

GS 140 – Introduction to Research Methods

Examples of Research Articles



An example of an article reporting on original research done (citation + abstract)

Freundlich, M., & Bocknek, E. (2007). Child Fatalities in New York City: An Assessment of Child Protective Service Practice. *Families in Society*, 88(4), 583-594. Retrieved February 9, 2010, from Research Library database.

This article describes the results of two exploratory studies conducted in New York City that used reports of child fatality investigations conducted by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. It describes the characteristics of children who died as a result of maltreatment and the quality of the child fatality investigations, risk and safety assessments, and protective services responses. Three groups are the focus: children who died while living with families not previously referred to the public child welfare agency; children who died while living with families previously referred to the public child welfare agency; and all children in foster care. The studies found that safety and risk assessments often were not conducted appropriately when children were initially reported to child protective services and when the safety of surviving siblings was at issue; there often was insufficient attention to the elevation of risk as a result of the presence of multiple risk factors in families; and foster parents often did not receive adequate information about health conditions that posed significant risks for children in their care. This article advances practice and policy recommendations for strengthening responses to families who are at high risk and identifies future research directions. [PUBLICATION ABSTRACT]

It is made up of these sections and is typical of an article reporting on research done “in the field”.

- Introduction (includes thesis statement – that is, what the focus of the research study was)
- Literature Review (an environmental scan of works previously published on this topic)
- Methodology (research design)
- Findings (textual information, tables, charts...)
- Discussion (interpretation, analysis...)
- Study Limitations
- Conclusion (point of view of the authors)
- References (bibliography)

For more examples,

See: Research at University of Toronto: <http://www.research.utoronto.ca/>

Search Centennial Libraries databases, limiting your search to peer reviewed articles. Many of these articles are write-ups on original research done.



An example of an article that is a literature review (citation + abstract)

Fong, R., & Mokuau, N. (1994). Not simply "Asian Americans": Periodical Literature Review on Asians and Pacific Islanders. *Social Work*, 39(3), 298-305. Retrieved February 9, 2010, from Academic Search Premier database.

Surveys the *literature* in four major social work journals *on* direct practice with *Asian and Pacific Islander* populations. Methodology; Categories; Practice focus; Ethnic diversity among *Asians and Pacific Islanders*; Refugee and immigrant diversity among *Asians*; Lifespan development and gender; Family and community practice focus. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Most literature reviews start with an introduction stating scope of the review and some explanation of what sources were chosen and why. Authors present critical analysis of what has (and has not) been published. Authors aim to select important publications that reflect the state of knowledge relating to the topic. Some reviews are comprehensive, aiming to mention virtually all relevant publications (done by a PhD student, for example at the beginning of his/her research). Other reviews are more selective. This article typically is made up of the following sections:

- Introduction (describes focus of the review)
- Methodology (describes how publications were selected)
- Findings (discussion with conclusions)
- Findings subgroups: discussion of literature in specific topics: ethnicity, age and gender; practice focus; ethnic diversity among Asians and Pacific Islanders; lifespan development and gender; family and community practice focus
- References (bibliography)



An example of an article that is an annotated bibliography (citation + abstract)

Wise, P., & And, O. (1994). Annotated Bibliography on the Teaching of Psychology: 1993. All Things Considered.

Teaching of Psychology, 21(4), 247-56. Retrieved February 9, 2010, from ERIC database.

Presents an *annotated bibliography* of 217 books and articles published in 1993 on the topic of teaching and learning in psychology. Maintains that search methods, criteria for inclusion, and numbering methods were similar to previous *bibliographies*. Includes 15 references on the topic of *annotated bibliographies* in psychology. [ABSTRACT]

Typically an annotated bibliography is less rigorous than a literature review, aiming to provide a selection of publications on a topic with relatively brief notes summarizing the main content of each publication and offering a statement of the viewpoint of the author(s). This article is made up of these sections and is typical of this type of article:

- Introduction (outlines the scope and focus of the works selected)
- Bibliography with annotations: the authors have chosen to present material by topic: references, bibliographies, career issues, etc.

For more information see Centennial Libraries *Annotated Bibliographies Subject Guide*
<http://centennialcollege.ca.libguides.com/content.php?pid=67852&sid=501286>