

Your MSc research project – how the library can help

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Today we will look at:

Search tools to find research papers

Inter-library loans and the Doc Del service

Writing up your literature review

Managing your references,
including how to avoid plagiarism

Generative AI tools

We will be using Mentimeter for questions.

Please go to menti.com and use the code **7765 5759**

Five questions, answer as you go

Your literature review - purpose

At the beginning

- Builds your knowledge
- Problem solving, ideas
- Avoids duplication

During the write up

- Evidence to back up your opinion
- Overview/narrative for your reader
- Where does your work fit in
- Optional – gaps in current research

Your literature review

Your main sources of research papers are **peer reviewed journal articles, pre-publication papers, books and conference proceedings**

You may use other sources, if they are **reputable and academically robust.**

Your literature review (2)

For research papers, search tools include **search engines, publisher websites** and **bibliographic databases**

Getting the research papers

- ✓ Databases (Find At Imperial link)
- ✓ Library Search
- ✓ Google Scholar

No luck? Then try:

- ✓ Google
- ✓ The library's Doc Del service

Evaluating the literature

- Is this relevant to your project?
- Who are the authors?
- Is the information still current?
- What methods have they used – are they scientifically valid?
- Is there anything innovative?
- Do they provide evidence to support their discussion/ statements?
- What new knowledge is there?
- How does it fit it with what you already know?

Preparing your literature review

- Structure – chronological, thematic, methods ?
- Do look at other MSc dissertations
- Consider review papers on your topic
- Keep good notes and citation details

Writing up your literature review

- Be clear and concise
- Use summary statements (paraphrase)
- Relate your arguments/opinions to the evidence
- Account for differing opinions and results
- Connect the sections of your review

Managing your references

Menti – have you answered all five questions ? If not, please do so now.

Reference management

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/reference-management/>

- Choose one that fits your workflows
- Do you need one that can be accessed from multiple places/devices?
- Make sure you are familiar with how it syncs your references
- Do you need to share references with other people?
- Think about the structure and organisation of your references
- Are you a LaTeX user? Using BibTeX?

Plagiarism refresher

You must cite and reference **all** your sources (of information)

Enclose direct quotations in “quotation marks” and cite

Know which referencing style you have to use, and use it consistently

Generative AI tools

College guidance

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/ai-and-study-guidance-hub/>

Departmental guidance

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media-access/internal/?folder=faculty-of-natural-sciences/departments-of-mathematics/internal&filename=Undergraduate-Programme-Handbooks-2023-24.pdf> (page 28)

Library guidance

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/library/learning-support/generative-ai-guidance/>

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articles and books, and reference and
plagiarism queries



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