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STATISTICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROFILE OF LITERATURE REVIEWS OF RESEARCH ARTICLES IN ECONOMIC STUDIES

Abstract. The study aimed to create a literature review profile of economic research articles. For this purpose, the statistical analysis was applied to a sample of 180 economic articles, indexed in international databases, and published during 1980-2015. Multiple correspondence analysis and the Chi Square test have been used to establish the association between the features of LRs and specific features of economic research articles and their authors. Our findings have been used to identify a well-shaped LR profile of economic research articles with its specific features described by six areas of study.

Keywords: articles profile, literature review analysis, association, multiple correspondence analysis, citations

JEL Classification: A12, A14, C18, C3

1. Introduction

A well-designed *Literature Review (LR)* has lately become one of the key requirements when it comes to reporting efficiently the results of previous research. Successful presentation of state of knowledge by means of a *Literature Review*

may be influenced by several factors, such as specific features of literature reviews of research articles, as well as the specific features of authors themselves.

Therefore, it is essential for authors to develop a deep understanding of challenges related to conducting an efficient and well-designed review of literature. This need is even more salient for the dissemination of research findings in the highly dynamic area of economic studies, where we can find a variety of methods used for conducting *Literature Reviews*.

As a response to the need of structuring the information included in a research article, it has been generally agreed that authors should use similar structure for delivering scientific content in a research article.

In social sciences, researchers generally adopt a structure that includes four elements: introduction, methodology, results and discussion. For this purpose, Swales (1990) suggested the use of acronym IMRAD (introduction, methodology, results and discussion) for referring to sections of a research article. This structure became dominant in Western Europe, the USA and Australia starting with the late 60s of the last century. It was accepted in 1972 in the USA as a standard for writing and presenting research papers (Wu, 2011), being highly recommended by authors as an example of good practice in any social science, irrespective of the subject of research (Day, 1989). Researchers worldwide and in Romania carrying out research in the economic area of study mostly use this structure, especially in articles published in indexed in international databases.

We observe at the end of the 60s of the last century that research articles, especially in Northern America and Europe, started to have a separate section aimed to review the literature in the field. In this sense, researchers have been constantly interested in understanding and studying this new trend of discussing theoretical framework in a separate section (Salipante, 1982; Swales, 1981; Shaw, 1995; Rowley, 2004; Torraco, 2005).

In general, a LR is an instrument that could be used to present theoretically the knowledge available in the literature in the field on any subject. In any research article, a LR may have its own well-defined place, or it may be connected to one or several sections of a research article.

Foundation of any research starts from understanding the literature in the field and practices of the researched topic. Namely, it includes knowledge relevant for the conducted research, utilised perspectives and research methods, the results reported in other studies, the context and factors of reported results. We consider that authors discuss these issues in a *LR* section specific to each field of study.

This study aims to discover the specific features of a *Literature Review* encountered in research articles in the field of economic studies in order to develop its profile.

For this purpose, the study was divided as follows: Section 2 presents the main definitions found in the literature on the concept of *Literature Review*; the third Section describes the sample and the variables, as well as the methodology used for data processing and analyses; the fourth Section presents the main findings

and discusses the main results of the study; Conclusions section outline the profile of the *LR* in the field of economic studies.

2. Literature review

Starting with the 70's, there have been numerous attempts at defining the term *Literature Review* from the perspective of various disciplines: sociology, computer science, management. In sociology, Hart (1998) defines *LR* as the use of ideas from the literature in the field to justify the application of specific approaches to the researched subject, the selection of specific research methods, and to demonstrate that the research suggests a novel approach to the researched subject. Also, Galvan (2009) formulated four goals that authors set for themselves in their *Literature Reviews*: (1) deep analysis of previous research aimed to reflect author's position towards it; (2) identification of gaps in knowledge; (3) critical positioning towards solutions identified in the literature in the field and proposal of new and alternative lines of research; (4) identification of new theoretical approaches by their critical discussion.

