



Finding Literature for Research

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What do you need literature for?

- Overview
 - current state of research
 - current theories
 - methods
- Your work in context to the research area
 - identify research goals
 - identify key aspects
- Avoiding duplication of effort

- literature = communication method of research community

How do you find literature?

- What do you need?
 - subject
 - document type ...
- Where can you find something of interest?
 - choose relevant database
- How can you get the full text?
 - reading room and stacks in the library
 - books and journals online
 - inter library loan

What can you find in databases?

- Library Catalogue (OPAC)
 - books
 - journals
 - dissertations
- Electronic Journals Library (EZB)
- Database Catalogue (Datenbank-Infosystem – DBIS)
- Bibliographies
 - general or subject specific
 - journal articles
 - conference papers
 - book articles
- Factual databases
 - address
 - properties ...

Steps to find literature containing a specific subject

- find relevant database
 - generate research strategie
 - search in database
 - evaluate results
 - save results
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- You may need to duplicate some of the above points or take a step back!

Principles of searching for scientific literature

- Principle of good scientific practice
 - all relevant documents
 - high recall
 - boolean operator: OR
- Principle of time management
 - only relevant documents
 - high precision
 - boolean operator: AND
- balance the two principles according to task

Generate Research Strategy

- Collect keywords
 - synonyms
 - translations
 - related keywords
- Assemble logically
 - AND (for different subject aspects)
 - OR (for synonyms)
 - truncate
- Try out your search strategy
 - sufficient relevant documents?
 - use more synonyms from relevant documents
 - adjust strategy

Evaluate Documents

- **Currency:** the timeliness of the information
- **Relevance:** the importance of the information for your needs
- **Authority:** the source of the information
- **Accuracy:** the reliability, truthfulness and correctness of the content
- **Purpose:** the reason the information exists

Save Results

- Download relevant results
- Sort and keep track of work on documents (reference software)
- Write down your research strategy
 - When
 - Which database
 - Exact wording of search strategy
 - How many search results

Citing

- Why cite?
 - recognition of other peoples work
 - separates your work from other peoples work
 - enables the reader to check your sources
- What to cite?
 - factual data from other peoples research
 - fundamental methodical, philosophical or scientific assumptions
 - other peoples ideas
- Don't cite
 - general knowledge
 - common sense
 - everyday experience

Reference Software

- How to cite?
 - everything that is needed to identify source with certainty
 - usually short reference to author in main text
 - complete reference in reference list
 - many citing styles to choose from
- How can software help?
 - collects processed documents
 - use forms to add data
 - Automatically generates citations and reference lists using your chosen citation style

Plagiarism (1)

- What is plagiarism?
 - using text, ideas, tables, pictures, diagrams ... without recognition of original author
 - directly (copy/paste) or indirectly (in your own words)
 - self plagiarism
- Why should you not plagiarise?
 - accomplishments are not accepted or revoked
 - bad image with peers (other authors)
 - bad for career (industry / science)

Plagiarism (2)

- How to avoid plagiarism?
 - differentiate consistently
 - **own** arguments and ideas
 - **other** arguments and ideas
 - use direct citations
 - use indirect citations

Urheberrecht (Copyright)

- Urheberrechtsgesetz (Copyright Law – Germany)
- Right to Cite:
 - In scientific works you may cite „parts of a work“
 - only if work is a scientific accomplishment

More help?

- You can always contact any librarian or me.
- We like to help and are open to suggestions.
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