



The literature review : how does the Library fit in?

The Library can provide

- **Hints, approaches and strategies for writing a literature review**
- **Resource discovery and evaluation**
 - Researching and writing are intertwined
- **Access to resources held by others**
- **Information management training**
- **Support for research and writing**

Writing a Literature Review: hints, approaches and strategies

- **Purpose**
- **Organisation**
 - Introduction
 - Body
 - Conclusion
- **Critical approaches**

Purpose

- The primary purpose of a literature review is to **tell the story** of your topic; therefore, it must be coherent and logical in its development
- A secondary reason is to show that you have read and evaluated an adequate range of sources

General Considerations

- The literature review is the foundation upon which your research essay is built, thus it is vital to consider scope, focus and synthesis
- The organisation and focus of your literature review will often determine the shape and scope of your research essay

The lit review justifies your topic

- defend your choice of research question, theoretical or conceptual framework, and method
- establish the significance of your topic
- provide background information needed to understand the study
- demonstrate you are familiar with significant and/or up-to-date research relevant to the topic
- establish your study as part of an ongoing research process

General Hints

- Previous literature reviews on the topic can often assist
- **Choice and weighting** of articles demonstrate your understanding
- Consider your classifications and organisational principles with care
- A **critical approach** is necessary

Questions to consider

- What has been done in your field of research? What principles of selection are you going to use?
- How are you going to order your discussion?
- What section headings will you use?
- Is the relevance of previous work clearly explained on each occasion?

Questions II

- How do the various studies relate to each other?
- What precise contribution do they make to the field? What are their limitations?
- How does your own research fit into what has already been done?
- Is your own voice apparent?

Organisation

- A literature review will generally be between **20% and 30%** of your thesis
- 10% intro/80% body/10% conclusion
- Articles of most significance to your argument should receive the most attention
- Chronological, thematic, conceptual, methodological, or a combination of approaches are all possible

The intro should have:

- A definition of the general topic, issue, or focus, thus contextualising the review. Often classification is also necessary at this point.
- A summary of overall trends in what has been previously written on the topic; including theoretical issues, previously used methodologies, range of evidence, and conclusions; or gaps in research and scholarship; or a single problem or new perspective of immediate interest.

Body I

- Summarisation, synthesis and analysis of previously written articles or books on the topic, selected according to their relevance and merit.
- Individual studies or articles examined according to their comparative importance in the literature, remembering that length denotes significance to your thesis or hypothesis.

Body II

- Summarisation, synthesis and analysis of previously written articles or books on the topic, selected according to their relevance and merit.
- Individual studies or articles examined according to their comparative importance in the literature, remembering that length denotes significance to your thesis or hypothesis.

Conclusion

- Brief recapitulation of the significance of key studies to the topic under review, maintaining the focus set out in the introduction.
- Evaluation of the current state of affairs in the area, including a presentation of areas requiring future research.
- Statement of the topic's relevance for the area of study as a whole, including possible application.

Critical Approaches I

- Research Problems: Pre-existing social or human problems; unsatisfactory findings of prior research; inadequacies in approaches used in previous research.
- Conceptual Frameworks: Criticism of conceptual fallacies or inadequacies in the current literature on your topic.
- Classification Problems: Examination of the adequacy of previous classifications, categorisations and taxonomies relating to the topic.

Critical Approaches II

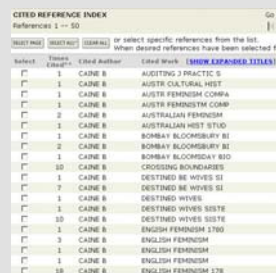
- Experimental approaches: Analysis of the effectiveness of previously undertaken experimental interventions relating to the issue.
- Methodologies: Examination of the flaws or faults in the research design, data collection, sampling, and analysis of prior research studies in the area.
- Findings: Evaluation of the results, conclusions, interpretations, applications and recommendations of prior research studies.

