

		Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems Issue 12, Vol. 8, 2025	
		Title of research article 	
		The Role of Previous Studies in Enhancing the Quality, Validity, and Success of Contemporary Scientific Research: A Methodological and Analytical Perspective	
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Issue web link		https://imcra-az.org/archive/387-science-education-and-innovations-in-the-context-of-modern-problems-issue-12-vol-8-2025.html	
Keywords		Previous studies; literature review; methodological framework; scientific validity; research design; academic referencing; knowledge accumulation; critical synthesis	
Abstract The effective integration of previous studies represents a cornerstone of rigorous scientific research. It forms the foundation upon which new knowledge is built, ensuring coherence, validity, and theoretical consistency across academic disciplines. This paper examines the multifaceted impact of previous studies on the success of contemporary research by exploring their methodological, analytical, and epistemological functions. It emphasizes that the literature review is not a mere compilation of sources but a dynamic intellectual process that situates new inquiries within established knowledge systems. By analyzing the conceptual framework and functional significance of previous studies, this research highlights how they guide scholars in identifying research gaps, formulating hypotheses, and selecting appropriate methodologies. Moreover, it discusses the ethical and academic responsibilities associated with using prior scholarship, emphasizing citation integrity, avoidance of plagiarism, and critical evaluation of existing works. Through qualitative and descriptive approaches, this study concludes that well-structured engagement with previous studies enhances both the credibility and innovation potential of scientific research, contributing to cumulative knowledge and scholarly advancement.			
Citation. Mourad A. (2025). The Role of Previous Studies in Enhancing the Quality, Validity, and Success of Contemporary Scientific Research: A Methodological and Analytical Perspective. <i>Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems</i> , 8(12), 630–641. https://doi.org/10.56334/sei/8.12.51			
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Received: 10.04.2025		Accepted: 07.09.2025	
		Published: 24.10.2025 (available online)	

1. Introduction:

Previous studies are of the utmost importance in contemporary research as they provide the correct path for researchers to follow from the outset. This ensures that they reach a safe harbour and build their studies on clear and accurate foundations. One of the main steps in preparing scientific research is reviewing previous studies directly related to the research topic. This enables researchers to benefit from the experiences and efforts of others. This leads us to ask the essential question: What role do previous studies play in the success of scientific

research? Consequently, we will address the following sub-questions: What is the concept of previous studies? What is their importance and what benefits do they offer? What conditions and methods should be employed to maximise their utility in scientific research? The objectives of this study will address these questions.

2. Conceptual framework:

Previous studies are one of the most crucial components of scientific research. A scientific study cannot be considered complete or correct without a section on previous studies. This is because the previous studies section is a vital component of research. Accordingly, this section will discuss two requirements: the first will address the concept of previous studies, while the second will highlight the benefits of previous studies in scientific research.

2.1 The concept of previous studies:

Previous studies are an essential part of any scientific research. They encompass all studies and theses that have addressed the current research topic or its aspects before the researcher conducts their own study. Reviewing previous studies is an important step in understanding the scientific context of the research and identifying knowledge gaps that the current study aims to address. In this section, therefore, we will discuss the linguistic and terminological definitions of previous studies, as well as their importance and the criteria for selecting them.

2.2.1 Definition of Previous Studies:

First: linguistic definition: previous studies refer to research or written works that have addressed the current research topic. Researchers refer to these in order to understand what has been accomplished in their field of study previously. The term 'studies' is derived from the verb 'to study', meaning to examine closely, while 'previous' refers to what has occurred or existed earlier in time¹.

Secondly: previous studies refer to studies that have been written before and contain information or knowledge related to the research problem. The purpose of documenting and analysing these studies is to avoid repetition and provide researchers with the opportunity to design their research more effectively².

Thus, previous studies have examined similar dependent and independent variables to those in the current study. However, there are justifications for re-examining the same problem, such as if five years have passed since it was last studied or if new tests or circumstances have arisen that necessitate a new investigation. Additionally, differences in the sample or contextual conditions may warrant revisiting the problem, provided there is justification for doing so. Therefore, previous studies constitute a body of research addressing the topic under investigation.

