


# Reading and Reviewing the Literature

Sarah Frick <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Thanks to previous GSIs for sharing material used in this lecture. 

# Plan for today

- ▶ Announcements
- ▶ Literature review
  - ▶ Why is it useful and important?
  - ▶ Efficient and effective ways to do a lit review
  - ▶ Tips and tricks for citing papers

# Announcements

- ▶ Next assignment (Proposal V1), due Oct 2nd, will be an extension of one of your brainstorming ideas
- ▶ Main component of Proposal V1 will be the **literature review**

# Why do we need a literature review?

- ▶ To motivate our research
  - ▶ “The literature has looked at this and that, but there is no satisfying answer to my important question, which I address in this paper.”
- ▶ To educate the reader about what's been done
  - ▶ You are creating new knowledge and **connecting it to the existing literature**
- ▶ To convince ourselves that our research is novel
  - ▶ Need to read the literature until you are convinced.
- ▶ In general, a literature review tells us what has been done, and what questions still remain.

# Literature Review generates ideas

- ▶ Be a critical reader!
- ▶ Piggyback other people's project/paper
  - ▶ Look for a “different angle”: Heterogeneity, different setting, different outcome.
- ▶ Arbitrage
  - ▶ Good question from another field, but economic insight or causal inference tools could provide a new/better approach.
- ▶ Personal experience
  - ▶ What bothers you? Is there a lesson to be learned?

# Piracy Paper Example

## ► **Personal experience**

- I noticed that when my friends wanted to watch a movie, they would first look it up on Netflix, and if wasn't available, they would search to stream it from an illegal website.
- Is there a relationship between movie availability on Netflix and piracy streaming?

# Piracy Paper Example

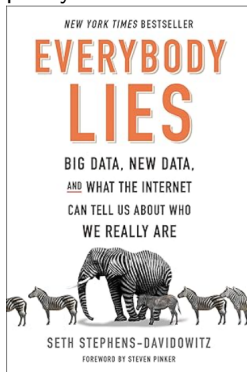
## ▶ **Piggyback from another paper**

- ▶ How to measure a causal relationship between legal movie offerings and piracy? A movie's availability on Netflix could be influenced by endogenous factors such as movie popularity, contract costs, date of release, etc.
- ▶ I found another paper, Yu et al. (2020), that used an unexpected movie contract fallout to examine the relationship between streaming availability and physical DVD sales.
- ▶ I could use the same natural experiment of exogenous movie removal from Netflix to measure the impact on a different outcome - piracy!

# Piracy Paper Example

## ► Arbitrage

- How could I measure illegal piracy streaming? The reason it exists online is because it is very hard to detect!
- I read a data science book which gave me the idea to use google searches for illegal streaming as a proxy variable for piracy.





## (Aside on data)

- ▶ Easily accessible datasets often have been widely used.
  - ▶ Can be difficult to come up with novel use for the data.
- ▶ Given the timeline for this class (as well as financial constraints), be cautious of relying on private/expensive datasets.
  - ▶ Data Use Agreements for private(ish) data such as medical claims data or birth certificate data often takes months before you will get approval.
- ▶ Depending on your question, you might be able to:
  - ▶ Create your own novel dataset with web-scraping
  - ▶ Use data from another country (perhaps in a different language)
  - ▶ Non-traditional data for economics (E.g. Yelp publishes their data!)

# How to do a literature review?

- ▶ Revisit Jim Church's slides about using **Google Scholar** and **Econlit** to find papers in economics.
- ▶ Top 5 Econ journals: The American Economic Review, Econometrica, the Journal of Political Economy, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, and the Review of Economic Studies
- ▶ In your work, please don't **only** cite journals like the *Idaho Law Review*.
- ▶ It's okay to use news articles for motivation to show that a topic is of interest to the general public

# How to do a literature review?

## Look Backwards

- ▶ Find a recent, well cited paper published on your topic
- ▶ Look at the papers cited... and then the papers that those papers cite.

