**IME Chapter 2 Worksheet 5: Constructing a Literature Map**

Related to **Constructing a Literature Map**, IME p. 49

**Objectives:**

* Construct a literature map to illustrate patterns in your literature collection, and
* Use the patterns in your collection to focus your research idea toward a researchable topic.

**Summary of Activity**

A literature map is a graphic representation of the categories and relevant publications in your literature collection (see Hart, 2018; Creswell & Creswell, 2017). Such a map can (1) illustrate which studies are most pertinent to your evolving research topic, (2) help you see important sub-topics within your literature collection, (3) bring to light connections between your sources that might not be obvious when you consider them one at a time, and (4) help you find “holes” in the literature (if such exist). Your map may serve any or all of these purposes.

Your literature map will be most helpful after you have amassed and annotated a collection of related sources. It will help you figure out what the collection *as a whole* says about your topic and proposed study. It may be crafted in several ways. Carlos’ created his literature map (see IME p. 51) with a single PowerPoint slide, using the flow chart function. Literature maps may also use mind-mapping software, an online whiteboard such as Google Jam Board, a series of sticky notes, or even drawn by hand.

To begin, create short descriptions for each of your sources that include author(s), date, and a 5- to 10-word description of what the source is about and paste/write them into the format you will use for the map. Once you have several sources, begin to try different organizational schemes for your sources. Some possibilities include the ways the sources deal with the topic, the variables in the topic, the authors’ perspectives, etc. But it is also appropriate to develop an original organizational scheme.

On the next page we have included a few video links that describe possible literature map strategies.

If you design a particularly interesting literature map, please send it to us, and we might include it on our website! See inquiryinmusiceducation.com.

**Additional Resources:**

[Literature maps for literature reviews](https://youtu.be/YPhqCIL9u6I), Dr. Don Forrer: (Hang in there, it’s long but worth it!)

[How to refine research ideas by using Mind Map, Concept Map and Literature Map](https://youtu.be/9jZvZDRx6jQ?t=1790), Research Beast. (Literature map discussion starts at 29:50)

# [**Literature Reviews: An Overview for Graduate Students**](https://youtu.be/t2d7y_r65HU) **(a little under 10 minutes)**

“Basically, the literature is a continuously evolving network of scholarly works that interact with each other. As you do your own research, you’ll begin to understand the relationships in this evolving web and how your own ideas connect to it.”

# [**Writing the Literature Review (Part Two): Step-by-Step Tutorial for Graduate Students**](https://youtu.be/UoYpyY9n9YQ)

[Get Lit: The Literature Review](https://youtu.be/9la5ytz9MmM) (Dr. Hastings, TAMU, about 45 minutes)