The Literature Review Seminar

Qualities

- Distinguish different quality dimensions for literature reviews
- Explain which qualities are essential for the different types of reviews

What makes a review successful?

Understanding **digital transformation**: A review and a research agenda

G **Vial**

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Extant literature has increased our understanding of specific aspects of digital transformation; however, we lack a comprehensive portrait of its nature and implications. Through a review of 282 works, we inductively build a framework of digital transformation articulated across eight building blocks. Our framework foregrounds digital transformation as a process where digital technologies create disruptions triggering strategic responses from organizations that seek to alter their value creation paths while managing the

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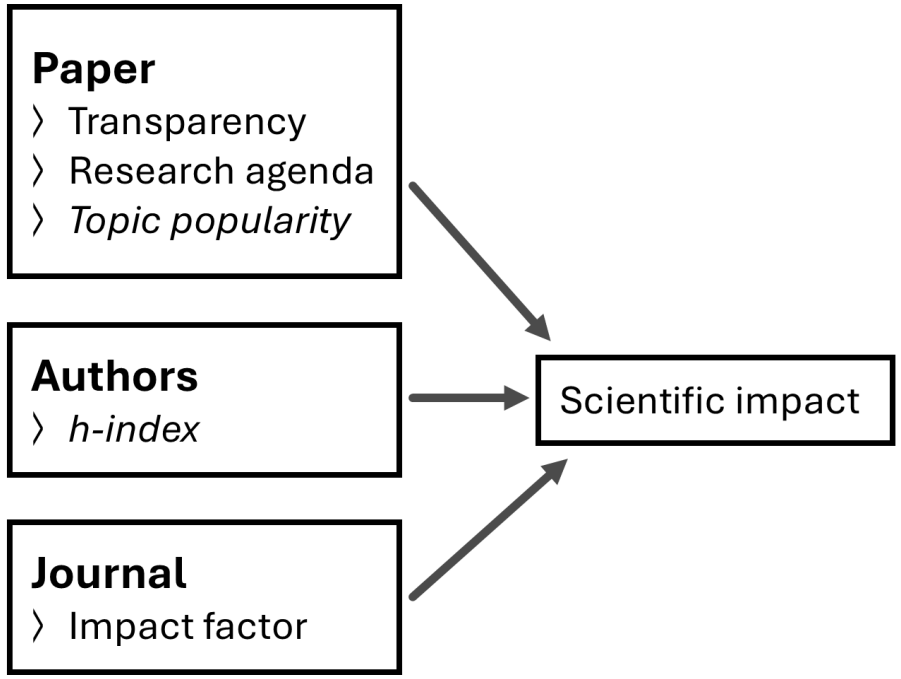
Question: Which factors lead to a high citation impact?

An empirical analysis

The study of Wagner et al. (2021)

- There is a plethora of commentaries, opinions, suggestions, and ideas on the characteristics of a high quality review
- We brought together an international and interdisciplinary team to study the question empirically
- The research question: What are the main attributes that affect the scientific impact of IS review papers?
- The research model covers factors at three levels: the paper, the authors, and the journal



Findings

Table 2
Results of a GLM predicting citations to different types of reviews after 3 years.