Resource discovery and evaluation

- Cited reference linking
- Subject or primarily format based approaches
- Verification of citations
- Staying current

Cited reference searching in Web of Science

- Taking advantage of bibliographies and reference lists
- Web of Science, CSA, Scopus, Google Scholar



CITED REFERENCE INDEX Go 1
References 1 - 19

SEARCH | REFERENCE | CITATIONS | or select specific references from the list. When desired references have been selected from the list, click on the 'CITATIONS' tab.

Index	Year	Author	Cited Work	Expand
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CSA Illumina: cited reference linking

14. A Critique of Methodological Reason
Aspects of Gender Anth. Subject
The Sociological Quarterly, vol. 41, no. 4, pp. 679-719, fall 2000
 We argue that, following their rejection of practices in the natural sciences, the social sciences have adopted methodology, making it the chief imperative of social investigation & using it to ground their knowledge claims. ...
[View Record](#) | [Link to](#) | [Check for updates](#)

15. Melancholia and Depression: The Creative Edge
Ergebnis. Jambou
Social Alternatives, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 25-30, July 2000
 ... creativity & depression is explored, tracing the *history of ideas* on the subject from the time of Plato through the late Italian & northern Renaissance. The perspectives of philosophers, artists, & writers are ...
[View Record](#) | [References](#) | [Check for updates](#)

16. Sociology, Nation States, and Globalization
Sociologica, vol. 45, no. 1, pp. 6-14, May 2000
 ... only to make the nation-state a more explicit subject of focus but also to be more openly globalized. Theories focused on the issue of "world community" in the 1980s, during the era of the Cold War. Later he developed ...
[View Record](#) | [Check for updates](#)

Google Scholar

Google Scholar
 Search for articles in Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities
 Search in all subject areas

Scholar All articles - Recent articles Results 1 - 10 of about 490 for pauline netter. (0.13 seconds)

1000 Female friendships and communities
Feminist - 1995 - Oxford University Press New York
[Cited by 36](#) - [Related Articles](#) - [Web Search](#) - [Check for updates](#)

1000 A New Departure in Women's Publishing: The English Women's Journal and the Victoria Magazine
Feminist - Victorian Periodicals Review, 1902
[Cited by 4](#) - [Related Articles](#) - [Web Search](#) - [Check for updates](#)

1000 Postcolonial Theory: A Critical Introduction - all 2 versions
L. Gandhi, JBP Ltd - 1998 - books.google.com
 ... writing. My greatest debt is to Pauline Netter, who read through this manuscript and its drafts with care and patience. I want ...
[Cited by 323](#) - [Related Articles](#) - [Web Search](#) - [Check for updates](#)

1000 The Monstrous-Feminine: Film, Feminism, Psychoanalysis
B. Creed - 1993 - books.google.com
 ... me their friendship and support. In particular Sophie Blizowska, Naxette Ched, Joyce Edwards, Jeanne Finkalstein, Andrea Goldsmith, Pauline Netter, Ine O ...
[Cited by 301](#) - [Related Articles](#) - [Web Search](#) - [Check for updates](#)

Approaches by subject

- Online subject guides
 - Selected by subject librarians
 - Reflect teaching and research at Monash

Subject guides

by faculty: [Art and Design](#) | [Aids](#) | [Business and Economics](#) | [Education](#) | [Engineering](#) | [Information Technology](#) | [Law](#) | [Health](#) | [Humanities](#) | [Science](#)

A B C F G H R

- Accounting
- Administrative law
- Art and Design
- Auricular and Farnham studies
- Autism
- Autism studies
- Business and Finance
- Business studies
- Business law and ethics
- Business systems
- Family law
- Finance
- French studies
- Geography and environmental science
- Gender studies
- German studies
- Graphic design
- Health science
- History
- Human rights
- Indian law
- International law
- Marketing
- Mathematics
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Psychology
- Public law
- Psychology
- Public relations

