What Makes a Successful Literature Review?
Here are eight steps toward completing a successful literature review.

1. **Search terms**: Formulate appropriate search terms as the basis for your literature searches.
2. **Database search tools**: Use database search tools to identify relevant journal articles and related materials.
3. **Key publications**: Identify a series of key publications in your area and use these as the bases for citation reference searches.
4. **Web search tools**: Use web search tools to identify pieces of interest, in particular grey literature, relevant to you.
5. **Scanning**: Scan abstracts of articles, reviews of books, executive summaries of government reports, and other summaries of published work to determine if you need to read the piece in full.
6. **Reading**: Read the pieces you have identified and make notes from them.
7. **Thematic organization**: Use these notes as the basis of a thematic organization of your literature review.
8. **Writing the review**: Write the review, based on the thematic organization, in such a way that you can construct one or more interesting research questions which you will address in your investigation.