

How to do a Literature Survey (How to Find Related Work)

Yi Ding, UTD, 2025

Content

- What is a literature survey & why do we need it?
- Where can we find the related works?
- How to navigate from a paper?
- How to select/filter the papers?
- How to organize the papers?
- Advanced topic: No related work?
- Tools Recommended

What is a literature survey & why do we need it?

- In the exploring phase, it helps us understand the state-of-the-art.
 - Is this problem solved?
 - What are the existing solutions in solving the problem?
- In the design phase, it helps us claim our work's novelty and differentiate it from other work.
 - Why bother proposing a new solution, given the existing solutions?
 - What is the novelty in my work?
- In the paper writing phase, it's the *Related Work* section in your paper.
 - Missing important references is a major reason for being rejected.

Where can we find the related works?

Top conferences in **mobile/wireless system** and **ubiquitous computing**

- ACM MobiCom
- ACM MobiSys
- ACM SenSys
- ACM IMWUT/UbiComp

A broader system/network venues

- USENIX NSDI
- ACM SIGCOMM

Machine learning and data mining venues

- ACM SIGKDD
- NeuralIPS
- ACM Web (WWW)
- IEEE ICDE

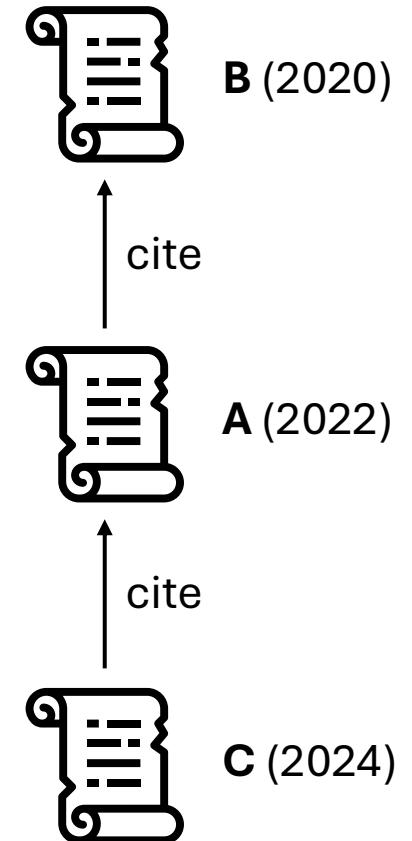
Other CCF-A conferences or conferences on CSRanking

Databases:

- ACM Digital Library
- IEEE Xplorer
- Google Scholar

How to navigate from a paper (paper A)

- Papers it cited (paper B)
 - What's the well-known work in this direction?
- Papers cite it (paper C)
 - What's the recent progress?
 - Is my idea already proposed in the latest papers?
- Papers from the same group/authors



How to select/filter the papers

- By conference/journals
 - Discussed earlier
- By authors/groups
 - You need to read a lot to be familiar with the authors/groups in the community
- By citations
 - Not applicable for very recent work

How to organize the papers?

- Find some orthogonal dimensions
- Examples:
 - System-related
 - Infrastructure-based / Infrastructure-free
 - Real-time / Not real-time
 - Need hardware modification / Compatible on commodity devices
 - Model-related:
 - Machine Learning / Deep Learning / Large Models
 - Supervised / Unsupervised

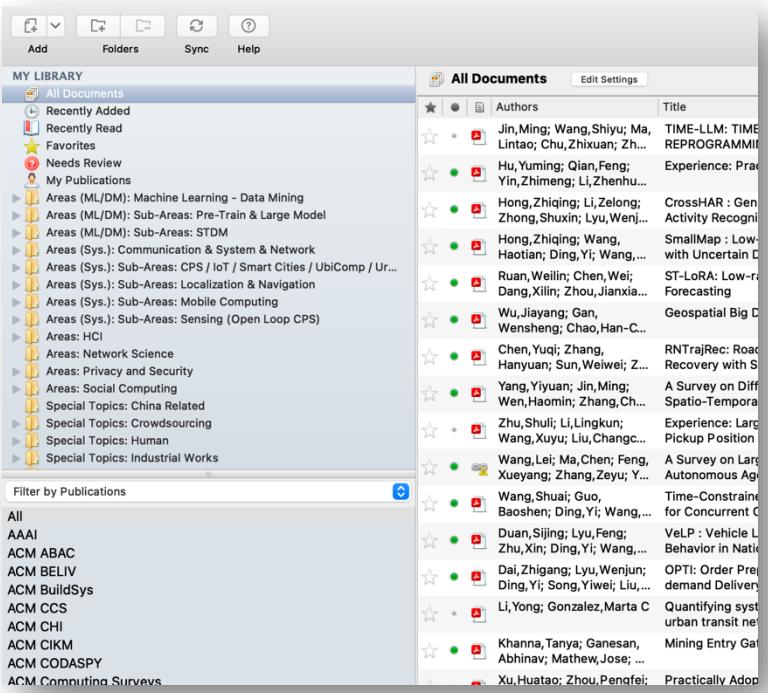
	Model on server	Model on device
Supervised Model	[1][2]	[3][4]
Unsupervised Model	[5][6]	Our work!

Advanced topic: No related work?

- Possibility 1: A completely new problem.
- Possibility 2: Not a new problem, but no one tried to solve it.
- Possibility 3: Failed to use the accurate keywords.

Tools Recommended

- Mendeley



- Google Sheet

To-Read						
	Title	Conf./Jour.	Year	Category	Note	Author of Interest
1	Agent AI: Surveying The Horizons Of Multimodal Interaction	arXiv	2024	Agent	Survey of 80 pages, Yu Recommend	Fei-Fei Li
2	Deep Learning for Trajectory Data Management and Mining: A Survey and Beyond	arXiv	2024	STDM (Trajectory)		Yu Zheng
3	IoT in the Era of Generative AI: Vision and Challenges	arXiv	2024	IoT	Desheng Recommend	
4	Penetrative AI: Making LLMs Comprehend the Physical World	arXiv	2024	Sensing	Yu Recommend, fom Huatao	Huatao Xu, Mo Li
5	Self-supervised learning for human activity recognition using 700,000 person-days of wearable data	npj digital medic	2024	HAR		Vision Paper?
6	Time-Lim: Time Series Forecasting By Reprogramming Large Language Model	ICLR	2024	STDM	Yu Recommend	Yuxuan Liang
7	TrustLLM: Trustworthiness in Large Language Models	arXiv	2024	Trustworthy	67 authors ...	Philip S. Yu, Yue Zhao, Xing Xie, Lichao Sun
8	Unleashing the Power of Shared Label Structures for Human Activity Recognition	arXiv	2024	Sensing	Yu Recommend	Jingbo Shang
9	UrbanGPT: Spatio-Temporal Large Language Models	arXiv	2024	STDM		
10	Position Paper: What Can Large Language Models Tell Us about Time Series Analysis	ICML	2024	STDM		Yuxuan Liang
11	Simulating Human Society with Large Language Model Agents: City, Social Media, and Economic System	WWW	2024	Smart Cities		Yong Li
12	A Communication Theory Perspective on Promoting Engineering Methods for Large Language Models	arXiv	2023	Promotion		Qianan Yang
13						

- ChatGPT