Google Scholar

economic impact of immigration on local labor markets

Articles About 17,100 results (0.13 sec)

Any time  
Since 2024  
Since 2023  
Since 2020  
Custom range...

Sort by relevance  
Sort by date

Any type  
Review articles

☐ include patents  
☒ include citations

☐ Create alert

**The labor market effects of immigration enforcement** [PDF] [uchicago.edu](#)  
[CN East](#), [AL Hines](#), [P Luck](#) ... of **Labor Economics**, 2023 - [journals.uchicago.edu](#)  
... major shifts in the US **immigration** system and the **economy** since then. Additionally, ... **impact labor markets** outcomes only through deportations but also through their **impact on immigrants** ...  
☆ Save 99 Cite Cited by 115 Related articles All 20 versions

**Tradability and the Labor-Market Impact of Immigration: Theory and Evidence From the United States** [PDF] [wiley.com](#)  
[A Burstein](#), [G Hanson](#), [L Tian](#), [J Vogel](#) : **Econometrica**, 2020 - Wiley Online Library  
... the **local** allocation of domestic workers across occupations in the United States. We instrument for **immigrant** inflows into an occupation in a **local labor market** ... of **local labor markets** is ...  
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**The labor market impact of immigration: Job creation versus job competition** [PDF] [aeaweb.org](#)  
[C Albert](#) - American **Economic Journal**: Macroeconomics, 2021 - [aeaweb.org](#)  
... studies the **labor market effects** of both documented and undocumented **immigration** in a ... This section presents a **labor market** model that extends the canonical search and matching ...  
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[HTML] **The economic effect of immigration policies: analyzing and simulating the US case** [HTML] [sciencedirect.com](#)  
[A Chassamboulli](#), [G Peri](#) - Journal of **Economic Dynamics and Control**, 2020 - Elsevier  
... for the so called "chain **migration effects**". Analyzing and ... long-run **immigration** flow and **labor market** outcomes is the ... **immigrants** and we consider their different **labor markets** and ...  
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# How to do a literature review?

## Look Forwards

- ▶ Find a seminal (not necessarily recent) paper published on your topic.
- ▶ Use **Google Scholar** to browse recent papers that cited it.

The screenshot shows the Google Scholar interface. At the top, the search bar contains the text "economic impact of immigration on local labor markets". Below the search bar, the results are listed. On the left side, there are filters for "Any time" (with sub-options: Since 2024, Since 2023, Since 2020, Custom range...), "Sort by relevance" (with sub-option: Sort by date), "Any type" (with sub-option: Review articles), and checkboxes for "include patents" and "include citations". There is also a "Create alert" button. The search results list includes:

- The impact of immigration on the labor market** [PDF] wiley.com  
A. Edo - Journal of **Economic Surveys**, 2019 - Wiley Online Library  
... Although these **migration** patterns raise many important issues, this paper focuses on the **labor market impact of immigration**. What **impact** do **immigrants** have on the **employment** ...  
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 151 Related articles All 4 versions ⓘ
- Employment effects of immigration to Germany: an analysis based on local labor markets** [PDF] jstor.org  
J. S. Pischke - Review of **Economics and Statistics**, 1997 - direct.mit.edu  
... **economic** slack, despite the existing high level of unemployment. We analyze the **impact** of **immigration on local labor markets** ... these into 167 larger **labor market** regions. Unlike larger ...  
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 527 Related articles All 9 versions ⓘ
- The impact of immigration on the labor market** [PDF] psu.edu  
G. J. Borjas - Conference on **Labor** and Capital Flows in Europe ..., 2006 - Citeseer  
... the US **economy** describing how the various sectors of the **economy** operate and ... **labor market** is used to calculate the **economic benefits** that accrue from the **employment of immigrants**, ...  
☆ Save ⓘ Cite Cited by 81 Related articles All 2 versions ⓘ
- How do local labor markets in the US adjust to immigration?** [PDF] researchgate.net  
E. Lewis - Philadelphia Fed Business Review Q, 2005 - researchgate.net  
... urban areas where **immigrants** tend to ... **effect** on **local labor markets**. Yet economists have been puzzled by the evidence that **immigration** has little **impact** on the wages and **employment** ...  
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# How to do a literature review?