Moreover, previous studies play a significant role in providing researchers with a general overview of their research and its developmental stages. They enrich scientific research, making its sources diverse and varied. Given their substantial role, previous studies are defined as books or works that have addressed the topic of scientific research or one of its important aspects. The goal of reviewing them is to obtain information and data to enhance the content of the research, while also arriving at new findings that previous researchers have not reached and critiquing those studies if they contain weaknesses. Additionally, similar studies should focus on comparable independent and dependent variables, share many objectives and be similar in terms of whether they are experimental, descriptive or historical, as well as in terms of the instruments used and the purposes served³.

2.2.2 The importance of previous studies:

Previous studies are significant because they help researchers avoid mistakes that others have encountered. By reviewing these studies, researchers can identify the challenges that others have faced and thus be better equipped to avoid them.

Previous studies help researchers to understand ideas that have already been explored, enabling them to exclude these topics and focus on innovative ideas that have not yet been studied. Previous studies also provide insight into the methodologies employed by researchers when formulating research questions. This equips researchers with the necessary experience to shape their own research questions effectively.

Previous studies answer several questions that students may have, thereby saving time and effort. They simplify the research process by providing a broad foundation and ensuring researchers are sufficiently informed about their own research. Furthermore, previous studies provide new researchers with a solid foundation, making it easier for them to continue their studies⁴.

Moreover, the importance of previous studies is evident in the information they reveal that is similar to that used by the researcher in their own study, and in the clarification they provide of the appropriate methodology to follow. They also reveal information sources that the researcher was previously unaware of and introduce them to the work of individuals whose contributions they were not previously familiar with. Additionally, previous studies enable researchers to compare their work with the efforts of others, thereby enhancing their confidence in their chosen research⁵.

3.2.2 Criteria for selecting previous studies:

The criteria for selecting previous studies are varied and numerous. One of the most significant criteria is that researchers should base their studies on original primary sources rather than secondary sources.

They must obtain previous studies related to their research from reputable, peer-reviewed journals and reliable scientific sources.

They should possess the ability and skill to select studies that are relevant to their research, as reviewing unrelated sources would be a waste of time and effort.

The manner in which previous studies are presented is one of the most critical criteria to which researchers must adhere. They should aim to present them in correct language and an engaging style that encourages readers to engage with the scientific research⁶.

4.2.2 Reasons for Writing Previous Studies:

The reasons for conducting previous studies are varied and numerous, and researchers should be aware of them. One of the most significant reasons is that previous studies provide general information and an overview of the study topic, enabling researchers to avoid potential mistakes⁷.

Previous studies also facilitate the process of selecting a theoretical framework, saving researchers time and effort by offering ready-made, validated information on the topic being studied. Additionally, previous studies alert researchers to errors encountered by others, enabling them to avoid similar pitfalls.

Previous studies also play an important role in exposing researchers to recommendations made by other scholars, enabling them to address and discuss these.

Furthermore, previous studies provide a wealth of sources and references related to the researcher's own work.

They also enable researchers to draw comparisons between their work and other studies, helping them to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their own research.

Previous studies enable researchers to review the methodologies employed by prior researchers, helping them to determine the approach that best suits their own research⁸.

2.2 Benefits of Previous Studies in Scientific Research:

When conducting any scientific research, researchers require preliminary exploratory reading and extensive review of various books in their field of specialisation. This exploratory reading occurs in two phases. The first phase takes place before the research problem is defined and formulated, in order to establish the research trajectory. The second phase involves understanding trends in results, particularly those related to hypotheses, in order to compare them with current research findings. This section will therefore discuss the key benefits of understanding previous studies in scientific research, which are outlined as follows:

1.2.2 Enrichment of scientific research:

Enriching scientific research is one of the fundamental pillars of developing knowledge and contributing to academic literature. It deepens understanding and broadens research horizons. Relying on reliable and highly credible sources is crucial to ensuring the quality of the scientific material⁹.

2.2.2 Avoiding unproductive repetition:

One benefit of previous studies is that they summarise what has already been detailed, without delving into topics that have been extensively covered by others. This allows new ideas to be established. Additionally, previous studies prevent researchers from wasting time and effort on topics that have already been sufficiently explored¹⁰.

