

Finding Reliable Resources for Your Literature Review

A literature review gathers relevant information about your topic and connects your work to what's been done in your field before. This is an important and essential skill for conducting graduate-level research. This guide outlines key steps and tools to get started.

Step 1: Start with What You Know

- Relevant readings, films, or discussions associated with your coursework
- Articles suggested by those familiar with your topic
- “Classic” or widely cited texts

Step 2: Follow the Conversation Using Exploratory Tools

- Who they cite = older, foundational research that has shaped their thinking
- Who cites them = newer research that shows how their work is used by others

1. [Google Scholar](#)

Tip: This is best used for general academic searching. [Learn more about Google Scholar here.](#)

- Search for an article by title or author name
- Click “Cited by” beneath an article to see who has built on that work
- Click “Related articles” to find work with similar themes or methods
- Use the advanced search tools to limit your searches by year, subject, or journals

2. [Semantic Scholar](#)

Tip: Semantic Scholar is best used for exploring scientific and technical topics and literature.

- Offers AI-powered article summaries highlighting key points
- Highlights *why* researchers cited an article
- Suggests influential citations to help prioritize what to read next
- Tags topics for each paper, which can help broaden your search vocabulary

3. [Research Rabbit](#)

Tip: This exploratory tool is best used for filling in gaps or finding unexpected links and new directions.

- Build a collection of papers from your first key articles
 - Shows a map of how papers are connected = who is citing whom, and what papers cluster together by topic
 - Helps you explore co-author networks and see how ideas connect across time with a timeline view
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Step 3: Search Strategically & Contact Your Subject Librarian

Contact [your subject librarian](#) for help refining your search strategy to find more relevant work by your key authors and identify suitable keywords and topic tags to expand your search. They can also help you locate the best library resources and [databases](#) for your area of research.