Library catalogue: still at the heart of discovery

- Library catalogue
 - Books and serials owned or licensed by Monash University Library
 - Check each record to determine holdings detail

#	Journal Title Search <	Full title	Published	Linked with other items
1	Feminist studies	Feminist studies [electronic resource]. FS.	1972-9999	Linked with other items
Location: Electronic Resource Call number: Informat Status: Check record				
2	Feminist studies	Feminist studies. FS.	1972-9999	
Multiple locations - check record				

Library Catalogue [continued]

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Writing your doctoral dissertation invisible rules for success / Rita S. ...
 Brause, Rita S.
 Writing your doctoral dissertation [electronic resource] : invisible rules for success / Rita S. Brause.
 London : New York : RoutledgeFalmer, 2003.
 [electronic resource]
 xvi, 163 p. :
[Full text available from Ebook Library](#)

Library Catalogue [continued]

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Possible subject headings and call numbers in this area

Subjects: Dissertations, Academic--Handbooks, manuals, etc.
 Social Sciences --Methodology.

Call numbers: 808.02
 001.42
 300.72

Other library catalogues

- **Other library catalogues**

- Libraries Australia: select the subscription service from the Library Databases Page
- You can search key overseas catalogues if you choose them from the Advanced Search option



Other Library catalogues [continued]

- Australian Libraries Gateway
http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/libraries



Electronic Databases

www.lib.monash.edu.au/databases

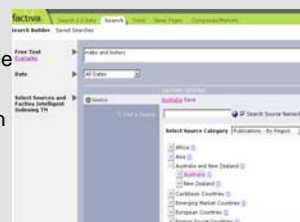
- Journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, theses etc
- Bibliographic and full text
- Australian and international
- Interdisciplinary and subject specific
- Organised by broad subject and A-Z



Electronic databases [continued]

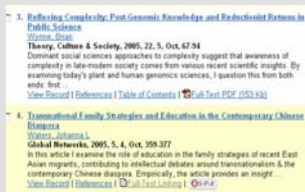
- **Newspaper databases**

- Factiva & NewsBank Newspapers include News Ltd and Fairfax: now excludes Australian Financial Review and BRW
- Searchable archives at newspapers' home pages
- Microfilm archives of newspapers in Matheson



Electronic databases [continued]

- Beware of embargoes
- Look for PDF files for citation purposes
- Email, save, print, export
- Use SFX option to check availability



Electronic databases [continued]

- **SFX [check for full text]**

- Linking our online and hardcopy resources
- Will provide a pathway through to online resource
- Will link to the catalogue entry for hardcopy



Monash electronic PhD theses

MONASH University
ARROW Repository

monash university and phd theses

Showing items 1 - 15 of 701.

Title	Creator	Date	Full Text
Research an improved model for senior secondary music education: a multi-faceted perspective	Biles, William Edward	2004	
Enhancing international strategic positioning and organisational culture for the effective management of human resources in Australian multinational hotels	Rakhoru, Soutra Kharee	2005	
Computerised information systems and professional autonomy: the record of social work	Everman, Philip Ross	2005	
Bank risk-Risk and performance: Malaysia evidence	Abu-El-Haj, Elad	2005	
In the best interests of whom? Child protection and systemically distorted communication /	Sinclair, Thomas	2005	

www.lib.monash.edu.au

Staying current with your research

- Journal issue alerts (Project Muse, CSA Sage, ProQuest, Blackwell Synergy, Cambridge Journals Online)
- Search alerts (CSA, ProQuest, EBSCO, Web of Science, Scopus)

Search Alerts

Alert # 1 (Expires 2006-09-01)

Alert name: (media or newspapers or television) and ((asylum seekers) or refugees) and CE-australia*

Alert type: Email

Alert frequency: Daily

Alert criteria: BND, British Humanities Index

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Staying current with your research [continued]

