

Biosketch

- Points to include in an autobiographical sketch:
- Key dates and locations
- Academic and/or career accomplishments
- Relevant personal milestones, if applicable
- Future plans and goals

Autobiographical Sketch

- Born in Hong Kong in 1980, I was raised in a large and close-knit family among the bustling streets of Kowloon. My parents and I moved away from our extended family in 1995, immigrating to Australia to seek greater opportunities. This experience – moving from the warmth of a vibrant family, community, and culture in which I felt I belonged, to a new land in which we were “aliens” – has informed the course of my studies and my career. I pursued a Bachelor's degree in Social Work at UNSW. I then began my career as a social worker carrying out programs for new immigrants. I helped immigrant youth to adjust to their new host culture, organized free English language classes, and planned multicultural festivals in which immigrants from around the world could share and exchange customs from their countries of origin in order to foster a sense of pride in the community's diversity. After spending five years as a social worker, I recognized the urgent need for housing that many new immigrant families faced. I then went on to work for the Department of Housing, striving to provide affordable and accessible homes for marginalized communities. This work highlighted for me the many institutional barriers that prevent families from feeling at home in Australia – literally, in terms of housing, as well as psychologically and emotionally. I became fascinated with questions about the intersections of race, ethnicity, and economic status in the context of immigrants' lives, and therefore I am currently pursuing a PhD at UNSW in the field of Gender, Race, and Social Justice.



"Jane finished her primary education as salutatorian, belonged to the top 10 students of her middle and high school class, and was granted with a full academic scholarship to be used at any university of her choosing."

Wild How to Write a Biographical Sketch

What is Scholarly writing?

- **Scholarly writing** is the type of **writing** that is a clear and concise **written** communication style.



What is Scholarly writing?

- SCHOLARLY WRITING IS **MATERIAL** WRITTEN FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE TO A SPECIFIC AUDIENCE. IT'S BASED ON SOLID EVIDENCE, NOT ASSUMPTIONS. ITS OBJECTIVE IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE IS CLEAR, CONCISE, AND IT'S MECHANICALLY CORRECT.
- Among the most important skills required for scholarly writing are those relating to critical thinking.

- "Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to beliefs and action"
- **Critical thinking** entails the ability and practice of perceiving a problem objectively and intellectually. The academic or professional critically analyzes the issue and ponders possible conclusions and/or solutions which or she effectively communicates
(Foundation for Critical Thinking, 2011).
- This practice can be intimidating initially, but the practitioner soon realizes the benefits and can become quite proficient, using the skill for collegial, professional, and everyday decisions. Once the writer has mastered critical thinking, he or she can concentrate on the mechanics of scholarly writing.

- Writing credible, well-designed papers (for college or publication) requires the use of Critical thinking skills and scholarly writing mechanics.

The Mechanics of Scholarly Writing:

- The writer must integrate ideas from sources, cite and reference properly, paraphrase, and use minimal quotes.
- Source material must also be accurately represented

Mechanics of Writing

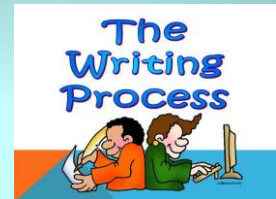
- An important factor in scholarly writing is the proper integration of ideas from utilized sources. The writer must use direct quotes sparingly. The paper should contain no more than 20 percent of direct quotations.
- Peer-reviewed sources may be the most reliable, and can be found in university libraries and online databases.

Mechanics of Writing (cont.)

- Paraphrased material should be carefully constructed. The writer must read the text thoroughly and understand it well. The precise meaning of the author must be represented in the paraphrased information.
- The referenced material should have been published within the last 3-5 years. Citations must be precise, as should references. Consult the citation and reference style manual (APA, MLA, etc.) used by your organization for exact specifications.

Mechanics of Writing (cont.)

- Formatting issues include the title page, spacing, margins, headings, citations, and references (University of Phoenix, 2011). Each area must be precisely calculated.



