How to Conduct a Literature Review

Nader Ale Ebrahim
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Outline

• Find literature associated with the topic.
• Search and analyze the literature.
• Evaluate the paper before reading.
• Cite literature properly.
• Make a summary table of reviewed papers.
• Avoid plagiarism.
• Write a journal article based on literature review.

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The literature review

In your literature review, you should:

– clarify your understanding of the field
– explain the rationale for your research
– place your research within a broader context
– evaluate the results of previous research
– define key concepts and ideas
– identify research in related areas that are generalisable or transferable to your topic
– identify relevant methodological issues.


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A literature review ensures that you are at least familiar with the body of research in your field before starting your own investigations. Writing a literature review also provides practice in critical thinking. Once you have applied critical thinking skills to the findings of past researchers, you are in a better position to apply these same skills to your own work.
A systematic review is a literature review focused on a research question that tries to identify, appraise, select and synthesize all high quality research evidence relevant to that question.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systematic_review

A Guide to Writing the Dissertation Literature Review - ©2011 Nader Ale Ebrahim
Working with literature

Find it!
- Knowing the literature types
  - Using available resources
    - Honing your search skills
- Reading efficiently
- Keeping track of references
- Writing relevant annotations

Manage it!
- Choosing your research topic
- Developing your question
- Arguing your rationale
- Informing your work with theory
- Designing method

Use it!
- Understanding the lit review’s purpose
- Ensuring adequate coverage
- Writing purposefully
- Working on style and tone

Review it!

Narrow the area of research

R&D and Distributed Teams

Focus of the literature Review
SMEs, Virtual R&D teams and NPD

NPD and Virtuality

Virtual R&D teams and SMEs

Virtual Teams

SMEs and Virtual Teams

R&D

SMEs and NPD

NPD

R&D and NPD

SMEs and R&D

NPD and SMEs


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Selecting keywords
Improving Readership of Your Articles

Appearing at the top of the list of search results, and having a useful description of your work, greatly improve the likelihood that a reader will find and download your document.

- Abstracts should include keywords that potential readers are likely to use in searches. It is especially valuable to modify and reuse words that appear in the document's title and full text to improve the article's rank when readers search for those words.

- The first sentence of the abstract is all that is likely to be displayed in the search page results, so make your first sentence one that will encourage readers to click the link.

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Selecting keywords lead to get more citation.

Web of Science
Want more keyword ideas? Try the Search-based Keyword Tool, a new tool that will generate ideas matched to your website.

Results are tailored to English, United States

### How would you like to generate keyword ideas?
- Descriptive words or phrases (e.g., green tea)
- Website content (e.g., www.example.com/product?id=74893)

Enter one keyword or phrase per line.

- Virtual R&D teams in new product development

- Use synonyms
- Filter my results

Get keyword ideas

---

### Selected Keywords:
To advertise with these keywords on Google, export them in TEXT or CSV format. Click ‘Sign up for AdWords’ to create your AdWords account, then paste the keywords into your new campaign.

- Virtual teams

### Keywords

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<th>Local Search Volume: December</th>
<th>Global Monthly Search Volume</th>
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**Additional keywords to consider - sorted by relevance**

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Download all keywords: text, csv (for excel), csv
Google Wonder wheel

Save time by exploring relevant results related to the original keyword you search for. Whether it’s for a research you are doing, a term paper or just about anything else consuming your time, Google wonder wheel can tell you what you are missing or need to search and save you that precious research time.

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GTrends
Enter a Seed Word to Mash Wordtracker with Google Trends and Evaluate up to 100 Related Keywords.
Hi there! This issue, we are going to explain how KeyWords Plus broadens your search. KeyWords Plus is the result of our Thomson Reuters editorial expertise in Science.

What our editors do is to review the titles of all references and highlight additional relevant but overlooked keywords that were not listed by the author or publisher. With KeyWords Plus, you can now uncover more papers that may not have appeared in your search due to changes in scientific keywords over time.

Thanks and keep your feedback and questions coming!

Smiles,
Lim Khee Hiang
Ph.D., Principal Consultant
• New Product Development in Virtual Environment (ISI Indexed)
• Author Keywords: New product Development; Virtual teams; Concurrent Collaboration; Review paper
• KeyWords Plus: DEVELOPMENT TEAMS; PERFORMANCE; TECHNOLOGY; KNOWLEDGE; COMMUNICATION; PERSPECTIVE; INTEGRATION; INNOVATION; NETWORK; WORKING

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Where to Find Research Literature

- **ISI Web of Knowledge**
- **Research tools Mind Map** (Refer to “search for proper article” section)
The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)
The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)

- The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) was founded by Eugene Garfield in 1960. It was acquired by Thomson Scientific & Healthcare in 1992, became known as Thomson ISI and now is part of the Healthcare & Science business of the multi-billion dollar Thomson Reuters Corporation.

