

# Reviewing Literature

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- ▶ To resolve conflicts between research results

- ▶ **You are mainly looking to contextualise research question and to better understand the research domain**
- ▶ Many will start off with the problem and work backward to contextualise and justify it.
  - ▶ Very likely that the problem will be refined as more is understood
  - ▶ However, the pressure is not as great to do original research
- ▶ My sense is that CS students generally start out doing a project then convert it into research.



- ▶ You don't have much time!!
- ▶ This is not light reading!
  - ▶ Research papers are technical
  - ▶ The language can be difficult
  - ▶ You will want to use important results in your own study but you will not remember
- ▶ You need a plan
  - ▶ What kinds of papers will you read?
  - ▶ What content bits are of special interest?
  - ▶ A system for recording important research results

- ▶ Annotated Bibliography
  - ▶ Essentially a paragraph summarising the paper, but not an abstract
  - ▶ Captures the relevance and quality of the paper
  - ▶ Captures key results of the paper
  - ▶ Usually short (150 to 200 words)
- ▶ Requires some effort to understand the paper overall
- ▶ Can involve a considerable amount of synthesis (difficult at first)
- ▶ Record details about the paper as you would in a bibliography then follow this with the summary.

- I use a tabular format (perhaps for more experienced researchers?)

Publication Information	Methodology	Key Results
Author, Year Note the title, journal (or publisher), volume, issue, pages, DOI Country and domain	Sample size and sampling issues, techniques used, Paradigm (if applicable)	Note anything relevant to your study. Note things that you may cite in your paper. <b>Avoid copying over too much text! Do your own interpretation. This becomes easier with experience.</b>
You will need to cite the paper eventually. Collect all relevant information for this. <b>Check the APA6 style</b>	Any information that can lead to a critical evaluation of the paper or which can con-	Any results that address the question you are investigating or that highlight the problem you are studying.

- ▶ Stick to your plan
  - ▶ It will take hours of reading
  - ▶ It will take discipline
  - ▶ It will require diligence
  - ▶ Concentrate
    - ▶ You will need to ignore Netflix to review literature!

- ▶ Start with a recently published article
  - ▶ Presents what is current
  - ▶ Provides breadcrumbs to other relevant articles
  - ▶ Reading a recent literature review is an excellent starting point

- ▶ The narrative in the literature section of the paper will be very interesting at first
  - ▶ Clarify the issues involved
  - ▶ May reshape your thinking about the problem
  - ▶ Insights into how to organise and write your own review

- ▶ This is not an easy question to answer
- ▶ Are you still getting new perspectives on the problem?
- ▶ Are you still finding unique results?
- ▶ Are there still gaps in your own understanding of the problem?
- ▶ Strategy: Do a sketch of your literature review
  - ▶ Itemised list of how it will flow from one issue to the next
  - ▶ Are there gaps or outstanding content to address anything in your list?

- ▶ Writing and reading are not mutually exclusive.
- ▶ When you have written what you can, you will know whether you need to do more.