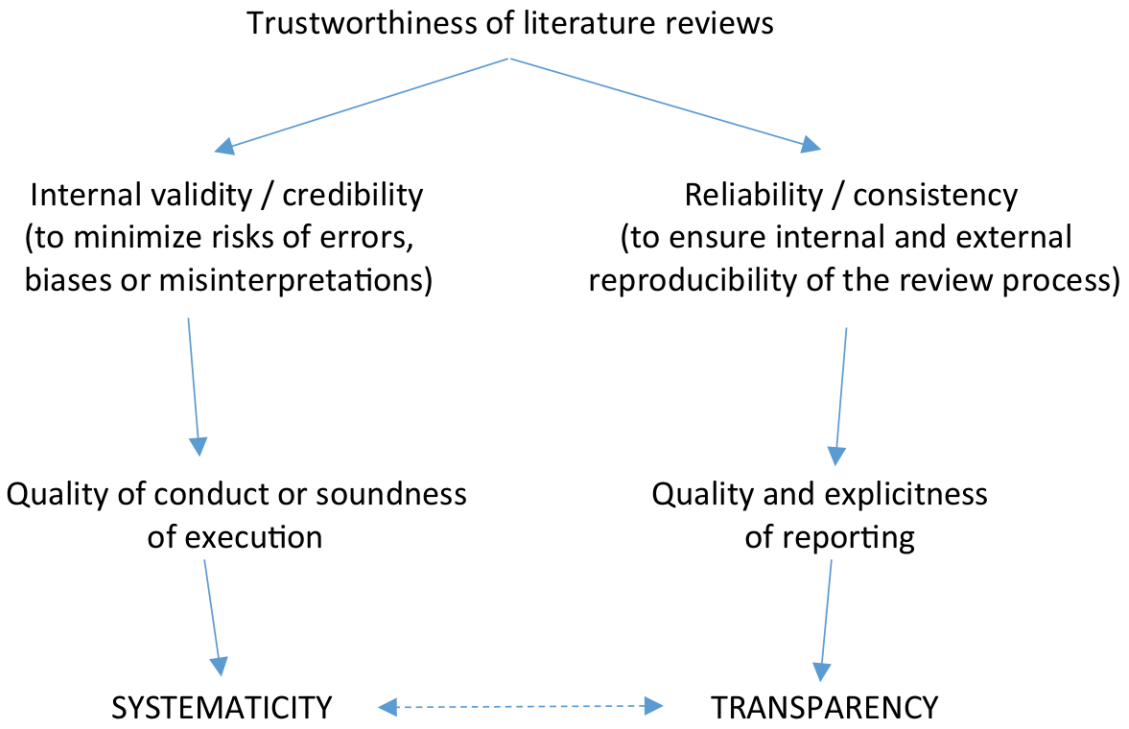
	Describing (I) (n = 74)		Understanding (II) (n = 48)		Explaining (III) (n = 65)		Testing (IV) (n = 33)	
Effect[a]	Control	Main	Control	Main	Control	Main	Control	Main
Journal Impact Factor	0.57**	0.57**	0.38**	0.35**	0.28**	0.19**	0.22**	0.01
H-index (average)	0.27**	0.27**	0.39**	0.45**	0.04	−0.05	0.15**	0.13**
Topic popularity	0.01	−0.07	0.08*	0.00	0.28**	0.22**	0.14**	0.18**
Transparency score		0.10**		0.23**		0.26**		0.53**
Research agenda[c] (none)		−0.27**		[b]		−0.55**		[b]
Research agenda[c] (complete)		0.30**		0.51**		0.13*		[b]
AIC	2149	1983	1720	1532	2859	2410	1150	1009
d.f.	73	73	47	47	65	64	32	32
R^2 (Nagelkerke)	0.29	0.32	0.46	0.48	0.30	0.41	0.37	0.47
ΔR^2		0.03		0.02		0.11		0.10

Notes.
* Significant at 1 %.
** Significant at 0.1 %.
[a] Effects are reported as standardized regression coefficients.
[b] Not enough observations available to include the variable.
[c] The dummy variable *partial research agenda* is used as the reference group (*Research_Agenda_None = 0* and *Research_Agenda_Complete = 0)* and therefore does not have its own coefficient. Wald tests are provided in Appendix E (Table E1).

Key insights

- Methodological **transparency** is associated with higher scientific impact across all types of reviews
- The development of a **research agenda** is associated with higher scientific impact (except for reviews aimed at theory testing, due to a lack of data)
- The effects vary between **review types**, providing empirical evidence to the notion of methodological and typological pluralism
- Differences in **theoretical contributions** are hard to measure (contributing to *explaining*, in itself, does not lead to a higher impact)

Methodological transparency and systematicity



Paré et al. (2016) sensitize us to the distinction between **systematicity** and **transparency**:
One refers to the *soundness of execution* and the other refers to the *explicitness of reporting*.

Reporting standards

- In Information Systems, Templier and Paré (2018) provide an overview of recommended reporting items
- In the health sciences, the PRISMA checklist provides established guidelines for transparent reporting of literature reviews