In computer science, Webster and Watson underline that a *critical review of literature* is both the main approach for conceptualising areas of research and an efficient method for synthesising prior research (Webster, Watson, 2002.) They introduced the term *effective review critical review* defined as a firm foundation for knowledge advancement. It facilitates theory-making, narrowing down research areas with a high number of studies, and discovering new areas where research is needed.

The prevailing view in management studies (Myers, 1995; Chalmers, 1995; Cook, 1980; Guzzo, 1987; Holmes, 1997) is that a *Literature Review* for grounding new theories or discussing future economic policies.

In each field of research, authors came up not only with their own definitions of a *LR* but also identified several types of literature reviews, mainly taking into account the way prior literature is presented.

In the field of socio-human studies, John Swales (2008) discusses four types of *Literature Reviews*: (1) *narrative* – the author selects subjectively the relevant studies and synthesises it in a coherent discussion; (2) *systematic* – the author uses a strict methodology in selecting prior studies, the criteria used for including or excluding prior literature being clearly presented, and the strict protocol for selecting the studies aiming to reduce the degree of authors' subjectivity; (3) *meta-analysis*– the author collects the results from a high number of independent studies with the same hypotheses regarding the same research questions. Data are processed and analysed using statistical methods to get a better understanding of a researched topic; (4) *focused*– the author reviews literature on a single issue, such as methodology, describing specific implications of its use – data collection, data analysis and interpretation.

3. Data and methodology

Sample. The sample of articles includes 180 economic research articles, indexed in international databases that were published between 1980 and 2015. Initially, we made a list of 61 ISI-abstracted and international databases-abstracted journals covering all geographic regions from six sub-fields of economic studies – economics, management, marketing, finance, accounting and business statistics. Then, a sample was made by including 30 research articles from each of the six studied sub-fields, resulting in a sample of 180 research articles for the field of economic studies.

Variables. For the research articles included in the sample of this case study, we have studied three groups of variables relating to the following categories of information: description of features of literature reviews, research articles and authors of research articles. The variables used in the study are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. List of variables

Variable	Categories
<i>Specific features of a Literature Review</i>	
<i>Features of a Literature Review structure</i>	(A) <i>Assessment of state of knowledge</i> (B) <i>Assessment of state of knowledge + Identification of gaps in knowledge</i> (C) <i>Assessment of state of knowledge + Identification of gaps in knowledge + Presentation of future lines of research</i> (D) <i>Assessment of state of knowledge + Identification of gaps in knowledge + Presentation of future lines of research + Advancement of new theories</i> (E) <i>Assessment of state of knowledge + Identification of gaps in knowledge + Presentation of future lines of research + Advancement of new theories + Assessment of policy implications</i>
<i>Type of Literature Review</i>	(1) <i>Narrative (LR is a narration of state of research)</i> (2) <i>Systematic (LR includes specific criteria for including or excluding specific previous research).</i>
<i>Place of Literature Review in the article</i>	(1) <i>Separate LR section (separate section entitled explicitly Literature Review containing citations and references);</i> (2) <i>Elements of LR in the entire article</i>
<i>Number of citations included in the Literature Review</i>	(1) <i>under 10; (2) 11-20 ; (3) 21-30; (4) 31-40; (5) 41-50; (6) over 50</i>
<i>Time span of references included in the Literature Review</i>	(1) 0-5 years; (2) 6-10 years; (3) 11-20 years

