**Use of a synthesis matrix to organise your information from sources into themes**

Effective literature reviews are often organized by themes.

A synthesis matrix organizes the key sources you identify in your literature search by themes.

Once you have identified the major themes for your dissertation, you may wish to organize your sources as shown in the table below to demonstrate how the findings of each of your sources relate to the major themes that you have identified and to help you synthesise this information in your review of literature.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Source 1** | **Source 2** | **Source 3** | **Source 4** | **Source 5** |
| **Theme 1** (chapter 2) | Main points or arguments made by author(s). |  |  |  |  |
| **Theme 2**  (Chapter 3) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Theme 3**  Chapter 4) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Theme 4**  (Chapter 5) |  |  |  |  |  |