Exercises

# Chapter 22: The literature review chapter

## Exercise 1: Achieve balance between empirical and theoretical literature

Read the literature review chapters of a couple of recently successful dissertations in your department and assess their balance between discussion of empirical and theoretical literature

Using that information, try out different ways of handling that balance in your first draft.

## Exercise 2: Use existing literature to help your own research

This exercise gives you an opportunity to test out your skills in using the existing literature to help you in your own research. It emphasizes that we should never read such literature without having formulated some prior set of questions.

Select what you regard as the two or three most relevant pieces of literature.

1. Make notes on each, attempting to use each one to answer the questions found in Table 22.2 in the book.

2. Incorporate these notes in a short literature review chapter which only refers to these two or three works.

3. Discuss this review with your supervisor.

## Exercise 3: Evaluate your use of references

When you complete each data analysis chapter, look back over the literature you have discussed. Now ask yourself these questions:

1. Is there sufficient discussion of each reference to render further discussion (in a literature review chapter) redundant?

2. If not, practise writing about these references in a way that adds to how you have described them in your data analysis chapters. You may use Table 22.2 as a guide.