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Type of citation included in the <i>Literature Review</i>	(1) <i>Integral citation</i> (integral citation from another article); (2) <i>Non-integral citation</i> ; (3) <i>Paraphrase</i>
Type of evaluative verbs used in the <i>Literature Review</i>	(1) <i>Critical verbs</i> (verbs explicitly expressing the author's attitude regarding previous studies) ; (2) <i>Non-critical verbs</i> (verbs just mentioning specific studies)
Number of evaluative verbs used in the <i>Literature Review</i>	<i>Number of verbs</i> (number of evaluative verbs, both critical and non-critical, used in the <i>Literature Review</i>)
<i>Specific features of a Research Article (RA)</i>	
Research complexity	(1) <i>Unidisciplinary research</i> (belongs to a single field of study); (2) <i>Multidisciplinary research</i> (combines at least two fields of study)
Research study area	(1) <i>Economic Statistics</i> ; (2) <i>Management</i> ; (3) <i>Marketing</i> ; (4) <i>Finance</i> ; (5) <i>Accounting</i> ; (6) <i>Economics</i>
Indexation	(1) <i>ISI-indexed journal</i> ; (2) <i>IDB-indexed journal</i>
Publication period	(1)1980-1989; (2) 1990-1999; (3) 2000-2009; (4)2010 – present
<i>Specific features of authors of RAs</i>	
Author's experience	(1) <i>Novice</i> ; (2) <i>Expert</i>
Number of authors	(1) <i>Single author</i> ; (2) <i>Multiple authors</i>
First author's geographic region	(1) <i>Africa</i> ; (2) <i>North America</i> ; (3) <i>South America</i> ; (4) <i>Asia</i> ; (5) <i>Australia</i> ; (6) <i>Northern Europe</i> ; (7) <i>Western Europe</i> ; (8) <i>Central and Eastern Europe</i> ; (9) <i>Southern Europe</i>

Source: Authors' research

Methods. In order to build the profile of *LR*, the relationship between the specific features of features of a *LR* on one hand and the specific features of the research articles and of the authors, on the other side, have been studied. In this purpose, the following statistical methods have been applied: association analysis and Chi Square (χ^2) test, the correspondence analysis, the test of the difference between two means (Student test), the test of the difference among three or more means (ANOVA and Fisher test).

4. Results and discussions

4.1. The association between structure features of a *LR* and research article features

Structure features of a *LR* may differ by research complexity, research study area, journal indexation.

Table 2 shows correspondence between features of structure of a *LR* and research article features.

Compared to unidisciplinary research articles, in the multidisciplinary research articles, the *LR* section is more developed and complex with more structure features. The share of articles comprising all structure features – assessment of state of knowledge, identification of gaps in knowledge, presentation of future lines of research, advancement of new theories, assessment of policy implications - is significantly higher (20.2%) in multidisciplinary articles compared to unidisciplinary articles (6.3%).

Analysis of differences in structure features of *LRs* by type of journal indexation (ISI/IDB) has shown that articles published in ISI-indexed economic journals have more complex *LR* compared to articles published in IDB-published articles. The highest share (40%) of articles with all five structure features has been found in management. In economics, prevail articles with all structure features except the assessment of policy implications (60%), while in the literature reviews of articles in business statistics we mainly see the reviews articles the assessment of state of knowledge (66.7%).

In research articles published between 1980-1989 and 1989-1990, we mainly find the assessment of state of knowledge. The content of a *Literature Review* has become more complex, and starting with 2010, there is a higher share comprising all 5 structure features.

The factorial map of correspondence analysis between the structure features of a literature review and the study area of the journal (Figure 1a) shows that research articles in management have a higher share of more complex literature reviews sections containing all five structure features compared to other five study areas (E).

