

**CMPSC 580
Junior Seminar
Spring 2019**

**Lab 3 Assignment
Writing Literature Reviews**



Objectives

To enhance your understanding of handling literature reviews. In particular, this lab will help you to read articles and to paraphrase the work's highlights in general terms, yet still providing enough information to understand the direction of the work.

GitHub Starter Link

<https://classroom.github.com/a/0wKCxsco>

To use this link, please follow the steps below.

- Click on the link and accept the assignment
- Once the importing task has completed, click on the created assignment link which will take you to your newly created github repository for this lab,
- Clone this repository (bearing your name) and work locally
- As you are working on your lab, you are to commit and push regularly. The commands are the following.

```
- git add -A  
- git commit -m "Your notes about commit here"  
- git push
```

Literature Reviews

It is important to be able to read primary source articles during work in research to provide motivation and support for your own work. Here, *reading* implies a degree of scholarly effort of studying and understanding the published work. Published articles are also able to provide

grounding and importance to your work as they permit your work to be understood in its broader context.

During your literature review, be in the habit of taking notes about the article's concepts and main research deliverables. Once you have completed reading an article, to complete the literature review of the published work, you may compile your notes into a larger article summary to record the essential parts of the work. In addition to an ordered listing of events in the project, a literature review of an article is enriched by a conceptually-based organizational theme combining both, a brief summary, and the synthesis of important achievements contained in the reviewed material.

This summary also presents a recap of concepts, important information and other meaningful elements that may be central to your own work later on. This is to say that your compiled literature review is to be a *personalized* collection of facts and methods which may be required in your work when your project has become more evolved.

What a Literature Review is NOT

A literature review implies following scholarly research. Reviewing the literature does not refer to summarizing great literary texts. Rather, it refers to the study of an aspect behind some body of knowledge, a theory or a method in effort to integrate ideas into a new body of knowledge. This literature review is not a critique on the article's research. It does not imply an avenue where one is able to freely discuss one's personal opinions, gut-feelings and reactions to a particular work that was reviewed. This type of writing may be similar to what is found in a basic *book review* but emotional attachment cannot appear in a literature review. Finally, a literature review is NOT an article-by-article summary of material and found curiosities. This form of writing would be called an, *annotated bibliography*.

More Detail

For more information about literature reviews, please consult the following resources.

- Literature Reviews: An Overview for Graduate Students
 - Website: <https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/litreview/>
 - Video link: <https://siskel.lib.ncsu.edu/RIS/instruction/litreview/litreview.mp4>
- Literature Review: Conducting & Writing:
 - Website: <https://libguides.uwf.edu/c.php?g=215199&p=1420828>

What to do

In this lab, you are to select three (3) important articles (from peer-reviewed publishers such as IEEE, ACM, Springer, Elsevier and similar) that you find to be essential to your own idea and the development of your research project. For each of these articles, you are write a meaningful (yet brief) literature review. Your sample writing will paraphrase some of the important parts of the work, describe its theory and include some of the methods that you may require later-on for your

own project. This literature review is not a critique on the article's research and so your writing such stick to *just the fact*. The literature review of each article should be about 255 words, or about two paragraphs. Be sure to add the title and citation information for each of your articles.

Summary of Deliverables

- Edit the file: `writing/literatureReview.md` to include the following information:
 1. Your name (at the top of the your submission)
 2. For each article
 - (a) The article's full citation (available from Google Docs's *Cite* link)
 - (b) Summary in about 255 words
 - (c) A statement about how this work is important to your work (one or two sentences).