

Worksheet 02: Literature search and management

Quality not quantity

Dr. Gordon Wright

October 10, 2023

A question for you.

How many journal articles are you able/willing to read for your Personality Essay?

Is it realistic to assume that the first X papers you find are perfect and assemble delightfully into a brilliant essay?

no? So what will be your Search Strategy?

Some key considerations are:

Where you search and what tools you use

What you search for (your search terms)

What types of papers you are going to look for

How you handle the initial results

How you refine those results and decide that the search is over

How you read and ingest those results

How you take notes and focus on all the areas you need to to answer the question

Here is something you may find useful

I'm presenting this early, as I think it is a powerful 'thought-provoker'. Last year, a student gave me a box of chocolates for sharing this. I kid you not. When we talk about being strategic and organised in your research, this is the sort of thing we are thinking about.

This is a 'Reading Tracker' [Excel Reading Tracker](#) and is also available for download on the VLE.

It may not be entirely to your taste, but feel free to develop your own version. Consider how a few minutes of organisation may allow you to make more of the same preparation, or to help you identify gaps you need to explore, or areas you've done enough work on trying to document. You are welcome.

The Library.

This is what they do. Use their expertise.

Library resources which you may or may not be familiar with

<https://libguides.gold.ac.uk/psychology/databases>

But the following video is excellent and outlines most of the major resources and steps you'll need to be very successful.

https://youtu.be/g_Eq-pDQ7c8

Google and Google Scholar

You don't KNOW that you have access to the papers Google or Google Scholar points to, and you don't know what the algorithm is doing to point you there. Do you think it knows how to find the best science?

Use this FAQ to set up the Findit@Gold tool in Google Scholar, which takes you DIRECTLY to a resource in the Goldsmiths Library, to which you usually have access!

<https://libanswers.gold.ac.uk/faq/53426>

Q. How do I access an article I found via Google?

The best way to search our e-journal collections is via [Library Search](#); however, if you also like to use Google then you can use [Google Scholar](#) and ensure you have set up your Library Links.

Enabling your Library Links means if a journal article is covered by our subscriptions, you'll see the [FindIt@Gold](#) link:

Modernist studies and cultural studies: reflections on method
B. Zapata / Multidisciplinary, 2003 - those who sell
... of Elsie, The Heavens of Helen, The Poets of Paradise, and The Adventures of Dorothy Dore ...
narrative energies of modernism, he writes, we can find traces of queer identity and ... of cultural
studies such as Patrick Brantlinger's *Cruelty's Footprints*, one can find Stuart Hall's check by ...
Cited by 29 - Related articles - All 3 versions - Web of Science 15 - Cite - Save - More

FindIt@Gold

To do this, go to [Settings](#) in

Google Scholar> Library Links and search for Goldsmiths (tip: for access to more resources add *Senate House Library* to your Google Scholar library links and [make sure you've registered](#) for online access). If you see Goldsmiths listed more than once check both boxes and click Save.

Show library access links for (choose up to five libraries):

Q

e.g., Harvard

- ☒ Goldsmiths - FindIt@Gold
- ☒ GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON CONSORTIA - ProQuest Fulltext
- ☒ University of London Senate House - Full-Text @ My Library

Online access to library subscriptions is usually restricted to patrons of that library. You may need to login with your library password, use a campus computer, or configure your browser to use a library proxy. Please visit your library's website or ask a local librarian for assistance.

Save

Cancel

Figure 1: GoogleTip

Advanced search techniques

You will also notice that there are lots of useful tools available beyond the keyword searches and Boolean operators (not sure? See the library guide).

<https://libguides.gold.ac.uk/aso/library/advancedsearch#s-lg-box-wrapper-17019261>

Perform a search in the library and try some of the MANY filters and tools.

Try the Advanced Search options such as Boolean Search. This is increasingly a life-skill. Many search functions, whether academic or websites or document stores (e.g. Corporate Knowledge-bases) use boolean search.