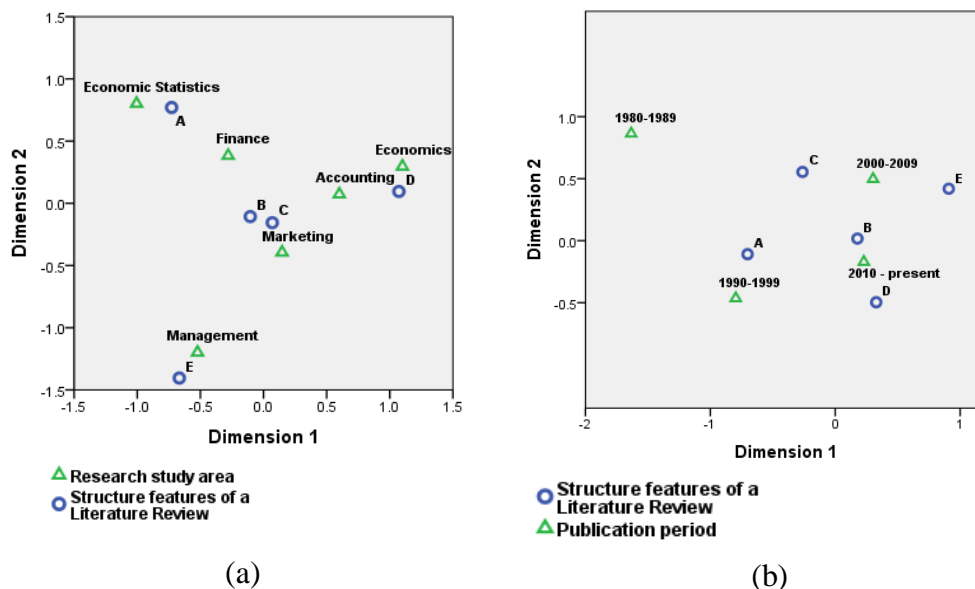


Figure 1. The result of associations between structure features of a *LR* and research article features

It could also note closer associations on the factorial map of correspondence between journals published up to 2000 and a *LR* comprising just the assessment of state of knowledge, more recent research articles having a more developed *LR* sections (Figure 1b).

The type of *LR* (narrative and systematic) varies by research complexity (unidisciplinary and multidisciplinary), journal indexation (ISI or IDB) and area of study. The place of *LR* in the article (separate *LR* or elements of *LR* in the entire article) differs in terms of research complexity and area of study. In unidisciplinary research articles, narrative *LR* (81.3%) prevails, the share of *systematic LRs* being higher in multidisciplinary articles. In economics, the share of narrative *LRs* compared to systematic *LRs* significantly higher in both ISI and IDB-indexed articles. In all six study areas, we observe a higher share of narrative *LRs*, with a higher share of systematic reviews (over a third) in management, marketing and accounting.

Considering the period of publication, we note that narrative *LRs* are more common in articles published up to 2000, while after that there appeared more articles comprising systematic reviews of literature. Although, there could be observed overall a predilection for reviewing prior literature in the entire body of the article, our findings show that articles reporting multidisciplinary research have a higher share of articles with a separate *LR* section compared to unidisciplinary research articles. The inclusion into a research article of a separate *LR* section does not vary by journal indexation. We also found that business statistics articles mainly discuss prior research in a separate section, which was not seen in all other five study areas.

Additionally, the share of articles with a separate section for *LR* after 1990 and up to 2010 is much higher than in the previous period. Still, we are not able to identify a significant association between the period of article publication and the type or place of Literature *Review*.

So, it could be easily noted in Table 2 significant values of χ^2 independence test for the association between the number of citations included in the *LR* and such features of published research as research complexity, area of study covered by the journal and the year of article publication.

In case of multidisciplinary research, there is a higher share of *LRs* with a high number of citations. The number of *LRs* with more than 50 citations is twice in multidisciplinary compared to unidisciplinary studies. The number of references mentioned in the *LR* does not differ by the type of journal indexation.

As for the area of study, there are statistically significant differences by the number of citations in the *LRs*. In finance, economics and business statistics, research articles with a relatively low number of citations in their *LRs* are prevailing. Instead, a third of management research articles (33.3%) have over 50 citations in their *LRs*. In accounting, we found a more balanced distribution of research articles by number of citations, 16.7% of the articles having a *LR* with over 50 citations.

