
How to read a paper

INFO 3350/6350: Text Mining for History and Literature

Papers are how you know a field

Papers (and, in the humanities, books) are how researchers in a field talk to one another

Every project eventually wants to be a paper

Every paper wants to make a contribution to knowledge

A contribution to knowledge is a finding that is **novel**, **important**, and **evidence-based**

novel
important
evidence

How to read a paper

Remember: **novel, important, evidence**

- What is the problem area?
 - What is the state of knowledge?
 - What is the gap in knowledge?
 - What did they expect to find?
 - What did they do?
 - How did they do it? (methods, data)
 - What did they find? (results)
 - What do they conclude? (conclusions)
 - What are the limitations of the study?
 - How do you evaluate the quality of their findings? (strength of evidence)
 - What might you borrow from this work?
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