Exercises

# Chapter 1: Meeting the review family

## Exercise 1-1: Why am I doing a literature review?

Look through Table 1.1 and see if you recognise any reasons why you might want to conduct a literature review. Can you identify any added or spin-off benefits that you might gain from your review that you hadn’t previously considered?

***Table 1-1: Familiar Purposes and Functions for Conducting a Literature Review***

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| **Purpose** | **Function** |
| Do I want to know how much literature and what types of literature exist in a specific topic area? | Mapping the Landscape |
| Do I want to get a feel for the current state of knowledge in an unfamiliar topic area? | Sensitisation to New Areas |
| Do I want to know the major studies and main authors in a specific topic area? | Spotting the Landmarks |
| Do I want to locate my own research within the context of what has already gone before? | Positioning one’s research |
| Do I want to see how different disciplines or professions have taken forward the same ideas or concepts? | Comparing Ideas |
| Do I want to identify the main theories that authors have applied to a particular topic area? | Exploring Theory |
| Do I want to explore different approaches to tackling the same methodology or problem? | Brainstorming Approaches |
| Do I want to learn lessons from current practice? | Taking Stock |
| Do I want to identify unexplored areas or gaps in research? | Seizing Opportunities |