Research articles published after 2000 have a higher share of *LRs* with over 50 citations compared to articles published before that period. Also, we could observe a cumulated share of 22.8% of research articles with *LRs* with 41 citations and over, and a share of 18% of research articles in the same category after 2010.

We observe that the time span of references included in literature reviews varies by research complexity, journal indexation and the year of article publication. The share of research articles with a longer time span of references (11-20 years) is higher in multidisciplinary than in unidisciplinary studies. Also, the research articles published in ISI-indexed journals cover a longer time span of references (11-20 years) than the articles published in journals indexed in international databases.

For areas of study, no statistically significant differences were found by time span of references included in *LRs*. Still, the authors in finance opt in higher share for a time span of references covering 0-5 years. In management, we found the highest share of articles with a time span of references (11-20 years) in their literature reviews.

The research articles published after 2000 have a higher share of references covering a longer time span (11-20 years). It was found that higher share of unidisciplinary studies use paraphrase in their *LRs* compared to multidisciplinary studies. The association of paraphrased citations in *LRs* and research complexity is statistically significant, with risk of 5%.

The share of use of integral and non-integral citations is higher than in research articles published in journals indexed in international databases, while the share of paraphrase in ISI-indexed articles is higher than in IDB articles. 23.6% of IDB articles include integral citations in their *LRs*, while only 10.2% ISI-indexed articles comprise integral citations in *LRs*. Over 90% of research articles included in the analysed sample have paraphrase in their *LRs* (93.1% of IDB-indexed articles and 94.4% of ISI-indexed articles, respectively).

Paraphrased citations prevail in research articles in all areas of study (80% in business statistics, 83.3% in management and 100% in other study areas). Also, it should be noted that a third of articles in economics (26.7%) and a third in management (33.3%) and accounting (30%) use integral citations in their literature reviews.

In addition, starting with the 80s, paraphrase citations in the *LR* sections have been widely used in articles in the economic area of study.

There are statistically significant associations between evaluative verbs (critical and non-critical) used in *LRs* and such research features as complexity of research and area of study of the journal. Also, statistically significant differences were found between the average number of evaluative of verbs in articles defined by kind of research, area of study and publication period.

4.2. The association between LR features and author features

Structure features of a *Literature Review* vary significantly by author experience and author's geographic regions as it has resulted from the association analysis presented in Table 2.

The share of research articles with a more complex *LR* (with several structure features) is much higher in case of novices compared to experienced authors. It has been found that 21.8% of novice authors made literature reviews comprising all five structure features (assessment of state of knowledge, identification of gaps in knowledge, presentation of future lines of research, advancement of new theories, assessment of policy implications), while only 4,3% of experts used all five structure features in their reviews.

Furthermore, articles with multiple authors have a higher share of all five features in literature reviews (17.4% of multiple authors and 3.4% of single authors), single author articles comprising less features. Still, the results of testing do not show any significant differences in structure features of literature reviews by number of authors of research article.

As for geographic region of authors, we observe a higher share of articles with literature reviews comprising all five features in case of authors from North Europe, Western and Southern Europe. Instead, the share of research articles with less complex reviews is lower in articles written by authors from Eastern and Central Europe.

Type (narrative or systematic) and place of *LR* in a research article depend on the first author experience. Also, the type of *LR* differs by first author's region. We should note that the share of novices (40.2%) using systematic literature reviews is higher than the share of experts (22.6%), while the share of experts (71.4%) using narrative reviews is higher than the share of novices (59.8%). It could be explained by the fact that in case of narrative reviews, the selection of prior literature is done subjectively by the author, while systematic reviewing of literature requires explicit mentioning of criteria for inclusion or exclusion of specific articles, which ensures higher objectivity, but could be more difficult to be done by novice authors.

