

# Literature Review Summary Table



# Reviews of the literature, research synthesis, and meta-analysis



- When to do an introductory review:
  - \* For a very small or preliminary study.
  - \* When your topic is covered by only a small number of studies.
- When to do a systematic review
  - \* Necessary for most studies.
- When to do a research synthesis or meta-analysis

# When to include other research knowledge



- \* When you have specific questions to ask researchers.
- \* When information from scholarly meetings is relevant to your study.

# DATABASE ARCHIVES



- **When to use database archives**
  - \* When your research requires a large, nationally representative sample.

# Organizational Records



- When to use organizational records
  - \* When records are available (either publicly or with permission) that match your research subject.

# TEXTUAL STUDIES OF DOCUMENTS



- When to use textual archival data
  - \* To study phenomena of interest.
  - \* To learn about aspects of the texts themselves.
  - \* To learn about the environment (context) and its influence.
  - \* When you have collected field notes, transcribed interviews, or collected artifacts during a field study.

# NEW MEDIA, INCLUDING INTERNET SOURCES



- **When to use media**
  - \* To research phenomena in populations that would be hard to contact or observe through other means.
  - \* When you need current rather than historical data.