- Citation alerts (Web of Science, CSA, Scopus)
- Saved searches (Infomit, CSA, Expanded Academic)

My Cited Articles List

Times Cited	Title
22	GIDDENS A. COMMENTS ON THE THEORY OF STRUCTURATION

www.lib.monash.edu.au

Evaluation

- Listing in library catalogues implies but does not guarantee authority
- Usefulness depends on context and purpose
- Online tutorial discussing peer review and other indicators of quality

<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/vl/scholar/scholcon.htm>

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Evaluation [continued]

• Scholarly journals

- Databases with peer reviewed journals only (Project Muse, JSTOR)
- Databases with search or display option for peer-reviewed articles (Expanded Academic, ProQuest, CSA)

ProQuest

Advanced Search

Search criteria: (Database: Expanded Academic)

Search results: 1 - 1 of 1 results

1. The South Atlantic Quarterly

www.lib.monash.edu.au

Evaluation [continued]

• Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

- Comprehensive listing of serials published worldwide
- Will indicate whether a journal is peer reviewed

Search Results: Displaying 1-1 of 1 results

Title (keyword): south atlantic quarterly

1. The South Atlantic Quarterly

1934-2006

1. The South Atlantic Quarterly

1934-2006

1. The South Atlantic Quarterly

1934-2006

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Information management [continued]

- **Endnote**

- Inserting citations and creating bibliographies

Information literacy is a set of abilities that support independence in the practices of identifying, accessing, evaluating, organising and communicating information. It is relevant to all disciplines, to all learning environments and to all levels of education.¹

As the volume of globally accessible information expands, so too does the need for developing sophisticated information handling skills. These skills are now essential for learning, working and participating in society.²

Information literacy encompasses a wide range of competencies from evaluating the quality of information to the effective use of information technology, which supports accessing, organising and communicating information.

¹Orange M. Bennett, "Israel: Turbulent Democracy at Forty," *Middle East Journal* 42, no. 2 (2008): 229-231.

²Ernst, Wolfgang, "Colonial Psychiatry, Magic and Religion: The Case of Mesmerism in British India," *History of Psychiatry* 15, no. 1 (2004): 37-71.

Reference List

Bennett, Orange M. "Israel: Turbulent Democracy at Forty." *Middle East Journal* 42, no. 2 (2008): 229-231.

Ernst, Wolfgang, "Colonial Psychiatry, Magic and Religion: The Case of Mesmerism in British India." *History of Psychiatry* 15, no. 1 (2004): 37-71.

Support for research and writing

- **Sources of help**

- Information desks in each library
- Ask.Monash: Browse FAQs or submit a question
- Online Reference Chat [12pm -9pm weekdays]
- Telephone 9905 5054
- Information literacy online tutorials
 - > <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/>
- Learning skills online tutorials
 - > <http://www.monash.edu.au/lis/hdr/>
- Disability services after DLO clearance
- Copyright issues from MRGS
 - > <http://www.copyright.monash.edu.au/permission-research-student.html>

Support for research and writing: subject librarians offer

- **Individual appointments to discuss research needs [send an outline of your proposal in advance]**
- **Advice on which resources are best for your topic**
- **Purchase of resources to support your interests**
- **Tracking down publications or "grey" literature**
- **Stay in contact: subject librarians act as a team**
<http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/contacts/faculty/arts.html>

Support for research and writing :learning skills advisers offer

- **Classes on various aspects of the writing process**
- **Individual appointments for HDR students. Contacts**
 - Dr J Henman:
 - > Jim.Henman@lib.monash.edu.au
 - Dr J Hlavac:
 - > Jim.Hlavac@arts.monash.edu.au
 - Dr M Piscioneri:
 - > Mathew.Piscioneri@arts.monash.edu.au
 - Dr A. Johnson [Caulfield]
 - > Andrew.Johnson@arts.monash.edu.au