Module Tutors

Who are we?

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Outcomes

At the end of both sessions, you will be prepared for the literature review, covering:

- Aim of your literature review
- Creating your own search strategy
- Finding books and journal articles for your topic
- Managing your references using RefWorks
  - Build up a bibliography for your portfolio
- Thinking critically about your results
- Writing your review
The Literature Review
What is a literature review?

- Provides a background for your research
- Gives an overview for the current context in which your research is situated
- Discusses relevant theories and concepts
- Describes related research and how your work extends or challenges this, or where there is a gap
- Provides supporting evidence for your research, showing its significance
- Introduces relevant terminology and how you will use those terms in your work

(based on Ridley, 2012, p. 107)
7 steps to producing a literature review

Librarians blog for Social Sciences.
The University of Sheffield. The University Library
What to look for in a good literature review

What do you look for in a good literature review?
Possible Structure/Organisation

- Distant > Close
- Chronological
- Methodological
- Thematic

- Can usually use headings
FIGURE 6.2 Organisational patterns for the literature review

Source: Wellington et al., 2005: 82

Taken from:
Literature Searching

Plan your search
4 steps to finding literature

1. Identify keywords
2. Decide where to search
3. Search
4. Review results
Devising a Search Strategy

Why use a search strategy?
- Keeps you in control
- Allows you to piece together more relevant results
- Allows you to search the same way in many sources – consistency
- Helps you to keep track of your searches
- Saves you time
Consider your topic

- Define what you are looking for – this could be a statement or a question

Example: **drug use amongst teenagers involved in crime**

Aim for a core statement or question that expresses what the research will address. *(Parameters such as place, population, date range can be added as the research progresses)*

**Task 1** Write down the topic that you will be researching
Identify concepts and keywords - tips

Identify the subject areas of your topic:
Example: psychology, sociology, criminology, youth studies, health

Think about the different aspects you are interested in:
Example: geographic aspect could be North East or social aspects could cover anti-social behaviour or unemployment etc.
Task 2  Think of all the different aspects and alternative words that describe your topic

- Criminal behaviour
- Drugs
- Teenagers
- Crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- Youths
- Illegal substances
Organising keywords

- Split your topic into its key concepts
- For each key concept think of alternative keywords or phrases to describe that concept and put them into an order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Use</th>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Teenagers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illegal substances</td>
<td>Criminal behaviour</td>
<td>Youths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>ASBO</td>
<td>Young people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Your dissertation topic may be more complex than our example. You may need to do separate searches for each aspect.
- **Task 3** Identify and organise your keywords
Building up your search effectively

- Boolean searching, using AND, OR
- Truncation / Wildcards
- Phrase searching
- Searching in the best field
Broaden Search

teenagers  OR  youth

teenagers  OR  youth
Narrow Search

AND

drugs

AND

crime

drugs AND crime
Use **AND** and **OR** to combine your keywords

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search 1</th>
<th>Drugs OR illegal substance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search 2</td>
<td>Teenagers OR young people OR Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search 3</td>
<td>Crime or criminal behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search 4</td>
<td>results of searches 1 AND 2 AND 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search 1</th>
<th>Drugs AND young people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search 2</td>
<td>Drugs AND young people AND crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Search 3</td>
<td>Drugs AND young people AND (crime OR criminal behaviour OR ASBO)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Search Techniques

- Truncation
  - Crim*
- Wildcards
  - behavio#r
  - wom?n
- Phrase Searching
  - “drug use”
- Searching by Field
  - e.g. by author, keyword, title
Advanced Search Techniques

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term(s)</th>
<th>Alternative way of searching</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>“Young people”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime OR Crimes OR Criminal</td>
<td>Crim*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour OR behavior</td>
<td>Behavio#r</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Task 4** Apply these techniques to your search strategy
Planning your search - Summary

- Why you need a search strategy
- Consider your topic
- Identify your concepts and keywords
- Think creatively
- Organise your keywords - consider how to link them together in your search
- Advanced search techniques
4 steps to finding literature

1. Identify keywords
2. Decide where to search
3. Search
4. Review results
Literature Searching

Where to search?
Section Outcomes

At the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use Discovery to search for books and journal articles
- Use LibGuides to search for resources in your subject area
- Find journal articles for your topic
  - Choose relevant online databases to search
  - Set up an account to save your searches
  - Practise search techniques to improve your search
- Know how to access other libraries
Discovery: the Library’s rich resources in one place