For expert authors, we note a much higher share of articles comprising a *LR* in the entire body of the article (71.0%) compared to the share of articles with a separate *Literature Review* section (29%). It could be explained by the fact that expert authors tend to refer to prior research not only in the *Literature Review* sections of the article but also in its entire body as they have a deeper understanding of their field of study.

Although overall in the sample of research articles, we found a higher share of narrative literature reviews, there are significant differences by geographic regions. The share of articles comprising a systematic literature review belonged to authors from Africa (100%), South America (50%), Northern Europe (44.4%), Northern America (35.7%) and Australia (37.5%) compared to authors from other

regions. (Figure 2a). It could be due to the fact that these regions belong to Anglo-Saxon research space, where there is a long standing tradition of presenting prior literature more critically and objectively.

The χ^2 test of association shows that author experience and the number of authors of a research article in the economic area of study have a statistically significant influence on the number of citations included in a *Literature Review*.

In case of novice authors, literature reviews citing a high number of prior studies are predominant, while experts include fewer citations in their reviews. The share of articles written by novices and comprising reviews with over 50 citations amounts to 16.1%, and only 7.5% in the case of experts. This difference is due to the fact that novice authors express their opinions with a lower intensity in the *LR* and tend to present more the views of other authors. Instead, experts tend to systematize the literature in the field and present their own stance towards it, focusing also on points of convergence or divergence found in prior studies.

Also, in case of multiple author articles, the literature reviews with a high number of citations are prevailing, compared to single author articles. The share of multiple author articles comprising over 40 citations in the *LR* (17.3%) is higher than the share of single author articles with over 40 citations (15.3%).

We also may note that the period covered by the *LR* differs significantly by author features of research articles (author's experience, number of authors and first author geographic region). The share of novice writers citing older studies is higher while experts cite more recent research. Therefore, the share of articles written by novices citing research published in the last 11-20 years is 73.6% and by experts is only 39.8%. Instead, the share of articles citing more recent studies (published in the last 5 years) in the *LR* is higher in case of expert authors (22.6%) than in novices (3.4%).

In multiple author articles the time span of cited articles is longer, single author articles citing more recent studies. The share of articles with a longer time span (11-20 years) is 62.8% for multiple author articles, and only 42.4% for single author articles. Instead, the share of articles citing articles published in the last five years amounts to 23.7% in case of single author articles and only to 8.3% for multiple author articles.

In terms of geographic regions, we note that articles written by authors from Central and Eastern Europe make reference to more recent articles, the articles of authors from Western Europe, Southern Europe, Asia and Australia covering a longer time span in their references (Figure 2b). So, we could see on the factorial map of correspondence analysis an association between the Central and Eastern European region and the time span of 0-5 years. Also, Southern America and Northern Europe are associated with a time span of references of 11-20 years.

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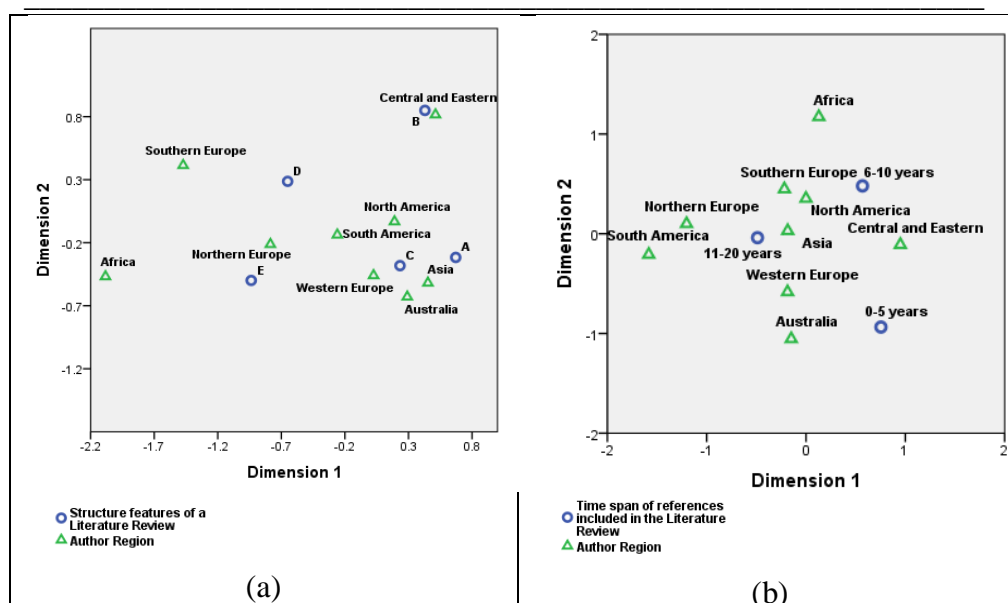