## Look Forwards



Any time

Since 2024

Since 2023

Since 2020

Custom range...

Sort by relevance

Sort by date

 [Create alert](#)

Employment effects of immigration to Germany: an analysis based on local labor markets

☐ Search within citing articles

[\[HTML\] The economic analysis of immigration](#)

[HTML1.sciencedirect.com](http://HTML1.sciencedirect.com)

G.J. Borjas - Handbook of labor economics, 1999 - Elsevier

The study of labor flows across labor markets is a central ingredient in any discussion of labor market equilibrium. These labor flows help markets reach a more efficient allocation of

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### Economic impacts of immigration: A survey

[PDF] nber.org

SP Kerr, WR Kerr - 2011 - nber.org

This paper surveys recent empirical studies on the economic impacts of immigration. The survey first examines the magnitude of immigration as an economic phenomenon in various

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### The Labor Demand Curve is Downward Sloping: Reexamining the Impact of Immigration on the Labor Market

[PDF] oup.com

G.J Borjas - The quarterly journal of economics, 2003 - academic.oup.com

Immigration is not evenly balanced across groups of workers who have the same education but differ in their work experience, and the nature of the supply imbalance changes over

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## Shift-share instruments and the impact of immigration

[\[PDF\] nber.org](#)

DA Jaeger, J Ruist, J Stuhler - 2018 - nber.org

**ABSTRACT** A large literature exploits geographic variation in the concentration of immigrants to identify their impact on a variety of outcomes. To address the endogeneity of

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# How to do a literature review?

Read reviews or a meta-analysis of a widely-research topics

- ▶ Read papers that have surveyed the academic literature on your topic
- ▶ For example, a meta-analysis, consolidating and comparing findings on the impact of minimum wage on unemployment

# How to read papers

- ▶ Always keep your research question in mind. Your goal is to find the relationship between your project and the paper you're reading.
- ▶ The bad news is that papers in economics tend to be long and difficult to understand
- ▶ The good news is that papers in economics give you the upshot in the abstract, the complete and non-technical version in the introduction, and the full rundown in the rest of the paper.

# How to read papers

- ▶ Read the title and abstract. Then stop to judge whether or not to delve deeper.
- ▶ If you do decide to delve deeper, read the introduction.
- ▶ The introduction should suffice for you to get the main idea and understand what the author did, without going into much detail.
- ▶ If the paper is relevant to your research, skim the relevant sections. Pay special attention to tables and figures. They often tell the whole story.
- ▶ Only read an entire paper if it is very relevant.
- ▶ Keep a note of everything you read!



# Making sense of it all

- ▶ Think about overarching themes that link papers, and lump them accordingly.
- ▶ Do the authors agree with each other?
- ▶ Do the papers use different methodologies? Why?
- ▶ Do certain papers document mechanisms that could explain the results of other papers?
- ▶ Finally, always relate each paper (or at least overarching theme) to your research topic.
- ▶ Look at papers to see how economists tend to do this...
  - ▶ Donaldson (2018): “This paper contributes to a growing literature on estimating the economic effects of large infrastructure projects... For example, Dinkelman (2007) estimates the effect of electrification on labor force participation...”

# Literature review: some writing guidelines

- ▶ Start with a broad topic your research contributes to, and then provide a narrower focus for how your question fits into the broader literature.
- ▶ Once you have results, explain how they relate to other findings. Is it similar to previous work or does it reverse an accepted finding?
- ▶ **Give proper credit to any existing research that produces a result you rely on.** Not doing so is academically dishonest.

