

### Example for table with LR structure

The purpose of this exercise is to make sure you know what you look for before you start reading. There is just too much literature out there, and it is easy to get lost without a plan. Obviously, this is an example that has little to do with an actual MA thesis, but I have chosen it because I suppose you can all identify yourself with that question. In principle, this is exactly what you are supposed to do with your research, too.

The form of a table is meant to help you to be more systematic. This table will then have to be turned into regular text in your MA thesis, but you should actually keep its basic structure in the form of sub-headings in your LR section.

*Title of thesis:* Selection of smartphone

*RQ:* Which of two smartphone models (iPhone 13 and Samsung Z Flip 3) shall I purchase?

Issue	Explanation
Definitions	[RF: For this example, this might not matter too much, since the two models in question have been precisely mentioned in the RQ already. For many topics, however, starting with a clarification of what you are actually talking about will be helpful. After introducing and discussing a number of definitions, don't forget to tell the reader which one you will use.]
Features	[RF: This will be very extensive, I suppose. Before looking at the single criteria, it is necessary to find them first.] Smartphone tests in CHIP list the following criteria: xxx. Smartphone tests in "Computer Bild" list these criteria: yyy. The manufacturers in their brochures provide information on these criteria: zzz. Taking all these together, we see that 90% of the criteria are same or similar. These 10% are different; their presence is explained by aaa. [RF: Again, don't forget to conclude by stating which criteria seem to be the most relevance according to the literature. This will then be repeated and explained in some detail in the AF]
Price	My budget is limited; knowing the budget and the price is thus important to decide whether this product can be considered further or not. I will check the literature for prices of the item, and for the expectable budget size and how much of it I should spend on a smartphone. Various possible factors for making such a decision will be discussed.
Battery	The literature will be searched for ways to measure battery quality. Which factors matter? What kind of information do I need to acquire to make an informed decision? [RF: This can be quantity of mAh, but also safety issues, heating up, size, weight, environmental friendliness etc. You cannot know these issues at this point, they are what you will find during the LR]
Screen	The literature will be searched for ways to measure screen quality. Which factors matter? What kind of information do I need to acquire to make an informed decision? [RF: Same here; you are not expected to know this before starting the LR, but just to illustrate what you will need to find: screen size, number of pixels/resolution, quality of colors, how much energy the screen consumes, does it crack easily etc.]
Camera	The literature will be searched for ways to measure camera quality. Which factors matter? What kind of information do I need to acquire to make an informed decision? [RF: Same here again. After the LR is done, you will have found that these issues matter, and how you can measure them: How many cameras; resolution; image quality during daytime and nighttime etc.]
Image of product	The literature will be searched for ways to measure the public image of the product. Which factors matter? What kind of information do I need to acquire to make an informed decision? [RF: In this case, you will come across sales numbers, reviews, influencers, surveys etc.]
Other features	This is something that will happen a lot, since by definition you don't know everything about the topic. So, finding out which criteria matter will be part of almost every LR. You will read customer reviews, but also manufacturer announcements to find which features these smartphones have. You will find many that are the same (they both have batteries, cameras, screens) but also some that are different: the operating system for example, and whether it can be folded or not).
Ranking of criteria	This is tricky. You will have to search the literature for ways how these criteria are quantified and ranked. You might very well find out that doing so is not very sensible; does camera quality matter 10% or 50%? But you might also find that the literature suggests using a case-by-case approach and a definition of values and/or ranking according to individual preferences, which means that you can, based on this, define your own values.