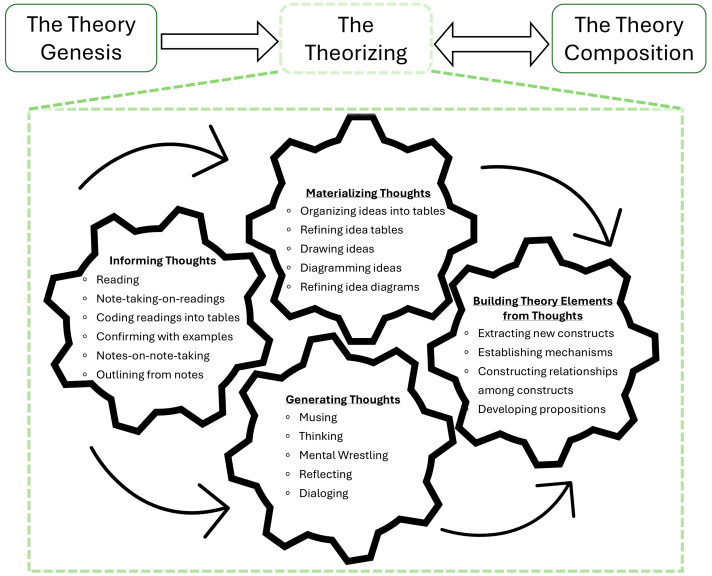
PRISMA 2020 expanded checklist

Note: This expanded checklist details elements recommended for reporting for each PRISMA 2020 item. Non-italicized elements are considered 'essential' and should be reported in the main report or as supplementary material for all systematic reviews (except for those preceded by "If…", which should only be reported where applicable). Elements written in italics are 'additional', and while not essential, provide supplementary information that may enhance the completeness and usability of systematic review reports. Note that elements presented here are an abridged version of those presented in the explanation and elaboration paper (BMJ 2021;372:n160), with references and some examples removed. Consulting the explanation and elaboration paper is recommended if further clarity or information is required.

Section and Topic	Item #	Elements recommended for reporting
TITLE		
TITLE	1	• Identify the report as a systematic review in the title. • Report an informative title that provides key information about the main objective or question the review addresses (e.g. the population(s) and intervention(s) the review addresses). • *Consider providing additional information in the title, such as the method of analysis used, the designs of included studies, or an indication that the review is an update of an existing review, or a continually updated ("living") systematic review.*
ABSTRACT		
ABSTRACT	2	• Report an abstract addressing each item in the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.
INTRODUCTION		
RATIONALE	3	• Describe the current state of knowledge and its uncertainties. • Articulate why it is important to do the review.

Theoretical contributions

- Quality of theoretical contributions is hard to measure
- There are high-level guidelines such as Leidner and Tona's (2021) *thought-gear model for theorizing*



Research agenda

- Schryen et al. (2020) state that a research agenda "refers to elaborating on how researchers should conduct future research to achieve meaningful progress and possibly suggesting specific research designs, empirical settings, or offering strategic recommendations"
- There are almost no recommendations on how to develop a research agenda
- It may be helpful to study exemplars, which may inspire your research agenda

Table 3
An agenda for strategic IS research.

Research avenue and approach	Potential implications
Matching avenue 1: Conceptualizing and quantifying worker skills, value, and variation of supply over time – **Methods** Measure development based on NLP (Pandey and Pandey 2017), hidden Markov models (Andrea and Lorenzo 2010), time-series analyses – **Data sources** Publicly observable worker profiles and bids – **Recommended studies** Leung (2018)	**Research:** More comprehensive measures of observable worker qualities, understanding of market segmentation, and examining generalizability of research **Practice:** Price-setting informed by comparison with same-skill workers (workers), consideration of potential seasonality and pre-selection based on skills (clients)

Summary

Literature reviews can be expected to be more impactful if they

- are positioned with regard to an **appropriate review type**
- are **more transparent** in explicating their methods
- make a compelling and innovative **theoretical or empirical contribution**
- provide more comprehensive **suggestions for future research**

Exercise: Peer Review of Protocols

In pairs, discuss and refine your **literature review protocol**. Focus on the following elements and their internal coherence: **review type → methodological steps → expected contribution**.

📄 *Detailed discussion prompts are provided on the separate handout.*

🕒 Structure (2×20 minutes)

- **15 min Discussion**: Start with a brief overview of your protocol, then discuss key elements in depth
- **5 min Reflection**: Take notes on potential changes and refinements

💬 Reminder

> Be a **critical but constructive** reviewer. Maintain a positive tone and challenge methodological choice.

References

Leidner, D. E., & Tona, O. (2021). A thought-gear model of theorizing from literature. *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, 22(4), 10. doi:10.17705/1jais.00683

Paré, G., Tate, M., Johnstone, D., & Kitsiou, S. (2016). Contextualizing the twin concepts of systematicity and transparency in information systems literature reviews. *European Journal of Information Systems*, 25, 493-508. doi:10.1057/s41303-016-0020-3

Schryen, G., Wagner, G., Benlian, A., and Paré, G. 2020. "A Knowledge Development Perspective on Literature Reviews: Validation of a New Typology in the IS Field," *Communications of the Association for Information Systems*, 46 (Paper 7), 134–186. doi:10.17705/1CAIS.04607

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