Figure 2. Results of association between features of *LR* and the time span of references included in the *Literature Review* and the geographic region of authors

The study results show that the type of citation used in the *LR* by the authors in the economic area of study is significantly associated with the first author experience. Paraphrase citations are used more by expert writers (97.8%) than by novices (89.7%). It could be due to difficulties encountered by novices in paraphrasing and synthesising prior research in a concise manner. Use of paraphrase, integral or non-integral citations in the *LR* does not depend significantly by the number of authors or by the geographic region of the first author.

Our findings show that the type of citation used in the *Literature Review* by the authors of research articles in the economic area of study is closely associated only by experience of the first author. The share of paraphrase is higher in the *Literature Review* of research articles of experts (97.8%) compared to novices (89.7%). It could be due to difficulties encountered by novices to paraphrase and make the synthesis of prior research succinctly. The use of paraphrase, integral and non-integral citations in literature reviews does not statistically significantly depend on the number of authors or geographic region of the first author.

The use of evaluative verbs used in the *LR* differs statistically significantly by experience of authors of articles in the economic area of study. The share of articles comprising critical evaluative verbs in total articles of novices amounts to 63.2%, and in articles of experts only to 8.6%.

5. Conclusions

Our findings for the sample of 180 research articles from the six areas of study (economics, management, marketing, finance, accounting and business statistics) enable us to shape a profile of the *Literature Review* for the economic area of study.

Using the findings of the statistical analyses, a set of *Literature Review* features has been identified. The *Literature Review* used in the economic area of study is mainly narrative and aims whether simply to assess the state of knowledge, or to assess the state of knowledge, identify gaps in knowledge, present future lines of research, advance new theories, and assess policy implications.

Researchers in this field prefer to review prior literature in the entire body of the article and not in a separate *Literature Review* section. The number of citations included in the *Literature Review* is generally over 20 and the time span covered by references ranges between 11-20 years. In their literature reviews, authors generally use evaluative non-critical verbs, *i.e.* they do not explicitly express their critical stance towards prior studies.

Also, we have identified several features of literature reviews by area of economic studies.

In economics, literature reviews of most articles aim to assess the state of knowledge, identify gaps in knowledge, present future lines of research, and advance new theories. Still, these articles rarely use reviews for assessing policy implications. We found that over two-thirds of articles in economics use a narrative literature review. Another significant feature of these articles is that references to prior studies appear in the entire body of the article and not just in the *Literature Review* section. Also, the time span of references covers longer periods of time, between 11-20 years. Paraphrased citations are used in most of the articles, while rarely integral and non-integral citations could be found. Finally, these literature reviews have the highest share of critical evaluative verbs compared to other areas of study.

In management, the literature reviews with all five structure features: assessment of state of knowledge, identification of gaps in knowledge, presentation of future lines of research, advancement of new theories, assessment of policy implications is prevalent. There is also a high share of systematic *LRs* in comparison to all other areas of study, and a higher of reviews with more than 50 citations. As for the time span covered by references, it falls into the category of 11-20 years. Also, fewer articles use paraphrased citations compared to other areas of study. Last, management researchers tend to use a high number of evaluative critical verbs although the share of articles with critical and non-critical evaluative verbs is almost equal.