Search Scope: Online Articles

Search Filters

Any field contains music, cognitive performance

AND Any field contains Enter a search term

+ ADD A NEW LINE

CLEAR

Material Type

All items

Language

Any language

Publication Date

Any year

Any field contains music, cognitive performance

SEARCH

Refine my results

☐ Include results from other libraries

Sort by Relevance ▾

Availability ^

- Available in the Library (9)
- Full Text Online (87,319)
- Open Access
- Peer-reviewed Journals (69,550)

Creation Date ^

From To

1800 2022 [Refine](#)

Resource Type ^

- Articles (79,710)
- Book Chapters (3,137)
- Books & E-books (184)
- Conference Proceedings (397)
- Datasets (32)
- [Show More](#)

Creator ^

- Benford, Steve (4)
- Benoit, Charles-Etienne (7)
- Bhalla, Subhash (2)
- Bhateja, Vikrant (2)
- Brooks, Anthony (7)
- [Show More](#)

Subject ^

- Ability (205)
- Adult (5,944)
- aesthetics (1,760)
- Analysis (7,678)
- Application software (23)
- [Show More](#)

Library Collection ^

- Main Library Collection (9)
- Online Resource (23)

Electronic Collections ^

- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (Web of Science) (9,150)
- Arts Premium Collection (14,581)
- DOAJ Directory of Open Access Journals (13,262)
- Education Database (15,086)
- IngentaConnect Journals (45,559)
- [Show More](#)

Journal Title ^

- Annals Of The New York Academy Of Sciences (311)
- Frontiers In Human Neuroscience (443)
- Frontiers In Psychology (396)
- Journal Of Research In Music Education (474)
- Music Educators Journal (536)
- [Show More](#)

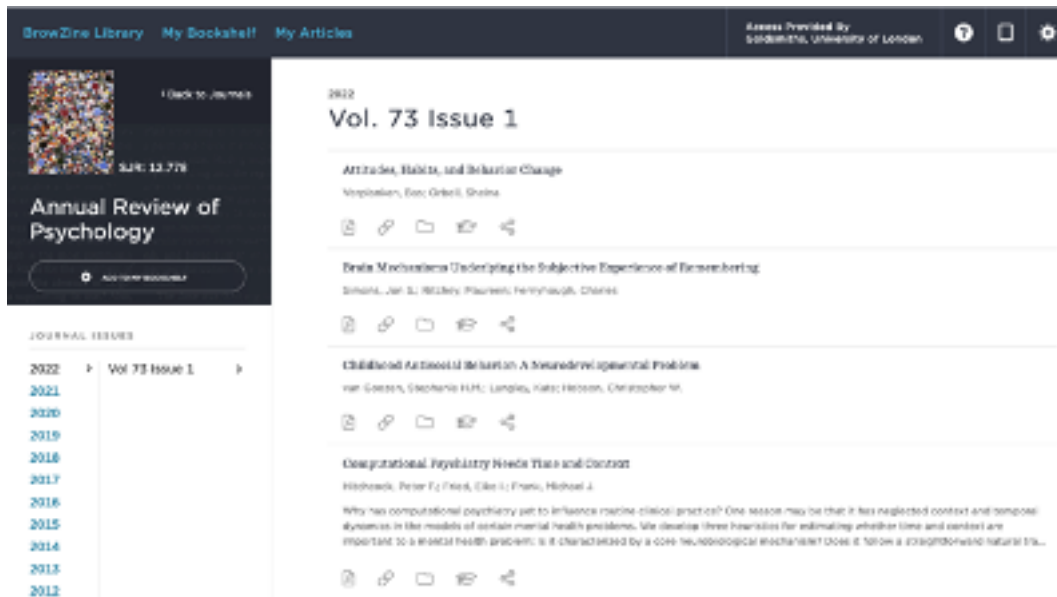
Language ^

- Afrikaans (47)
- Bulgarian (12)
- Catalan (12)
- Chinese (22)
- Croatian (10)
- [Show More](#)

Browzine

Browsing by journal title can be very useful. It's great on your phone.

Give it a shot and look at Annual Reviews of Psychology.



I always recommend Annual Reviews of Psychology for Review articles on the major topic areas you probably have in mind at the moment.

Use the link below or access the journal via the library.

