

Originality

1. Questions of originality to ask in every research you conduct

To find a gap in the literature, you have to read it, question it, then question yourself.

Prior reading: questions to ask yourself:

Is this topic new?

Is the literature meaningful and valid?

What am I going to add to this topic?

During reading: ask questions if you did not find in what you are reading, this might be the gap you can work on. Self-questioning is a must in research.

Reading others' findings: what did they find? Will my context provide similar data, or a different one?

During data collection:

Is the data collection procedures relevant to the area of research? (sampling, ethics, context)

Are the methods used for data collection used by other researchers and how? (interviews, online surveys, recorded observation/scale)

During data analysis:

What is relevant to my research? Does all the data discuss my research questions and meet my research aim? What can I remove if it is not related to my main arguments, what do I need to add to achieve my research aim?

Other researchers used interviews and found data that added knowledge to the area, you can decide to adapt it.

2. Originality in Research: Contribution and Significance

knowledge is what we understand in separate, or in a series of concepts.

knowledge is justified, it is a true belief, but it should be justified!! Knowledge is not an assumption, it is rather a **justified belief**.

knowledge is shared by the audience, and evaluated, it is not simply believed.

Contribution: the buzz word is 'impact'

Contribution: advancement of knowledge, the importance of knowledge. It is related to how researchers intervened in their subjects. It is a re-contextualisation of theory/ data. By contributing to knowledge, you can expand on an existing model in a substantial way; move a model to a new area, create a new design, and show how your methods moved a specific idea.

You can also combine two ideas to create a new idea, by making your research interdisciplinary.

Originality: must demonstrate the contribution of new knowledge.

In your thesis you can write it as follows:

My original contribution to knowledge is

This sentence should appear in: the abstract, the introduction, the discussion, and the conclusion.

It is not an insertion of a sentence, it is a demonstration throughout your literature review that you have established a sufficient understanding of the existing literature. Your question through writing your literature review is: Where is literature now?

Count how many times you have mentioned the word 'contribution' in your thesis.

Significance: 4 strategies, for some the significance is the implications.

S1: The importance of the research questions: why the research is worth doing?

S2: Significance of the findings: why do they matter?

S3: Explain how your research transforms theory.

S4: Explain generalisability or lack of generalizability.