In marketing, the literature reviews are quite complex aiming to assess the state of knowledge, identify gaps in knowledge, present future lines of research, and advance new theories. The share of systematic *LRs* is higher than in other areas of study, although narrative reviews are also quite common. Most reviews make references to other studies in the entire body of the article. They make reference to

prior studies in the time span over five years. It is interesting that marketing researchers use non-integral citations although prevalent are paraphrased citations. As for evaluative verbs, we encounter mostly non-critical verbs.

Literature reviews in accounting research articles are complex and aim to assess the state of knowledge, identify gaps in knowledge, present future lines of research, and advance new theories. Here, the share of narrative and systematic reviews is equal. References to prior studies could be found throughout the body of the article. Researchers mostly have around 20 citations, although the share of articles with more than 50 citations is higher than in other areas of study. The time span of references goes beyond 6 years. Paraphrases in literature review are most common; still we can also find integral and non-integral citations. Finally, the number of evaluative verbs is higher than in the literature reviews of economic and financial articles.

Quite surprisingly, we found a less complex *LR* in financial articles comprising mostly assessment of state of knowledge, identification of gaps in knowledge. Also, only narrative reviews can be encountered in these studies. References to prior literature appear in the entire body of the article, usually with up to 20 citations and a time span of over 6 years. Mostly paraphrased citations are used in reviews, the researchers giving preference to non-critical evaluative verbs.

The reviews of business statistics articles mostly aim to assess state of knowledge. It was found that two-thirds of articles contain narrative reviewing of prior studies in a separate literature review section. Also, the researchers mostly have 20 citations. These articles we encounter a lower share of reviews with paraphrased citations compared to other areas of study. But, article authors tend to utilise more critical evaluative verbs.

In our study, we noted that, lately, systematic reviews have been introduced into marketing and management studies, so a future research could investigate the way systematic reviews are implemented in these areas compared to other economic studies where systemic reviews have become almost a rule. In terms of population, a larger sample may be extracted comprising several emerging sub-fields. Also, other interdisciplinary sub-areas of study could be included.

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Table 2. Results of testing the relationship between the specific features of a *Literature Review* and the specific features of a research article (*RA*) and of the authors of *RAs*

	<i>Specific features of a Literature Review</i>									
	Features of a <i>LR</i> structure	Number of citations included in the <i>LR</i>	Type of <i>LR</i>	Place of <i>LR</i> in the article	Time span of references	Integral citation	Non-integral citation	Paraphrase	Type of evaluative verbs	No. of evaluative verbs
	<i>Chi Square Test</i>									
	<i>Student / Fisher Test</i>									
<i>Specific features of a RA</i>										
Research complexity	15.938**	18.631**	14.855***	6.484*	10.258**	0.732	1.974	6.158*	7.285**	-2.801**
Indexation	4.191	9.023	4.541*	3.108	6.152*	5.805*	3.887*	0.143	2.793	1.005
Research study area	85.057***	82.576***	29.408***	16.071**	16.864	37.19***	34.986***	25.747***	43.050***	6.074***
Publication period	23.895*	9.399**	2.598	5.893	24.038**	3.823	7.774	1.619	1.707	3.607*
<i>Specific features of authors of RAs</i>										
Author's experience	29.730***	20.567**	6.577*	4.848*	26.436***	3.409	0.018	5.619*	64.08***	3.323**
Number of authors	7.84	22.634***	2.295	1.455	9.990**	0.128	0.000	1.248	0.787	-0.673
First author's geographic region	49.274*	46.369	18.574	6.758	26.981*	13.536	15.413	5.296	15.406	1.437

Source: Results obtained with SPSS 22.0

Note: * Sig. < 0.05 ** Sig. < 0.01 *** Sig. < 0.001