- Single search
- Find books, journal articles, newspapers and other resources
- Scholarly resources which you need for your dissertation
# Focus on academic resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>What is it?</th>
<th>Why is it useful?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Book/ebook ✓</strong></td>
<td>A single work written on a subject. Can cover any topic. Background or in-depth information. Contains summaries of research on the topic.</td>
<td>Lots of information on one subject. Background to a topic. Puts the topic in context with other issues. Summaries of the research can support your argument.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Journal articles ✓</strong></td>
<td>Can cover very specific topics. Many journals go through a peer review process so high quality. Authors have done extensive research to write it so there are long lists of references.</td>
<td>Very specialised information. Up-to-date. Shows current thinking on a topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Magazine articles ?</strong></td>
<td>Can contain news, opinions, research. Subjects covered can be broader than a journal. Some may be peer-reviewed.</td>
<td>Less specialised information. Up-to-date. Shorter articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newspaper articles ?</strong></td>
<td>Short pieces on current events or issues. Published daily.</td>
<td>Snapshot of opinion at a given point in time. Can lead you to further research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference papers ?</strong></td>
<td>Presentations from a conference. Often the first time the research has been made available.</td>
<td>Recent research on a topic. Very specialised information. Highly regarded for some subjects – less valued for others.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search Discovery

- Look at the search strategy you planned earlier
- Enter the keywords
- Look at the results
  - Are they relevant?
  - Do you have too many or not enough?
- Do you need to refine your search?
  - Narrow the scope of your original search by limiting the content type or discipline
  - Limit the time period

**Task 5** Use your search strategy to search Discovery
4 steps to finding literature

1. Identify keywords
2. Decide where to search
3. Search
4. Review results
Task 6 Find the LibGuides for your dissertation subjects
Finding Journal Articles – use online databases
Online Databases

- You can carry out more precise / focussed searches on online databases than on Discovery

- There are many different online databases
  - There is no need to be an expert on them all
  - Many have similar features

- Use the online databases that are relevant to your subject area
  - e.g. PsycINFO contains journal articles on the subjects of psychology, psychiatry, physiology and sociology

- Some allow you to set up an account to save your searches
Choose online databases

- Use the database descriptions to decide which databases to include in your search

- Be aware that:
  - Some only provide abstracts (summaries)
  - Some may only index journal articles but many include other sources such as conference papers and reports
  - If you need historical research some databases only cover certain years

**Task 7** Identify online databases for your subject
Set up an account

- Many databases allow you to save your searches
- You can re-run searches at a later date when new articles may have been published

**Task 8** Set up a login and password to save your searches
4 steps to finding literature

1. Identify keywords
2. Decide where to search
3. Search
4. Review results
Search online databases

- Look at the search strategy you planned earlier
- Enter the keywords
- Use techniques such as truncation and phrase searches
- Combine searches using boolean operators
- Look at the results
  - *Are they relevant?*
  - *Do you have too many or not enough?*
- Do you need to refine the search
  - *Broaden or narrow the scope of your original search by changing the keywords*
  - *Limit the time period*
  - *Filter by age group, research articles etc.*

**Task 9** Use your search strategy to search the databases
Examine your results closely

Relevant record

- Author
  Written other similar papers?

- Publication
  Browse other issues of journals?

- References
  Previous research to read

- Citings?
  Research which has quoted this paper

- Keywords
  Lead to other records on the subject
Searching the Internet

- Scholarly Literature
- Personalise Google Scholar
- Find it @ Tees
Beyond Teesside University Library

- **Interlibrary loans**
  - Allowed 20 per academic year
  - Request via ILL libguide
    http://libguides.tees.ac.uk/ILL
  - Delivered by post or email
  - Plan ahead

- **Visiting other libraries**
  - Darlington Campus – Inter-site loan service
  - SCONUL Access http://www.sconul.ac.uk/
4 steps to finding information

1. Identify keywords
2. Decide where to search
3. Search
4. Review results
Outcomes: Session 4

At the end of both sessions, you will be prepared for the literature review, covering:

- Aim of your literature review
- Creating your own search strategy
- Finding books and journal articles for your topic
- Managing your references using RefWorks
  - Build up a bibliography for your portfolio
- Thinking critically about your results
- Writing your review
How to present your references
RefWorks

- Online tool to help you manage your references
  - Can export from many online databases
  - Stores the references in your RefWorks account
  - Automatically creates your bibliography in your chosen style (e.g. Teesside University: Harvard Style, APA)

Can make life a bit easier **but**
RefWorks

- Not a replacement for understanding referencing

- Some references won’t be right. You should check to make sure the information is correct.

- Some references may have to be added manually
RefWorks

3 steps:
- Building up your own personal database with records
- Organising and managing your references
- Creating a bibliography

LibGuide on RefWorks:
http://libguides.tees.ac.uk/refworks
Thinking critically about your results
What is critical thinking?

- See
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVLjziA5U2o
Argument

- What is the key point or message the writer/speaker is trying to communicate?
Techniques used to create an argument

Identify a position or point of view
• What do they want you to believe?

Give reasons to support the position
• Why do they think that?

