

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	7
1.1	Focus of this book	7
1.2	Why this book?	8
1.3	How this book was compiled	9
1.4	How to use this book	10
2	What is a literature review and why do one?	13
2.1	Introduction	13
2.2	Interaction between topic choice and literature review	14
2.3	Helping you to really understand your topic	15
2.4	Narrowing down your research topic	16
2.5	Phrasing, embedding and justifying your research question	18
2.6	Assessing your project's feasibility	21
2.7	So what is a systematic literature review and what is it not?	22
2.8	Characteristics at different quality levels	23
2.9	Summary and key points	24
3	Preparing for your literature review	27
3.1	Introduction	27
3.2	Primary versus secondary sources	28
3.3	Types of sources you are likely to encounter	29
3.4	Types of research you are likely to encounter	32
3.5	Delineating your topic before starting your literature review	37
3.6	How wide should you cast your net?	40
3.7	Summary and key points	42
4	The systematic search for relevant literature	43
4.1	Introduction	43
4.2	Collecting sources as a challenging research activity	44
4.3	Searching is selecting	46
4.4	Digital search through legal databases	47
4.5	Snowballing	52
4.6	Additional techniques	53
4.7	Keep track of your search and manage your references	56
4.8	Summary and key points	57

5	Critical appraisal of the literature	59
5.1	Introduction	59
5.2	Appraisal criteria	60
5.3	Refining the literature that will comprise the review	65
5.4	Reaching a quality judgment on your 'key' sources	66
5.5	Note-taking and the distillation of relevant information	68
5.6	Assign provisional codes to the information	72
5.7	Summary and key points	72
6	Synthesize, discuss and present your findings	75
6.1	Introduction	75
6.2	Identifying the state of the art	76
6.3	Identifying gaps in the body of knowledge	80
6.4	Developing your research question	82
6.5	Presenting your findings	83
6.6	Summary and key points	88
7	Summary	91
	References	93