not be seen as necessary by management
Clarifies whether a project fulfils a need	

Further Links & Resources

Getting Started on your Literature Review (UNSW)

Writing a literature review (UNE)

Promoting behavioural change in household water consumption: a literature review