Give evidence to support reasons
• How do they know?
Good argument

Clear
- author’s position clear

Logical structure
- similar points are grouped together

Relevant
- all content relevant

Comprehensive
- considers all key reasons

Even-handed
- opposing views treated fairly

In depth
- reasons thoroughly considered
Poor argument

- **Unclear or limited**
  - Jumbled order
  - Surface consideration of issues

- **False premises**
  - Based on incorrect assumptions

- **Flawed reasoning**
  - Assumed cause and effect when two events coincide
  - Comparisons that aren’t valid

- **Bias or vested interest**
  - Emotive language
  - Personal attacks

- **Misrepresentation**
  - Ignoring main opposing reasons
Questioning

- Why should I believe this?
- Does this claim need evidence to support it?
- What evidence would someone need to provide for me to think that this is probable/dependable?
Looking for the evidence

Statistics
Case histories/studies
Examples
Findings from experiments
Data from surveys
Questionnaires
Check List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Is the data still relevant?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>What is the source of the evidence?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Publishing process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bias</td>
<td>Possible author bias?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extreme cases cited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Support conclusions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodology?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statistics

- Percentages
- Sample size
- Representative
- How data was collected
- Are you required to use a particular critical appraisal model?

- Overall, do the findings support the conclusions?
Exercise

- Choose an article that you found from last session

- Look at the criteria on the sheet and assess the article along the guidelines
Critical reading model

Argument:
- What is the main argument?
- Is the main argument clear and logical?

Evidence:
- What is the evidence?
- Is the evidence valid?
- Does the evidence support the conclusions?
Critical thinking: summary
4 steps to finding literature

1. Identify keywords
2. Decide where to search
3. Search
4. Review results
Writing your literature review
7 steps to producing a literature review

1. Identify your question
2. Review discipline styles
3. Search the literature
4. Manage your references
5. Critically analyse and evaluate
6. Synthesise
7. Write the review

Librarians blog for Social Sciences.
The University of Sheffield. The University Library
Good Practice

- Always relate to your research question
- Two stages to writing: writing to understand and then writing to be understood
  - Keep records
- Don’t be fazed – you may find:
  - Themes and topics that overlap with your research
  - Gaps in the literature, and shortcomings of research
  - Agreement and disagreement on topics
- Introduction, main body, conclusion (like an essay!)
Tell the story: it’s not a list

- Evaluate what you find
- Be critical
  - what is the ‘argument’?
  - what evidence is used to support the ‘argument’?
- Appraise the methodology
  - Consider the validity of the research method
  - You may need more in-depth appraisal for papers closest to your topic
- Connect
  - Compare/contrast different ideas
When to do a literature review

- Before you start your own primary research - this can inform how you do your research
- Should be a continual process throughout as new literature may be published
- This will demonstrate your grasp of current debate
Possible Structure/Organisation

- Distant > Close
- Chronological
- Methodological
- Thematic

- Can usually use headings
FIGURE 6.2 Organisational patterns for the literature review
Source: Wellington et al., 2005: 82

Taken from:
Literature Map

Paragraph structure

- Use WEED model (Godwin, 2014, p. 38)
  - What - topic sentence
  - Evidence/Example 1
  - Evidence/Example 2
  - Do - sum up – what does this mean for your research topic?
By its very nature, motivation requires a degree of individual satisfaction or narcissism. Robbins et al. (1998) suggest that motivation has as its basis the need to focus on, and please the self. This is supported by Shaw, Shapard and Waugaman (2000) who contend that this narcissistic drive is based upon the human effort to find personal significance in life. It can be argued that the desire to improve one’s status is a highly motivational force, and is central to the idea of narcissistic motivation. The narcissistic motivational strategies put forward by Shaw et al. (2000) are concerned with motivation for life in general, but may also have applications in the context of work. These strategies, with their focus on personal needs, demonstrate that narcissism is an essential component of motivation.

From: RMIT University, Study and Learning Centre (2005) Literature review. Available at: https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/2_AssessmentTasks/assess_tuts/lit_review_LL/integration.html. (Accessed 9 October 2013)
Exercise

Improving a paragraph

- Read the paragraph in the hand-out and add ideas about how it could be improved
How could it be improved?

- Some more up to date literature
- Sexual harassment has many consequences: what are they? Don’t just say there is a list of them
- Give detail on results, not methodology
- Value judgements e.g. ‘excellent book’
- Don’t need to give the title of book
- Less description of the literature, more analysis
Research from the 1980s found that sexual harassment in universities led to a range of consequences to the victims from lowered self-esteem and loss of self-confidence to withdrawal from social interaction, changed career goals, and depression (Benson and Thomson, 1982; Adams et al., 1983; Dziech and Weiner, 1990). Therefore this study will consider whether 21st century students still share these experiences.

Help with writing

**University of Manchester (2016) Academic Phrasebank**

http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk

- A bank of phrases appropriate for use in academic writing. It contains two pages particular helpful for literature reviews:
  1. Referring to Literature:
     http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/referring-to-sources/
  2. Being Critical (of literature):
     http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/being-critical/
Finally …
Remember …

There are no stupid questions – ask for help:

- Your supervisor
- Ask at the iZone desk to be directed to further help or book online for a tutorial for help with writing
- LibGuide for Preparing for your Dissertation
- Academic librarians – see your subject LibGuide

- Good Luck with your Dissertation

