TYPES OF LITERATURE REVIEWS

There are many ways to organize previous research in a literature review. Once you have chosen a method for organizing your supporting literature, you will divide your paper into sections or subsections according to the method chosen.

Some ways to organize literature reviews are:

- **Chronological** -- organized according to when sources were published. Use only if research trends follow a clear chronological order of development.

- **Thematic** -- organized around a topic or issue. Each topical section could then be organized according to time periods.

- **Advancements or trends** -- organized by the major advancements or trends in the field.

- **Methodological** -- focuses on the research methods of the researchers.

- **Geographical** -- organized by geographical area. Each geographical area could then be organized chronologically.

- **Questions** -- organized by major research questions relating to your topic.

Once you have an organizational method, the sections you write should be based on that organization. For example, a chronological review would have subsections for each important time period. A thematic review would have subsections based on factors related to the theme or issue.