FINAL YEAR PROJECT SEMINAR

Literature Survey

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Introduction

- What is a Literature Review?
  - The 'Literature Review' is the part of the dissertation where there is extensive reference to related research and theory in the field.
  - Overall, the function of a literature review is to show how related work in the field has shaped and influenced your research.
  - You should aim to use the literature selectively and creatively to provide a stimulus for your own work.
Purpose of a Literature Review

- To provide a **historical context** for your research
- To give an overview of the **current context** in which your research is situated
- To show **relevant theories and concepts** for your research
- To **provide definitions and relevant terminology** for your research
- To **describe related research** in the field and how your work extends this or addresses a gap in previous work in the field
- To **provide supporting evidence** for a practical problem which your research is addressing
What a Literature Review is not...

A straightforward summary of everything you have read on a topic

A chronological account of how research has developed in your field
Where to position Literature Review?

- In the dissertation itself, the literature review can be realised in different ways:
  - It may occur in a chapter entitled **Literature Review – usually as Chapter 2**
    - This chapter is likely to be divided into topic-related sub-sections
  - The literature review may occur in a chapter or series of chapters with topic-related titles
  - The literature review may be interwoven throughout the whole dissertation
Literature Review Structures

- What is the main focus?
- What are the key concepts?
- Setting up a theoretical framework
- Establishing the key debates in the field?
- Identifying gaps in the research
- Providing an ongoing ‘dialogue’ with, or perspectives on your analysis
One Way Of Looking At A Literature Review

Intersection between visual conventions and genre conventions

Genre theories

Structuring of visual information

Usability on the web

Investigating how genre conventions affect usability and user performance on the web

Visual genre conventions and user performance on the web
Literature Review Approach - An Inverted Triangle

- Broad issues
- Studies which overlap with your research
- Studies that are directly related to your investigation
Literature Survey

- Search Technique
- How should I look for literature?
- Question to ask?
- How to Find Scholarly Articles Online
- Using UniKL's Online Service
Search Technique

Primary Sources
- Letters/correspondence, diaries, memoirs, autobiographies, official or research reports, patents and designs, and empirical research articles.

Secondary Sources
- Academic journal articles (other than empirical research articles or reports), conference proceedings, books (monographs or chapters' books), documentaries.

Tertiary Sources
- Encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, atlas
How should I look for literature?

Look at a few secondary sources - recent published reviews or textbooks

- Does it worry you that somebody might have published a review paper that covers your topic exactly?

Define the scope of your literature review as clearly as you can

- You should already have enough information to come up with a series of questions or topics that can be used as tentative headings

You should also make a list of keywords

- apply to your topic, and also a list of names of relevant authors.
Questions to ask?

- Verify the source
  - Who wrote it?
  - Where was it published?
- What were the aims and objectives?
- What were the outcomes?
- Were the methods / approaches / strategies appropriate and comprehensive?
- What might have been overlooked or biased?
- Do the results justify the interpretation and conclusion?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses?
- In what context was the research conducted?
- What was its contribution to the field?
- How does it link to my research question?
How to Find Scholarly Articles Online

Look at the individual websites of well known journal publishers.

• These will contain a lot of abstracts that can be downloaded with payment, although sometimes they are free of charge as well.

Turn to Google Scholar

• Simple keyword searches may not be as beneficial in terms of returns as in the normal Google search engine.
• Try using the advanced search options to search for phrases, titles, authors, etc.
Google Scholar is a freely accessible web search engine that indexes the full text of scholarly literature across an array of publishing formats and disciplines.

A mega search engine that search across many databases, regardless of subject area or languages.
Google Scholar
How to Find Scholarly Articles Online

Visit the DOAJ

- This is the Directory of Open Access Journals
- http://www.doaj.org/

Check out universities

- A number of universities are taking a very open approach to providing scholarly articles to the general public
How to Find Scholarly Articles Online

Look for articles on government websites and parliamentary/legislative websites.

• You’re not just limited to your own government; you are able to visit the websites of any government whose language you can read.

• For EU, given that everything has to published in each of the languages of the parties to the Union, you will always find English copies of all their materials.

Search for United Nations organization’s articles.

• There is a lot of academic and professional work available free-of-charge or at minimal cost available on UN’s websites.
Using UniKL’s Online Service

http://library.unikl.edu.my/equip-unikl/custom/home.jsp
How to find sources?

- There are many ways to find secondary sources through the library website:
  - OPAC
- Using the many Databases that the library subscribe:
  - http://library.unikl.edu.my/equip-unikl/custom/onlinedatabase.jsp
  - UniKL (EDS) Discovery Service
  - ScienceDirect (2009 publications onwards)
  - ASME Journal
  - IEEE Explore
Other Database

**MyTO : Malaysian Theses Online**
- It is a list of a theses collection compiled from public universities and university colleges as well as three main selected private universities.

**MyULIS : Malaysian Union List of Serials IPTA/IPTS**
- It is a portal that lists the titles of all serial publication subscribed by all university libraries in Malaysia.

**Malaysian Academic Library Union Catalog (MALCat)**
- PERPUN library catalog is a union catalog of all the public University Libraries and Government link corporation University Library registered with Ministry of Higher Education.
Valid Sources

- Refereed article in a *journal* or a conference
- Book published in scientific series
- Articles referred to in other articles
Wikipedia Is Not A Source For Scientific Writing!

- Wikipedia has no formal and strict refereeing
  - Reviewers in Wikipedia can be from a completely different field
- The disciplines get mixed up in Wikipedia
  - Wikipedia articles try to cover every discipline, which causes loss of the focus
- Wikipedia is modified constantly which hinders checking the reference
  - Reader of the literature survey must be able to access the exactly same text as the author
- Even Encyclopedia Britannica is not a source for scientific information
  - Encyclopedias list facts, but not the reasoning or research methods behind them