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Towards a Framework of Literature Review Process in Support of Information Systems Research

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Abstract

This paper introduces an initial effort towards developing a framework for writing an effective literature review. The target audience for the framework are novice IS researchers or other researchers who are struggling with the development of an effective literature-based foundation for the personal research. The proposed framework follows the systematic data processing approach comprising 2 stages: 1) inputs (literature gathering and screening), 2) processing (Bloom, 1956). This paper provides the rationale for developing the central stage, processing the literature. The paper also discusses the value of an effective literature review and the implications of the proposed framework.

Introduction

Writing a literature review is a crucial endeavor for any academic research work (Hart, 1999). The need to uncover what is already known in the body of knowledge can never be overestimated. Some fields of information systems (IS) have undergone significant progress (Shaw, 1995a). Webster and Watson (2002) also criticized the IS field for having very few theories and outlets for quality literature review. Moreover, literature review is an important step in the research process.

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