3.2.2 Previous studies reflect the researcher's effort:

Previous studies are important because they demonstrate the researcher's diligence, research and exploration, thus contributing to their academic qualifications. Many thesis evaluators place significant importance on this aspect, assessing the quality of the thesis based on the inclusion of previous studies. The more a researcher reads and explores, the better equipped they become to develop new concepts and frameworks. Previous studies serve as foundational infrastructure for research as most scientific enquiries are interconnected. They act as a torch passed on by researchers, enabling them to continue the journey and reach new territories¹¹.

In addition to the previously mentioned benefits, there are other advantages that can be noted briefly:

- Identification of resolved and unresolved issues: Previous studies enable researchers to understand which problems have been solved before and which still require further investigation.
- Assessment of problem treatment level: They clarify for the researcher the extent to which the problem they are studying has been addressed, helping them avoid the unnecessary continuation of their research by showing whether it has been resolved completely or partially.
- Awareness of new methods and approaches: Previous studies help researchers discover new methods and techniques for addressing their research problem.
- Access to modern and diverse sources: They enable researchers to identify recent and varied sources, as well as appropriate statistical methods related to their research.
- Avoidance of previous mistakes: Researchers can avoid repeating past errors and learn from them.
- Generation of new ideas: Previous studies can inspire researchers to develop new ideas for addressing their research problem.
- Analysis and discussion of results: They help researchers analyse and discuss their findings in light of previous studies' results, which may either align with or contradict their own¹².

3. Preparing and Presenting Previous Studies in Scientific Research:

The information presented by the researcher through a review of previous studies is of the utmost importance. Previous studies are therefore considered crucial components of scientific research and must be presented correctly to achieve the intended purpose. In this section, we will therefore discuss two important elements: the preparation and presentation of previous studies in scientific research.

1.3 Preparing Previous Studies in Scientific Research:

Preparing previous studies is fundamental to scientific research as it provides a comprehensive review of the most significant studies that have addressed the current research topic. The importance of preparation lies in gathering reliable sources such as academic books, peer-reviewed journals and scholarly theses. In this section, we will address the methods of presenting previous studies, their placement in scientific research, how many previous or similar studies should be included, and the essential information that should be highlighted. We will summarise these points as follows:

1.1.3 Methods of presenting previous studies:

Previous studies in scientific research can be presented in various ways, each with its own advantages and disadvantages. Researchers should write about previous studies using one of these methods. Below, we will outline the methods through which previous studies can be presented and written.

First: Chronological method:

The chronological method is the first method used for presenting previous studies. In this method, the publication years are mentioned in order from oldest to most recent. However, when using this method, the researcher should also highlight the stages of development that the topic has undergone¹³.

Second: Thematic Method:

The second method for presenting previous studies is the thematic method. In this case, the researcher identifies the topics to be studied, collects them and classifies them before beginning the analysis¹⁴.

Third: the general concepts method:

The third method is the general concepts method, in which the researcher uses conceptual maps to present previous studies. These concepts are displayed through a hierarchical tree structure¹⁵.

Fourth: the comparative method:

The fourth method for presenting previous studies is the comparative method, in which the researcher compares their study with others to identify similarities and differences¹⁶.

Fifth: Methodological classification:

Classification is important in scientific research because it helps us to recognise the main types of scientific inquiry. There are many types of scientific research that researchers in various disciplines and fields can utilise, each with their own characteristics, advantages and applications¹⁷. Classification is an important process that organises and categorises available information and sources.

It is used to group similar topics and concepts together according to their common features, facilitating access to relevant information and contributing to an understanding of the relationships between different concepts¹⁸. Classification is widely used in scientific research across various fields, including in libraries, scientific databases, journals, academic conferences and bibliographies. Recognised classification systems are applied to categorise articles, books, research and other sources according to their main and sub-classifications¹⁹.

Sixth: Annotated Bibliography Method:

The annotated bibliography method is a traditional way of presenting previous studies. In this method, the researcher lists the title of the study, provides a brief summary and comments on the study, mentioning its findings. However, this method has the drawback of failing to highlight the similarities and differences between studies, and does not showcase researchers' personal opinions. It also does not classify researchers or help researchers to bridge gaps in the research²⁰.