LITERATURE REVIEW

- In order to understand the present 'state of the art' you too need to read what other people have written about research in your subject and make some kind of an assessment of where your research will fit into that body of work.
- You need to establish that what you are proposing has not been done in the same way before.
- To do this you obviously need to find out what has been researched, and how, within the area that you want to investigate.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- The 'how' is important, because the way previous research has been conducted will provide a useful source of experience in using relevant research methods for collecting and analyzing data.
- The review can be used to show where you have gained inspiration to develop your ideas – and that does not just have to be only from academic sources.
- It should also demonstrate that you have a good understanding of the current conceptual frameworks in your subject, and that you can take a stance in placing your work within these.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- LIBRARIES
- Your university or college library – this should be your first choice.
- Local libraries sometimes have special collections of local interest.
- Try to get the latest publications, unless you have special reasons not to, e.g. historical studies.
- The information in fast moving subjects, such as management, business, science and technology will become rapidly obsolete, but in the humanities older publications can have lasting value.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- It is no longer sufficient just to visit the shelves to see what is there, even if you have consulted the online catalogue first.
- There will be a wide range of electronic resources and search facilities provided backed up by training sessions and leaflets in the use of these.
- Being adept at making searches will save you lots of time and frustration, as well as ensuring that you get hold of all the latest information you need.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- Here are some of the facilities you should investigate:
- **Library catalogue.** Most libraries now have an electronic catalogue accessed through their computer terminals, often accessible online from elsewhere too via the Intra- and/or Internet.
- **Journals and newspapers.** These are often catalogued and stored separately to the books and may be available online. As they appear regularly, they tend to be very up to date.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- **Electronic databases.** These are computer-based lists of publications, on CD-ROM or on the university Intranet or the Internet.
- They contain huge numbers of sources, usually searched by using keywords. Some provide only titles, publication details and abstracts, others provide the full text. Citation indexes list the publications in which certain books, articles, have been used as a reference.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- INFORMATION SERVICES
- Government departments such as Standards Institutes, Records Offices, Statistical Offices provide information for the public. Pressure groups and voluntary organizations often produce publications about their work. Research establishments, professional and trade organizations also release details about latest research.



LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES – NATIONAL AND LOCAL
- Apart from the exhibits, museums and galleries usually produce a range of printed and electronic information. They may also have many artefacts that are in store and only accessible by arrangement. Private collections of historical records and artefacts might be found.



LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- PEOPLE
- There are experts in every field. Some will be willing to advise you.
- Try the members of your own university staff at first, many of whom will be involved in research. Your library will contain guides to professionals and experts. In some cases, local knowledge will be needed – search out the relevant local experts (e.g. local historians, social workers, ornithologists etc.).

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- THE INTERNET
- The full gamut of the World Wide Web. With thousands of pages being added every day, the World Wide Web (WWW) is the biggest single source of information in the world.
- However, the content is of extremely variable quality, and the biggest challenge when using it is to track down good quality material.
- You can easily waste hours trawling through rubbish in search of the goodies. Careful use of search terms helps to eliminate the trash.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

- THE INTERNET
- Usually, the more precise your search parameters, the more manageable the search results will be. Not all information on the WWW is free.
- Published Internet guides can help you to make the best of this resource (try your library for lists devoted to subject areas). Some are specifically aimed at students and list useful search engines, sites and databases. Any Internet guide becomes quickly outdated. Specialized search engines such as Google Scholar will filter out much of the dross by listing academic and technical papers from proven sources.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

EVALUATING WEB SOURCES

- Anyone can add pages to the World Wide Web, so how can you judge if the information you have found is reliable? Here are seven different tests you can make to judge the quality of the contents.
- 1 Is it accurate? Does it say what sources the data are based on?
- Compare the data with other sources. If it diverges greatly, is there some explanation for this?

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

EVALUATING WEB SOURCES

- 2 What authority is it based on? Find out who authored the pages, and whether they are recognized experts or are issued by a reputable organization. Check if other publications are cited or if they provide a bibliography of other articles, reports or books.
- You may need to track down the 'home page' to get to the details.
- Web addresses that end in 'ac' (meaning academic) are likely to be university or college addresses and therefore point to some intellectual credibility – no guarantee of quality but nevertheless a useful indicator.

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

EVALUATING WEB SOURCES

- 3 Is it biased? Many pressure groups and commercial organizations use the Web to promote their ideas and products, and present information in a one-sided way. Can you detect a vested interest in the subject on the part of the author? Find out more about the authors – e.g. does the information about animal experiments come from an antivivisection league, a cosmetics company, or an independent research institute?

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

EVALUATING WEB SOURCES

- 4 How detailed is the information? Is the information so general that it is of little use, or so detailed and specialized that it is difficult to understand? Investigate whether it is only fragmentary and misses out important issues in the subject, and whether the evidence is backed up by relevant data. There may be useful links to further information, other websites or printed publications.
- 5 Is it out of date? Pages stay on the Web until they are removed. Some have obviously been forgotten and are hopelessly out of date. Try to find a date or when it was updated (perhaps on the View-Page Info option on your web browser). Note that some updates might not update all the contents. Check any links provided to see if they work.
- c.uk/link/).

LITERATURE REVIEW (cont.)

EVALUATING WEB SOURCES

- 6 Have you cross-checked? Compare the contents with other sources of information such as books, articles, official statistics and other websites. Does the information tally with or contradict these. If the latter, can you see why?

Scholarly Thinking and Writing



APA STYLE

- APA style
- Description
- APA Style is a writing style and format for academic documents such as scholarly journal articles and books. It is commonly used for citing sources within the field of behavioral and social sciences.
- <https://www.apastyle.org/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODakMMqvIs>

Chapter 1

Introduction to Nursing Research in an Evidence-Based Practice Environment

What Is Research?

