

Extract from a thesis: The literature review: a journey of discovery

The way the literature review is signalled to the reader varies. The title ‘Literature Review’, ‘Survey of the Literature’ or ‘A Review of Relevant Literature’ was used in 10 theses in the sample examined, 7 of these in Engineering. In 17 theses, the literature review was covered by the title ‘Introduction’ or ‘General Introduction’. The remaining 23 theses used topic related titles such as ‘General Biology of Brine Shrimp’ or ‘The Origins and Development of the Promotion of Imperial Imagery’. The ways in which these different titles were spread across faculties is given below in Table 2.6. Within these chapters, all the theses made substantial use of topic related headings and subheadings to organise the presentation of material.

Table 2.6: Distribution of titles used in different faculties for the chapter in which the literature review occurs

<i>Faculty</i>	<i>Title of chapter in which literature review occurs</i>		
	Introduction; General Introduction	Literature Review; Survey of the Literature; A Review of Relevant Literature; Literature Review and Basic Theory	Other (content related title)
All faculties	17	10	23
Pure Science	9	1	9
Engineering	2	7	4
Medicine	5	0	0
Arts	1	0	4
Architectural Studies	0	1	3
Educational Studies	0	1	1
Social Sciences	0	0	1
Law	0	0	1

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