Srinivasan Keshav is a professor and Cisco Chair in the Cheriton School of Computer Science at the University of Waterloo. He studied at the Indian Institute of Technology and received his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. Keshav has made many contributions to computer communication networks and systems, and author to the research paper “How to Read a Paper”.

Keshav's "How to Read a Paper" is an instructional guide on how to most efficiently read a research paper. Keshav states that researchers will spend hundreds of hours a year reading research papers, however, doing so may be a waste of effort as many people rush to the end. The solution is to take a 'three-pass' approach to reading a paper. The first pass should be the quickest pass, as you only skim over the beginning, the end, and the references of the paper. He states that one should be able to answer the five C's after the first pass, which he describes in his paper. The second pass should take roughly an hour as this is the phase in which one examines any illustrations, graphs, and any relevant unread references. The third and final pass is the longest phase in which one takes any final notes and attempts to virtually re-implement the paper in order to re-create the authors work. One may also benefit by taking notes on any ideas for future work or to further the author's work if possible. Keshav also explains how to do a literature survey in the most effect way possible by using the 'three-pass' approach previously mentioned. Lastly, he mentions that this approach kept him from drowning in details, allowed him to estimate the time required to review a set of papers, and allowed him to adjust the depth of a papers evaluation depending on his needs, and available time.

I agree mostly with what Keshav had to say with his 'three-pass' approach, however I would have added a step before any of the three passes. This step would be to look over the paper examining its overall structure:

1. Is the papers format comprehensible? How is one to make the first pass when he or she can't make out what the title, abstract, or anything is.
2. Can the paper be easily followed from start to end? If the paper for some reason has paragraphs out of order, or is written in such a way that the reader is hindered, then it will waste more time and effort to complete each phase.

# Adding this preliminary phase will allow the reader to more easily judge on which papers should be more thoroughly reviewed. I found this paper harder to read as it was typed in two side by side columns instead of the standard single column down the middle of the paper which most people are accustomed to. It is the same concept that most employers use, if the format of an applicant’s resumé is awful to look at or hard to comprehend then the employer will throw it away instead of expending more time and effort reviewing it.

# Out of your listed categories of writing, I would rank their academic trustworthiness as follows: Books, assuming they are nonfictional and purely academic by reputable authors. Theses and dissertations, assuming the author who wrote them is reputable and educated in the subject. Peer Reviewed Conference Papers, assuming that they reviewed the papers using a three-pass system and that the reviewer is reputable and knowledgeable in the paper being reviewed. Web Pages, assuming that the page is academic, not Wikipedia, and that the author of the page is reputable and educated in topic being discussed. Lastly peer reviewed journal articles, because there are too many mediums that the information must pass through before it reaches the reader. This is also under the assumption that all categories have cited their sources.