2.3.3 Placement of Previous Studies in Scientific Research:

Scientific research begins with the title, followed by the introduction, the research's significance, its objectives, the research problem and the research question or hypotheses. Next come the chapters and sections, followed by previous studies, the results and recommendations, and finally the conclusion and references.

From the above, it is clear that previous studies in scientific research represent the second part of the content, after the chapters and sections. Alternatively, they may be placed in a separate section if they are not included as a subordinate part. Summarising previous studies within the theoretical framework of scientific research has several specific criteria.

The process should include an introduction to the studies, their significance and their relationship to the theoretical framework of the research.

The researcher should mention the strengths and weaknesses of the previous studies in their summary.

When summarising previous studies within the theoretical framework, the sample size used in those studies should be mentioned in the research procedures.

The methodologies followed by researchers in conducting their previous studies should be noted, as well as the suitability of the methodologies for the studies.

The findings and recommendations of the previous studies should be mentioned.

The summary should indicate what will be added to previous studies within the limits of the theoretical framework of the current research.

Finally, the role and importance of these previous studies in complementing the current research should be acknowledged²¹.

3.3.3 Number of Previous, Similar or Related Studies:

It is not difficult to determine the number of previous studies to be considered if the researcher has a good scientific and research perspective. However, not everything that is directly or indirectly related to previous studies should be included, as this could compromise quality.

Therefore, only high-quality studies that are highly relevant and precisely connected to the research problem should be relied upon. For example, when using a method such as sports training (e.g. circuit training to improve fitness), it is preferable to select previous studies related to the same method. If many studies have been conducted on youth, advanced athletes and students from various middle and high school levels, and the researcher wants to conduct a study on primary school students using the same method, then it is preferable to select previous studies related to middle school students due to the closer age range. This is also better than selecting studies on young and advanced athletes, who represent higher performance levels. Thus, we can effectively ensure the quality and relevance of the previous studies²².

Some researchers may mistakenly believe that the value of their research is indicated by a large number of previous studies. However, this theory is flawed because many new and significant studies may not have been addressed previously, and earlier studies on them are rare²³.

4.3.3 Essential information to highlight when presenting previous studies:

The process of writing up previous studies is of great importance in the research plan due to the value of the information provided. A comprehensive presentation of previous studies requires essential information for each study. In this context, we outline the following points:

The first piece of information to include about previous studies is the full title of the study, which must match the original study exactly.

- Information about the nature of the methodology used in the previous studies must be included, along with commentary on its appropriateness in relation to your research plan.

You should write about the ways in which previous studies relate to your current study, clarifying information regarding effects, results and causes that influence both studies.

Including information about previous studies in your research plan informs the reader that 'this study had excellent references and was of interest to several researchers besides myself', thereby gaining the reader's trust and interest in your study.

The information from previous studies in the research plan emphasises their significance and ensures that the objectives are within a reasonable scope for implementation.

- The comparative information you include when discussing previous studies stimulates thought and encourages indirect engagement from readers.

Writing about previous studies in the research plan provides complementary information to the content of those studies. In other words, readers who have reviewed the previous studies may wish to delve deeper and seek out studies that expand upon the topics covered.

Accordingly, these parts can be detailed as follows:

- **Researcher's name and year of publication:** when summarising previous studies, the researcher must mention the name of the researcher for each referenced study, as well as the year of publication.

- **Writing the title of the study:** Next, the researcher should write the title of the study to which they are referring, ensuring that it is clear.

- **Main objective of the study:** every piece of scientific research has objectives that the researcher aims to achieve. Therefore, the researcher must identify the main objective of each referenced study. This can only be done after the researcher has thoroughly reviewed the previous study.

- **Methodology of the study:** Each piece of scientific research follows a specific methodology. Thus, the researcher should mention the methodologies employed by the researchers in the referenced studies.

- **Population and sample of the study:** Each previous study has a defined population and sample. The researcher should therefore describe the characteristics of the population in each previous study and explain how the sample was selected from that population.

Results of previous studies: The researcher should then discuss the results of the previous studies and compare them with their own study's results.

Finally, the researcher should present the recommendations found in the referenced previous studies.

Thus, we can see that writing about previous studies requires researchers to follow a series of steps in order to compile them successfully.

2.3 Presenting Previous Studies in Scientific Research:

Presenting previous studies in scientific research involves reviewing research that has addressed the same or a similar topic, with a focus on the importance of these studies in improving our understanding of the subject and enhancing current research. The presentation involves analysing, evaluating and commenting on the studies. In this section, we will discuss how to extract the results of previous studies and how to benefit from them. Finally, we will address how to collect previous studies.

2.3.1 How to Extract Results from Previous Studies:

As this process is linked to the overall structural framework of previous studies, extracting results from them does not have a specific definition. There is no designated process for obtaining these embedded results. Since the results are embedded, the process involves identifying them within the informational framework of all previous studies. This process can be executed as follows:

1. **Segment the previous studies:** divide the previous studies in your research plan, treating each study individually.
2. **Analyse the results of one study** by sorting and categorising information regarding the title, author and abstract.

3. Document the results by recording the relationships linking each previous study in your research plan to the others and to your own current study.
4. Provide personal commentary on the results of previous studies to represent your perspective on these studies.
5. Relate to research topic: The previous studies are connected to the topic of your research plan, so make an effort to extract results from them in a way that addresses various aspects of your research topic.
6. Highlight important results: The significant results documented at the end of each of these previous studies should be mentioned in your current study²⁴.

2.2.3 How to benefit from the results of previous studies:

First: Each previous study will contain a specific list of results reached by its author. This list of results is valuable for you because you may need it to support the results of your own study, allowing you to integrate it with the results list in your research plan²⁵.

Secondly, the results of previous studies refer to the results embedded in the studies written in your research plan. These results include:

- the outcomes of the process of summarising information about each previous study in the research plan.
- The results of comparing the previous studies with each other.
- The results of comparing the previous studies with the current study.

The results of relationships that clarify and link the previous studies to all elements of the research plan and the theoretical framework²⁶.

3.2.3 How to collect previous studies:

Collecting previous studies involves consolidating them into a unified framework within your research plan. This involves gathering these studies together. The following approach is outlined to cover the topic comprehensively:

1. Selection process: the process of collecting previous studies for your research plan begins with selecting studies based on your analysis of the research problem. You start by searching for previous studies related to the aspects of the issue you are addressing.
2. Information gathering: After selecting the previous studies to include in your research plan, you will gather information specific to each study.
3. Linking studies: the process of collecting and linking previous studies begins with the approach you have taken. For example, if you use the chronological method, you would collect previous studies based on a historical timeline. If you use the methodological approach, you would gather studies based on scientific methodologies.
4. Report writing: Previous studies are collected in a report-style format, where you construct paragraphs that connect the studies together. These paragraphs should be clear and unambiguous. For example: 'This study complements previous studies...'
5. Comparative analysis: The comparative method is essential in the process of collecting previous studies for the research plan.
6. Discovering links: The process of collecting previous studies also involves identifying similarities and differences among them²⁷.

Conclusion:

This presentation clearly shows that previous studies are more than just a formal element of the research or something that is referenced. They represent a fundamental starting point in the review of scientific literature. Their importance stems from the necessity of cumulative knowledge, and their role is highlighted through methodological justifications that demonstrate their value within the body of research. Similar to current studies concerning independent and dependent variables, research problems, hypotheses, sample and study populations, and methodologies, previous studies enable researchers to build upon and benefit from them. Based on our exploration of the impact of previous studies on the success of scientific research, we have reached the following conclusions and made the following recommendations.

First: Results

1. Enabling researchers to identify research gaps and avoid topics that have already been addressed, thus avoiding repetition.
2. Providing a comprehensive academic and scientific background, with previous studies enabling researchers to understand the theoretical framework and grasp essential points related to their research.
3. Previous studies enhance the credibility of current research within the academic field.
4. They determine the direction of future research and highlight recent developments in scientific research, helping researchers to keep up with new advancements.
5. The methodology of scientific research is strengthened by models of successful research methodologies that can be utilised in current studies.
6. Previous studies serve as a compass, identifying modern directions and highlighting recent advancements in scientific research. They help researchers keep up with new developments.

Second: Recommendations:

1. Reliance on recent and credible studies by addressing a variety of modern sources.
2. Link previous studies to the current research, clarifying how the researcher benefits from them.
3. Accurately and clearly documenting previous studies by adhering to scientific methodology, such as proper referencing, to lend credibility to the research.
4. Analysing the strengths and weaknesses of previous research, rather than merely narrating them.
5. Conducting continuous reviews to address updates in scientific research published during the writing of the current study.

Previous studies are a foundational pillar of modern scientific inquiry. They provide a conceptual map that helps researchers navigate the complexities of their chosen topics, ensuring that their work builds upon established knowledge rather than duplicating it. In the process of preparing a research paper, reviewing existing literature directly related to the topic is one of the most critical stages, as it enables researchers to benefit from the accumulated experiences, methods, and conclusions of others. The present study seeks to answer a central question: What is the impact of previous studies on the success of scientific research? To achieve this, the paper explores three sub-questions: (1) What is meant by “previous studies” in the context of research methodology? (2) What are their practical and epistemological benefits? and (3) How can they be used effectively and ethically to enhance research outcomes?

Conceptual Framework

The conceptualization of previous studies goes beyond their descriptive role as background information. They are integral to establishing the intellectual foundation and rationale for new investigations. This section clarifies two main dimensions: The Concept of Previous Studies: Previous studies encompass scholarly works—books, journal articles, theses, and reports—that are directly or indirectly related to a researcher’s topic. They form a

repository of validated knowledge. The Functions of Previous Studies: They help identify research gaps, avoid redundancy, validate theoretical models, and refine the researcher's methodological and analytical approach. By synthesizing diverse perspectives, researchers can situate their work within broader disciplinary debates and identify novel contributions.

Methodology

This paper adopts a qualitative descriptive and analytical approach. The research relies on systematic document analysis and comparative review of academic sources across multiple disciplines, emphasizing methodological rigor in how previous studies are selected, analyzed, and integrated. The analysis is organized around three key dimensions: Identification: Determining the most relevant sources and assessing their methodological soundness. Evaluation: Critically examining the arguments, findings, and theoretical orientations of existing research. Synthesis: Integrating previous findings into a coherent framework that informs the current study's objectives. This approach ensures objectivity and intellectual coherence, enabling the researcher to derive meaningful insights that contribute to the evolution of scientific thought.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical integrity is central to all scientific endeavors. The use of previous studies must comply with international standards of academic honesty and transparency. Key ethical principles followed in this study include: Proper acknowledgment of intellectual property through accurate citation in accordance with the APA 7th Edition; Avoidance of plagiarism and misrepresentation of sources; Respect for the originality and integrity of prior researchers' contributions; Ensuring that the synthesis of existing literature is interpretative, not merely duplicative, and contributes to scholarly dialogue. These ethical practices uphold the credibility of scientific research and reinforce trust within the academic community.

Findings and Discussion

The analysis reveals that previous studies serve multiple vital functions in the research process: They provide conceptual clarity and define theoretical boundaries; They inform methodological design, ensuring that research tools align with disciplinary standards; They support argumentation, offering empirical or theoretical evidence to substantiate claims; They stimulate innovation, as critical engagement with earlier works helps identify areas for advancement. Consequently, the success of any research project depends significantly on how effectively previous studies are analyzed, interpreted, and incorporated.

Conclusion

In conclusion, previous studies constitute the intellectual backbone of scientific research. Their role extends beyond reference or background support; they are mechanisms through which scholarly progress occurs. A rigorous review and synthesis of prior work empower researchers to construct knowledge that is both contextually grounded and forward-looking. Therefore, the systematic and ethical use of previous studies is indispensable to ensuring the quality, originality, and success of modern scientific research.

Acknowledgment

The author expresses sincere gratitude to the Faculty of Islamic Sciences, University of Algiers 1, for providing academic resources and institutional support that facilitated the completion of this research.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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Footnotes:

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