<https://browzine.com/libraries/1374/subjects/67/bookcases/169/bookshelves/1230?sort=title>

<https://browzine.com/libraries/1374/subjects/67/bookcases/169/bookshelves/1230?sort=title>

And if we don't have access via the Library

<https://openaccessbutton.org/>

<https://unpaywall.org/>

And I have already mentioned [Senate House Library](#) - it has an incredible catalogue and is free to you to use. Could be handy in a pinch!

You could also consider an Inter-Library Loan. It's free, but can take a few days. Be prepared and this essentially gives you access to pretty much anything you might need or want. Find the [request form here](#) and fill in as much information as you can.

Web of Science

My preferred database is Web of Science. It is comprehensive, but sometimes gives too many results and can be overwhelming. Always try to use some of the advanced tools to limit your options.

<https://libguides.gold.ac.uk/az.php?a=w>

I particularly like the Forward search and Backward searches. You can look for papers that cite the article you found (Forward search) or find the papers that it references (Backward search). Why might that be useful?

25 References should be clear - the paper includes 25 references in the reference list.

14 Citations means that 14 other papers or books are referenced this paper. What a cool way to find a strand of research where potentially similar methods are used, OR where results/methods are criticised or discussed!

The screenshot shows the Web of Science search results page. The search query is 'deception' (All Fields). The results are sorted by Relevance, showing 1 of 291 results. The first result is 'Criminal identity deception and deception detection in law enforcement' by Wang, G; Chen, H and Atabakhsh, H, published in 'GROUP DECISION AND NEGOTIATION' 13 (2), pp.111-127, Mar 2004. The result shows 14 Citations and 25 References. The page also includes a 'Refine results' section with filters for Highly Cited Papers, Hot Papers, Review Articles, Early Access, and Open Access.

These are just tools. They are not going to be the full answer

The most important thing is to **BE ORGANISED AND STRATEGIC** with your searching and reading. Having 20 papers downloaded but unread is not as good as reading 1 really well and somehow keeping track of the important information gleaned from it. **How are you going to do that?**

Some of you might ask "How many papers should I read or reference in my Mini-Dissertation?" How could we answer that questions?

The point is that you will read a number, and part of the success of the process is keeping that number manageable, and using the information well. Some of you might make the mistake of reading too few, many of you will read too many. Reflect on this part of the process this year.

Zotero

You will almost certainly read more for Final Year Dissertation than for any other piece of coursework. This can lead to challenges. But you might actually really enjoy it! But the same rule applies. **BE ORGANISED AND STRATEGIC.**

A number of students have extolled the virtues of Zotero, which is a reference management app that is free from the library <https://www.gold.ac.uk/it/apps/zotero/>

It's not important to get too complicated right now, but being good at tracking what you read is a useful skill for next year. Maybe give Zotero a shot. See whether it would help you next year, it's just a fancy version of the excel workbook I made. The library has videos that can help prepare you for next year. But you could try it now and be one step ahead. That's what the Mini-Dissertation is here for, to give you a safe environment to try out all aspects of the research process.

Use Zotero for searching online bibliographics and organise your references.

Zotero is a freely available reference management tool that is recommended and supported by the Library and Subject Librarians.

Reference management systems are time-saving tools that allow you to:

- Collect and store references for the resources you read as you go
- Manage and organise your references for different assignments or modules
- Quickly add in-text citations to your assignments
- Automatically generate a reference list from these in-text citations

Zotero is free to download from the Zotero website and is available on campus computers

Training and Support

Documentation is available on the [Zotero website](#), and the Library have created brief video tutorials.

Subject Librarians provide workshops on using Zotero for reference management as part of the Academic Skills Centre workshops.

More free to download software

- [Microsoft Office](#)
- [NVivo](#)
- [SPSS](#)
- [Matlab](#)
- [Antivirus](#)

An Artificial Intelligence Research Assistant??

I suggest exploring what AI might offer to this process. I have tried lots of these resources, but by far and away the best I have found is <https://www.researchrabbit.ai-> and it's free.

You can link it to your Zotero account and find the whole network of associated papers, authors, topics laid out in front of you. If you prefer visual information, this is for you!

