Writing a Literature Review: Instructional Websites and Some Samples
(aka "Review Essay")

There is no one correct way to write a literature review. Scholars take many different approaches. These websites discuss the crafting of a literature review from many different perspectives, though most of them come from libraries or university writing centers:

http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/
http://www.smu.ca/administration/library/litrev.html
http://guides.library.vcu.edu/lit-review
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/666/01/
http://www.cgu.edu/pages/899.asp
http://www.slideshare.net/kevingarysmith/07-literature-review

One can also learn about the variety of ways a literature review can be crafted by skimming reviews written by other scholars. The following examples are not uniform in sophistication or really any factor at all! Instead, they were selected to provide some variety: most but not all are in practical theology and its sub-disciplines, they take a variety of approaches to the selection of materials to review, and they illustrate a wide range of approaches in both the review's structure and means of analysis.

For Those of Us Learning to Do Lit Reviews

• Reviews of 3-5 book length publications

• An example of analyzing selected works by one author

• An example of reviewing one substantial book

More Demanding Approaches

• A thematic review of traditional literature

- An example of scholars reviewing a broad range of literature

- An example of a senior scholar reviewing a broad range of literature to investigate an emerging trend in institutions like the one in which he teaches

- An example of a senior scholar reviewing a broad range of literature to address an area of research not commonly addressed in the tradition he studies

- And, for comic relief, if nothing else, here is a review of the research habits of theologians