

Aviation Research Project: literature review

Organising your literature: using diagrams - example

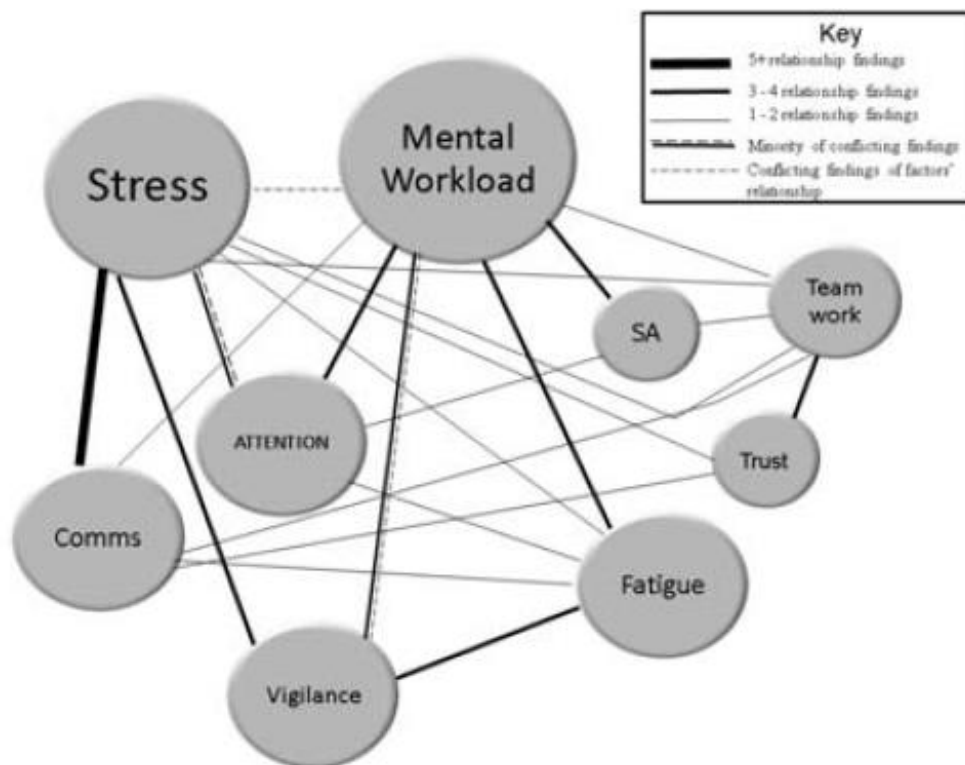


Figure 1: Frequencies of research articles relating to factor interactions (Edwards et al., 2012)

In the above example:

- The writer created a map of ideas or themes and indicated their relative importance.
- Given the relative size of stress and mental workload to the other themes, we can see that they are more prominent in the literature.
- Also notice how the writer has connected these themes to others and used the line width to communicate the relative strengths of the relationship between the different themes.
- The subsequent literature review will be then organised according to these key themes.

Organising your literature: using tables - example

Table 1: Organisational culture and safety

	Normal conditions	Emergency conditions	Maintenance-related activities
Maintenance crew	Smith, 2009; Jones, 2007	Brown, 2001	Green, 2006
Flight crew	White, 2003; Jones & Brown, 2005	Smith, 2009	Swift, 2006
Air traffic control	Green 2006	Swift, 2006; 2007	Jones & Brown, 2005
Ground staff	Wendell, 2010	Wendell, 2010; Jones, 2006	Jones & Brown, 2005; Smith, 2009

In the above example:

- The writer has summarised the large amount of literature on the topic into a table.
- The writer categorised the literature related to organisational culture and safety according to key work areas.
- The writer further organized the literature according to three forms of human activity that occur in hazardous environments.
- This table allowed the writer to identify areas the literature has focused on, and any gaps.
- The table allowed the writer to examine similarities and differences in the literature.
- The table provided a structure for the presentation of the literature review.



Writing up your literature review: the body section - example

There is no universally agreed-upon definition of organizational culture. Many prominent authors in the field create their own (Reason, 1997). According to Deal and Kennedy (1982, p. 6) organisational culture is “the way we do things around here”, whereas Peters and Waterman (1982, p. 6) contend it is “a dominant and coherent set of shared values conveyed by such symbolic means as stories, legends, slogans, anecdotes and fairy tales”. However, there are three common themes found in every definition: 1) all authors agree that individuals in an organisation have a set of common values; 2) these values are typically taken for granted by the leadership; and 3) there is a symbolic way the values are communicated through an organisation (Moorhead & Griffin, 1992).

Topic sentence

Signposting, linking language

The literature provides numerous examples of how organisations communicate their values. The most common ...

Connecting ideas

(Adapted from Hernandez, 2001, pp. 5-6)

Writing up your literature review: the conclusion - example

The review of the literature has revealed that while culture is inextricably linked to aviation safety in Australian Defence Forces, the attitudes of personnel are a fundamental component. It is also clear that *safety culture is an inadequate and underdeveloped concept* despite the popularity of the term. To date, however, the link between attitudinal dimensions and organisational (behavioural) measures remains relatively *unexplored*. Therefore, this research aims to examine the attitudes of ADF aviation professionals that may influence the safe performance of ADF aviation operations.

Summary

Gap

OR

Therefore, this research aims to examine the following research question:

- What are the attitudes of ADF aviation professionals that may influence the safe performance of ADF aviation operations?

Link to research questions (written in statement form)

OR

Link to research questions (written in question form)

(Adapted from Falconer, 2006, p. 94)

References

Edwards, T., Sharples, S., Wilson, J.R., & Kirwan, B. (2012). Factor interaction influences on human performance in air traffic control: The need for a multifactorial model. *Work*, 41(1) 159-166.

Falconer, B.T. (2006). *Attitudes to safety and organisational culture in Australian military aviation* [Doctoral thesis, University of New South Wales].

Hernandez, A.E. (2001). *Organizational climate and its relationship with aviation maintenance safety* [Master's thesis, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey].