

Evaluation of Literature Review

I believe that there are several areas of my literature review that could be improved. Although coherently written with some good sources cited, I believe that it lacks focus in the main body, allocates too many words to the discussion of the history of technology in education, and draws too heavily on non-academic sources.

I began my literature review with only a vague idea of my research question; I knew that I wanted to investigate the usage of large language models (LLMs) in education, but I was hoping that, by reading more around the topic, I would find a more specific direction for my research. By the end of the piece, I believe that I had a better understanding of what I wanted my research question to be. However, because of this lack of initial focus, the main body of the piece discusses literature pertaining to the reported uses of LLMs in the classroom, while it would have been more prudent to look at literature more specifically centred around professional development, teacher adoption patterns and attitudes.

I also believe that too much of the word count was dedicated to explaining the history of digital learning. This was perhaps too broad a subject matter and not entirely relevant to research on LLM usage and attitude patterns. It would have been better to keep this to 2 to 3 sentences, linking it to the importance of the research i.e. LLMs' rapid rise in popularity and sudden availability as a powerful tool yet with no in-depth guidance on how to use it safely in education.

Too many of my sources were from non-academic articles and, although these were intended to be used mainly to introduce the subject of LLMs, the authors comment on LLMs too broadly and use too much conjecture to be classed as reliable sources in an academic piece. Research-informed assertions were needed throughout this review and too many of these non-academic articles are included at different points; I believe that the use of a non-academic article that merely described a selection of the LLM-based applications available to educators did little to develop the review. To make this more relevant to my research question, I should have sought out information regarding the number of UK users of such applications, giving insight into its usage within education in this country.

A number of changes would improve this piece. By the time I had narrowed down my research question, I had written the majority of the review and had little time to adjust. In future I will ensure that my research question is narrowed down much earlier, and certainly before beginning to write my literature review; this would then

help me to make better choices of sources and provide a more focused and research-relevant review.