- **Research**
 - Systematic inquiry using disciplined methods to solve problems or answer questions
- **Nursing research**
 - Systematic inquiry to develop knowledge about issues of importance to the nursing profession

Roles of Nurses in Research

- Continuum of participation, from **producers** of research to skilled **consumers** of research findings who use research evidence in their practice
 - **Evidence-based practice (EBP)**—the use of the best clinical evidence in making patient care decisions
 - Both **consumers** and **producers** play a **key role** in EBP

History of Nursing Research

- Pioneered by Florence Nightingale, 1850s
 - **Florence Nightingale** is often seen as the very first nurse researcher. Her research in the 1850s focused on soldiers' morbidity and mortality during the Crimean War.
- First journal on research (*Nursing Research*) emerged, 1950s
- Clinical research increasingly important, 1980s
- National Center for Nursing Research established at NIH, 1986
- National Institutes of Nursing Research (NINR) established, 1993
- NINR budget exceeds \$100 million, 2000s

Future Directions for Nursing Research

- Heightened focus on evidence-based practice
- Use of multiple confirmatory strategies (e.g., **replication** and **multisite studies**)
- Greater stress on **systematic reviews**
- Expanded local research in health care settings (e.g., as part of Magnet process)
- More multidisciplinary collaboration
- Expanded dissemination of research findings
- Greater focus on cultural issues and health disparities

Question

Is the following statement True or False?

- Clinical research became increasingly important in the 1960s.



Answer

- False
 - It wasn't until the 1980s that clinical research became increasingly important.

Sources of Evidence for Nursing Practice

- Tradition
- Authority
- Clinical experience; trial and error; intuition
- Logical reasoning (inductive & deductive)
- Assembled information (e.g., quality improvement data)
- Disciplined research

Paradigms for Nursing Research

- **Paradigm**: a world view; a general perspective on the complexities of the real world, with certain assumptions about reality
- Key paradigms for nursing research:
 - **Positivist paradigm**
 - **Naturalistic paradigm**

What Is the Nature of Reality?

- **Positivist assumption**
 - Reality exists.
 - There is a real world driven by natural causes.
- **Naturalist assumption**
 - Reality is multiple and subjective, constructed by individuals.

How Is the Inquirer Related to Those Being Studied?

- **Positivist assumption**: The inquirer is independent from those being studied.
- **Naturalist assumption**: The inquirer interacts with those being studied; findings reflect the interaction.

Question

Is the following statement True or False?

- Application of the positivist paradigm involves viewing reality as being driven by natural causes.



Answer

- True
 - The positivist assumption is that reality exists and there is a real world driven by natural causes.

What Is the Role of Values in the Inquiry?

- **Positivist assumption**: Values are held in check; objectivity is sought
- **Naturalist assumption**: Subjectivity and values are inevitable, desirable



How Is Knowledge Obtained?

- **Research methods:** the techniques used to structure a study and to gather, analyze, and interpret information
- **Quantitative research**—most often allied with the positivist tradition
- **Qualitative research**—most often allied with the naturalist tradition

Key Differences in Research Methods

Positivist

Fixed design
Discrete, specific concepts
Deductive processes
Control over context
Verification of hunches
Quantitative information
Seeks generalizations

Naturalist

Flexible design
Holistic
Inductive processes
Context-bound
Emerging interpretations
Qualitative information
Seeks patterns

Question

Which of the following characterizes naturalistic research methods?

- Fixed design
- Deductive processes
- Qualitative information
- Seeking of generalizations



Answer

- Qualitative information
- Naturalistic research methods involve qualitative information, flexible design, inductive processes, and seeking patterns.

Purposes of Nursing Research

- One way to categorize purposes: a description–explanation continuum
- A basic distinction, especially relevant to quantitative studies, is whether the study is **cause-probing**, i.e., seeks to illuminate the underlying causes of phenomena.

Specific Purposes of Nursing Research

	<u>Quantitative</u>	<u>Qualitative</u>
• Identification		X
• Description	X	X
• Exploration	X	X
• Prediction and Control	X	
• Explanation	X	X

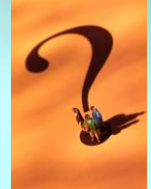
Specific Purposes of Nursing Research—EBP Framework

- Treatment, Therapy, Intervention
- Diagnosis, Assessment
- Prognosis
- Harm and Etiology
- Meaning, Process

Question

Is the following statement True or False?

- Quantitative research attempts to identify a phenomenon.



Answer

- False
 - Qualitative research, not quantitative research, would be used to identify a phenomenon.

So, what is/are the take away message(s) from Chapter 1?