# Literature Review Practice

- ▶ Take 5 minutes to read an excerpt of a literature review from the recent paper, "Does Directed Innovation Mitigate Climate Change? Evidence from U.S. Agriculture", by Jacob Moscona and Karthik Sastry
- ▶ Then, highlight or note aspects of the literature review that:
  - ▶ Provides a broad topic that their research applies to
  - ▶ States how their research question/outcome differs from previous work
  - ▶ States how their research question/outcome complements previous work

Our study on the role of technology for adapting to climate damage contributes to a large literature about directed technological change and the environment. While existing work has mostly focused on endogenous development of low-emission or “clean” technology (Newell, Jaffe, and Stavins 1999; Popp 2002, 2004; Acemoglu et al. 2012, 2016; Aghion et al. 2016), we focus instead on the role of innovation in mitigating climate damage.<sup>3</sup> In this vein, Miao and Popp (2014) studies the innovative response to natural disasters across countries, and Miao (2020) studies how insurance mediates the innovative response to modern droughts. Also related is work by one of the authors (Moscona 2022), who investigates technology’s response to the Dust Bowl, a natural disaster that ravaged the U.S. Great Plains in the 1930s, and finds that crops planted in areas hit harder by Dust Bowl erosion were the focus of more innovation, measured using variety releases, patenting activity, and research articles. He argues that this redirection of technological progress mediated the Dust Bowl’s economic consequences and contributed to the early twentieth-century rise of

U.S. agricultural biotechnology. Our results, interpreted alongside these findings, show that innovation responds to modern climate change, a highly impactful but slow-moving phenomenon, and quantitatively shed light on the potential for innovation to mediate present and future climate damage.

Existing work studying adaptation to climate change has focused on the theoretical benefits of reallocating production across space. Costinot, Donaldson, and Smith (2016), Rising and Devineni (2020), and Sloat et al. (2020) study these questions for agricultural crop choice.<sup>4</sup> Our approach, by contrast, focuses on the response of production technology itself, in theory and in practice.

Finally, there has been a long-standing interest in the impact of temperature change on the agricultural sector. Mendelsohn, Nordhaus, and Shaw (1994), Schlenker, Hanemann, and Fisher (2005, 2006), Deschênes and Greenstone (2007), and Fisher et al. (2012) estimate reduced-form relationships between changing temperatures on agricultural economic outcomes. Several studies, focusing on specific crops, investigate fluctuations in the relationship between extreme heat and yields to infer the potential importance of adaptation. Our study takes the broader, sector-wide view of the first set of papers while using crop-specific variation to measure the adaptive response of innovation. In so doing, we extend a classic literature on the role of innovation in shaping U.S. agricultural productivity and overcoming ecological barriers (e.g., Griliches 1957; Hayami and Ruttan 1970; Olmstead and Rhode 1993, 2008) to the study of modern climate change.

# How to cite

- ▶ Don't mind if you use Chicago, APA, Harvard etc. But follow one of them and be consistent! Whenever you explain what a specific paper says, make an inline citation with author and year. See the links below.
- ▶ [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
- ▶ Chat GPT citation rules
- ▶ Manual option: Can export reference directly from UC Berkeley Library Search/Google Scholar
- ▶ Automatic option: Use a reference manager tool
  - ▶ Reference Manager in MS Word
  - ▶ BibTex for LaTeX

# How to cite

- ▶ I recommend writing in overleaf (uses latex)
- ▶ Instructions for how to use overleaf's bibliography package, natbib: [https://www.overleaf.com/learn/latex/Bibliography\\_management\\_with\\_natbib](https://www.overleaf.com/learn/latex/Bibliography_management_with_natbib)
- ▶ General latex instructions for using bibtex: <http://www.bibtex.org/Using/>

# How to cite: Example

- ▶ Practice with citations in overleaf!
- ▶ <https://www.overleaf.com/edu/berkeley>
- ▶ Open up the overleaf file, Sample Latex Doc
- ▶ Let's go over citations and other cool features of overleaf that will make your paper look polished and easier to read.