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Planning and construction research project: literature review

Using a table to organise your literature - example

Table 2.1: Principles of sustainable construction

Author	Principles
Vale & Vale (1991)	• Conserve energy: a building should be constructed so as to minimise the need for fossil fuels to run it • Work with climate: buildings should be designed to work with climate and natural energy sources • Minimise new resources: a building should be designed so as to minimise the use of new resources and, at the end of its useful life, to form the resources for other architecture • Respect for users: a green architecture recognizes the importance of all the people involved with it • Respect for site: a building will "touch-this-earth-lightly" • Holism: all the green principles need to be embodied in a holistic approach to the built environment
Kibert (1994a)	• Minimise resource consumption • Maximise resource reuse • Use renewable or recyclable resources • Protect the natural environment • Create a healthy, non-toxic environment • Pursue quality in creating the built environment
Royal Australian Institute of	• Maintain and restore biodiversity

(Li 2012, p. 20-21)

In the above example:

- The author has summarised the large amount of literature on their topic into a table.
- He/she has categorised the literature according to principles of sustainable construction.
- As the author noted in his/her report, this table allowed for the identification of areas the literature **has** focused on, and any **gaps**. Also, it allowed for the examination of similarities and differences in the literature.
- Further, the table provided a structure for the presentation of the literature review which followed.

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Writing up your literature review

Sample introduction*

The literature review presented in this chapter situates the research topic in the existing body of knowledge. A review of the literature confirms the importance of project waste management in the construction industry. It provides an understanding of the waste management issues in both construction projects and office building retrofit projects. The performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) is also discussed to identify potential areas for improvement.

The findings from the literature review help identify the research gaps and form the basis of the research design in the following chapter.

Firstly, the need for ***<deleted text>*** is established. This is followed by an overview of ***<deleted text>***. After that, the characteristics of ***<deleted text>*** are studied and specific issues of ***<deleted text>*** are discussed. Finally, the importance of ***<deleted text>*** and ***<deleted text>*** are explored.

(Adapted from Li 2010, p. 19)

Sets the scene and links to the purpose or need for this research project

Connects to other sections of research project

Outlines the structure of the literature review

***NOTE:** sections of this sample introduction have been intentionally deleted

Sample body section*

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the relevant stakeholder group exposed to on-site waste generation. It is estimated, *for example*, that as much as 90% of construction work is carried out by a variety of small subcontractors while the large main contractor tends to focus on management and coordination (Briscoe et al. 2001; Khalid et l. 2006; Saunders & Wynn 2004). The improvement of their performance will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of waste management throughout the project (Li et al. 2010). *In fact*, SMEs have strong willingness to participate in project waste management. A survey conducted to explore the attitudes of the subcontractors, *<text deleted>* strongly agreed that the waste management system in the project will result in a cleaner and safer site (Queensland Government EPA 2002). Therefore, SMEs need to take responsibility for waste planning and management through integration with project delivery and within their capability scale.

(Adapted from Li 2010, p. 6)

Topic sentence

Signposting, linking language

In-text references

Interpretation
The writer interprets the literature and highlights the significance of the information as it relates to the topic

***NOTE:** sections of this sample body section have been intentionally deleted

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Sample conclusion*

The review of the literature pertinent to this study revealed that construction waste planning and management is confirmed to be necessary and important for the construction industry. Existing research and current practices also highlight *<text deleted>.* Previous research has achieved a consensus that SME performance in waste management needs to be improved.

Summary

However, current waste management systems only deal with waste that is already generated *<text deleted>*. Further, existing research has not produced knowledge that can guide *<text deleted>*.

Gap in existing knowledge/literature

To address these issues, the specific waste generation process in office building retrofit projects with particular waste factors needs to be identified *<text deleted>* and models need to be developed. Based on these issues, this project seeks to address the following research question:

- How can SMEs improve waste management practices through stakeholder collaboration and organisational engagement?

Link to objectives of the research and the research question

(Adapted from Li 2010, p. 6)

***NOTE:** sections of this sample body section have been intentionally deleted

References

Li, M 2012, *A waste management system for small and medium enterprises engaged in office building retrofit projects*, Unpublished Doctoral Thesis, Queensland University of Technology.