

**Project Title:** Avoid Fake News and Misinformation by Using Blockchain

**Description:** With the increasing popularity of social media and their impact on our everyday life, the spotlight on misinformation has been growing with “fake news” stories. Media platforms are trying to find a comprehensive solution to stop the spread of this misinformation. In response to this, a lot of effort has been made among which the Blockchain recently appears to be a promising technique used to provide a comprehensive solution to this issue.

## Assignment 3 - Literature Synthesis

	Literature Synthesis
Brief description of assessment task	This assessment task requires the students to embark on a literature review and clarify research question(s)/hypotheses from an evidence perspective. Students are required to collect and record self-determined information/data from self-selected sources, evaluate information/data and the research process comprehensively using self-determined criteria developed within structured guidelines.
Detail of student output	Each student is required to submit a synthesis of the reviewed literature (maximum 2500 words, including references, but excluding figures and graphs) by locating, collecting and analyzing information and gaps. Students must use Harvard style for appropriately referencing their research ideas. They are required to justify the need and rationale for further research in the field in relation to the identified research question(s)/hypotheses and explain how the research thesis will address identified gap(s).

## **Content**

Your literature synthesis should include the following key parts:

- Abstract summarizing your findings
- Introduction to your literature review and brief background to your topic area
- Key research areas reviewed including key research work read and their strengths and weaknesses
- Current outstanding research challenges / questions
- Methodologies and methods being used to answer these challenges / questions
- Conclusions, including summary of major research questions, agreement and disagreement, progress to date and key future research directions

### **What is a literature synthesis?**

A literature synthesis is a description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic, with some analysis of key research areas relevant to the topic, key related work summaries including their strengths and weaknesses, and discussion of key outstanding research challenges, questions, and future research questions. This is usually the starting point of a research project. A critical literature survey is a critical assessment of the relevant literature (its strengths, weaknesses, gaps etc). You will only be able to conduct your research effectively if you complete a good quality literature survey.

### **How does a literature synthesis differ from other assignments?**

The literature synthesis, like other forms of academic writing, has an introduction, body and conclusion, well-formed paragraphs, and a logical structure. However, in other kinds of academic writing, you use relevant literature to support the discussion of your research; in a literature synthesis, the literature itself is the subject of discussion.

### **What counts as 'literature'?**

'Literature' covers everything relevant that is written on a topic: books, journal articles, technical reports, theses and dissertations, etc. The important word is 'relevant'. Informal reference from website such as Wikipedia is normally not recognised as literature in academic writing. Check with your Unit Chair and project supervisor when in doubt.

### **Why do a literature synthesis?**

A literature synthesis gives an overview of the research field: what has already been said on the topic, who the key writers are, what the prevailing theories and hypotheses are, what questions are being asked, and what methodologies and methods are appropriate and useful.

### **How many references to look for?**

This depends on what the literature synthesis is for, and what stage you are at in your studies. The minimum number of references for this assignment is **20 titles**.

### **How long should I write?**

The length of your literature synthesis be around 2000-2500 words.

### **Carefully read the literature**

Before you begin to read a book or article, make sure you written down the full details (see above). Take notes as you read the literature. You are reading to find out how each piece of writing approaches the subject of your research, what it has to say about it, and (especially for research students) how it relates to your own thesis. Consider the following questions:

- Is it a general textbook or does it deal with a specific issue(s)?
- What is its theoretical basis?
- What definitions does it use?
- What is its general methodological approach? What methods are used?
- What are the evaluation methods?
- What kinds of evaluation results does it use to back up its argument?
- What conclusions does it come to?

### **Write the literature synthesis**

Having gathered the relevant details about the literature, you are now ready to write the literature synthesis report. Like all academic writing, a literature synthesis report must have an introduction, body, and conclusion.

#### **The introduction should include:**

- the nature of the topic under discussion
- the scope of the topic
- the significance of the topic

#### **The body paragraphs could include relevant paragraphs on:**

- historical background, including classic texts
- current research studies including summary of the research done, what you think are key strengths or contributions of the work and what you perceive to be weaknesses or limitations with the work
- current discoveries about the topic

- principal questions that are being asked
- methodologies and methods in use
- general conclusions that are being drawn

**The conclusion could include:**

- A summary of major agreements and disagreements in the literature
- A summary of general conclusions that are being drawn
- A summary of future research directions

**Samples**

You may find example literature review papers from:

- ACM Computing Surveys (<http://csur.acm.org/>)
- IEEE Communications Surveys & Tutorials (<http://www.comsoc.org/cst/>)

## Rubric

Number	Expectation
1. Submission, Cover page and Abstract	Literature synthesis submitted, around 2000-2500 words. Cover page complete, Abstract an excellent, clear, concise summary of project.
2. Introduction	Excellent, concise, complete, easy to follow summary of review and research area.
3. Key research areas	Excellent, concise, complete, easy to follow summary of key research areas.
4. Key related research review	Excellent, concise, complete, easy to follow summary and critique of key related research.
5. Methods and Methodology	Very clear, concise, complete explanation of how research in this area is done.
6. Key challenges and questions	Excellent scoping of research problems, challenges, research questions in this research area.
7. Conclusions	Excellent conclusions including key outstanding issues and future work directions.
8. References	References all present, excellent formatting.
9. Presentation and format	Excellent formatting, grammar, presentation