SCAFFOLDING THE RESEARCH
LITERATURE REVIEW: AN
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Association for Interdisciplinary Studies
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Marilyn K. Sharif
George Mason University
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Scaffolding the Research Literature Review

- Introduction to the Literature Matrix
  - Description
  - Goals
- Literature Matrix Assignment
  - Learning Outcomes
  - Instruction Steps
  - Assessment Rubric
- Advantages of the Literature Matrix
- Student Examples of Literature Matrix
- Conclusion/Q&A
What is a Literature Matrix?

- Table (or Excel spreadsheet)
- Research Tool
- Organization
- Reflection
- Evaluation
- Integration

### MAIN QUESTION (Complex Problem or Issue to be Solved):

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sub-question: (Discipline #1)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sub-question: (Discipline #2)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sub-question: (Discipline #3)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEY SAY*</th>
<th>I SAY*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOURCE Author(s) and (Publication Date)</td>
<td>MAIN POINT (Claim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source #1</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Source #2</td>
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<td>Source #3</td>
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Literature Matrix Assignment

1. Add 3 relevant sources to the matrix
2. Develop corresponding list of references using consistent citation format
3. Participate in a matrix peer-review workshop
4. Revise/expand matrix and reference list to 15 sources for instructor’s mid-term evaluation
5. Revise/expand matrix and reference list to scaffold the literature review
6. Submit final matrix and reference list with 25 sources one week prior to the final paper
Learning Outcomes of the Literature Matrix Assignment

- Fill out the matrix with relevant source information
- Use the matrix for reflection and evaluation of sources
- Identify gaps in the literature and make any necessary revision of questions
- Integrate information from the matrix to write a literature review
The Literature Matrix Worksheet

MAIN QUESTION (Complex problem or Issue to be solved):
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sub-question: (Discipline #1)
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sub-question: (Discipline #2)
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Sub-question: (Discipline #3)
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE Author(s) and (Publication Date)</th>
<th>THEY SAY*</th>
<th>MAIN POINT (Claim)</th>
<th>HYPOTHESES THEORIES ASSUMPTIONS</th>
<th>METHODS</th>
<th>DATA Sub-question #1</th>
<th>DATA Sub-question #2</th>
<th>DATA Sub-question #3</th>
<th>CONCLUSIONS</th>
<th>I SAY*</th>
<th>COMMENTS (Analysis)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source #4</td>
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Marilyn K. Sharif – BIS 390 2013; revised 2016; updated 2017
Bachelor of Individualized Studies Program, CHSS
George Mason University, Fairfax, VA
# Assessment Rubric for the Literature Matrix Assignment

## Interdisciplinary Literature Matrix Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions/Subquestions</th>
<th>5-4 Pts @ Cell</th>
<th>3-2 Pts @ Cell</th>
<th>1-0 Pts @ Cell</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question or problem to be solved at the top of the matrix is interdisciplinary and clearly stated; Sub-questions are clearly related to the 2-3 specific disciplines relevant to this inquiry.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question or problem to be solved at the top of the matrix is potentially interdisciplinary and somewhat clearly stated; Sub-questions are seemingly related to the 2-3 specific disciplines relevant to this inquiry.</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question or problem to be solved at the top of the matrix does not appear to be interdisciplinary and/or not clearly stated; Sub-questions are not clearly related to the 2-3 specific disciplines relevant to this inquiry.</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources*</td>
<td>All sources are current, peer-reviewed, contain the author’s name(s), year of publication, and correspond to the list of references.</td>
<td>Most sources are current, peer-reviewed, contain the author’s name(s), year of publication, and correspond to the list of references.</td>
<td>A few sources are current, peer-reviewed, contain the author’s name(s), year of publication, and correspond to the list of references.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“They Say” Content</td>
<td>All sources provide content for main point, hypotheses, theories and/or assumptions, methods, data, author’s conclusions, and appropriate page numbers.</td>
<td>Most sources provide content for main point, hypotheses, theories and/or assumptions, methods, data, author’s conclusions, and appropriate page numbers.</td>
<td>A few sources provide content for main point, hypotheses, theories and/or assumptions, methods, data, author’s conclusions, and appropriate page numbers.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“I Say” Content</td>
<td>Student’s comments clearly indicate reflection on and analysis of all sources.</td>
<td>Student’s comments indicate some reflection on and analysis of the sources.</td>
<td>Student’s comments indicate little reflection and/or analysis of the sources.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Includes 15 or more peer-reviewed academic references by mid-term review and 25 such references by semester deadline.</td>
<td>Includes some peer-reviewed academic references by mid-term review and 25 such references by semester deadline.</td>
<td>Includes some peer-reviewed academic references by mid-term review and less than 25 such references by semester deadline.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Extra credit – a potential of up to 2 extra points will be added to your final score if you use correct citation style for author and publication date that corresponds to the list of references in your final proposal.

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Integration of the Research Disciplines

Intersections of the circles represent integration of information and data across the matrix from the 2-3 sub-questions that address the main question (nexus) guiding the research literature review.
Advantages of the Literature Matrix

- How does the literature matrix scaffold the learning process?
  - Focuses the literature search
  - Aids research reading and summarization skills
  - Develops consistent citation format skills
  - Helps avoid plagiarism
  - Develops reflective and critical thinking skills
  - Addresses challenges of integration and critical analysis in the literature review
  - Helps identify gaps in the literature
Sample Student Matrices*

- Example #1
- Example #2
- Example #3

*Used with permission.
References


Questions/Discussions

Contact information: msharif@gmu.edu