- ISI offered bibliographic database services. Its speciality: citation indexing and analysis, a field pioneered by Garfield. It maintains citation databases covering thousands of academic journals, including a continuation of its long time print-based indexing service the Science Citation Index (SCI), as well as the Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI). All of these are available via ISI's Web of Knowledge database service.
The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)

• The ISI also publishes annual *Journal Citation Reports* which list an *impact factor* for each of the journals that it tracks. Within the scientific community, journal impact factors play a large but controversial role in determining the kudos attached to a scientist's published research record.
In recent years, we have witnessed an explosion in the production and availability of scholarly research results. This growth is reflected in the gradual expansion of journal coverage in the Web of Science.

Journal coverage in Web of Science consists of three major indexes, namely the (Science Citation Index Expanded, the Social Sciences Citation Index, and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index. In addition, the Conference Proceedings Citation Index (formerly ISI Proceedings) became an edition of Web of Science in October 2008.

In 2000 journal coverage in Web of Science totaled 8,684 titles. In 2005, Web of Science covered 9,467 journals, an increase of 9%. As of April 1, 2010 11,519 journals are covered in Web of Science, and increase of 22%.
A scientist has index $h$ if $h$ of [his/her] $N_p$ papers have at least $h$ citations each, and the other $(N_p - h)$ papers have at most $h$ citations each.
## Author impact analysis

**Query**

- **Author's name:** Jay Bal
- **Exclude these names:**
- **Year of publication between:** 0 and 0

**Results**

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<table>
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- **Field of study:**
  - Biology, Life Sciences, Environmental Science
  - Business, Administration, Finance, Economics
  - Computer Science, Mathematics
  - Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics
  - Medicine, Pharmacology, Veterinary Sciences
  - Physics, Astronomy, Planetary Science
  - Social Sciences, Arts, Humanities
Academics that need to make their case for tenure or promotion will find PoP useful to create reference groups and show their citation record to its best advantage. When evaluating other academics, PoP can be used as a 5-minute preparation before meeting someone you don’t know, to evaluate editorial board members or prospective PhD supervisors, to write up tributes (or laudations) and eulogies, to decide on publication awards and to pre-prepare for a job interview. Deans and other academic administrators will find PoP useful to evaluate tenure or promotion cases in a fair and equitable way.

PoP can also be used to assist when you are uncertain which journal to submit it to. You can use it to get ideas of the types of journals that publish articles on the topic you are writing on and to compare a set of journals in terms of their citation impact. Once you have decided on the target journal, it can also help you to double-check that you haven’t missed any prior work from the journal in question.

PoP can help you to do a quick literature review to identify the most cited articles and/or scholars in a particular field. It can be used to identify whether any research has been done in a particular area at all (useful for grant applications) or to evaluate the development of the literature in a particular topic over time. Finally, PoP is very well suited for doing bibliometric research on both authors and journals.
Impact Factor

• The most commonly used measure of journal quality is Impact Factor. This is a number which attempts to measure the impact of a journal in terms of its influence on the academic community. Impact Factors are published by Thomson- ISI.
Relative impact factors are often a better guide to the importance of a journal than raw numbers. JCR allows you to compare the impact factors of different journals in the same subject area.

The *Economic History Review* has an impact factor of 1.051. At first glance, it would appear that this journal is relatively unimportant. In fact, it is arguably the premier English-language journal in its field (its major competitor, the *Journal of Economic History Review*, has an even lower impact factor: a mere 0.529!). Far more illuminating is the journal's relatively high impact factor compared to other journals in the history of the social sciences. *Economic History Review* ranks first out of 15 journals in the Thomson-ISI's list of journals in this sub-discipline.

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The average number of citations in 2006 to scholarly material that was published in the prior two years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Items Published</th>
<th>Cites in 2008</th>
<th>Number of Items Published</th>
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<td>144</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>Cites to recent items / Number of recent items = 0.774</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>280</td>
<td>270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sum:</td>
<td></td>
<td>424</td>
<td>548</td>
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### Journal: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRODUCTION RESEARCH

<table>
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<th>Mark</th>
<th>Journal Title</th>
<th>ISSN</th>
<th>Total Cites</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
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<th>Immediacy Index</th>
<th>Citable Items</th>
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<td>5500</td>
<td>0.774</td>
<td>1.380</td>
<td>0.132</td>
<td>325</td>
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<td>9.3</td>
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</table>

**Journal Information**
- **Full Journal Title:** INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRODUCTION RESEARCH
- **ISO Abbrev. Title:** Int. J. Prod. Res.
- **JCR Abbrev. Title:** INT J PROD RES
- **ISSN:** 0020-7543
- **Issues/Year:** 18
- **Language:** MULTI-LANGUAGE
- **Journal Country/Territory:** ENGLAND
- **Publisher:** TAYLOR & FRANCIS LTD
- **Publisher Address:** 1 PARK SQUARE, MILTON PARK, ABINGDON OX14 4RN, OXON, ENGLAND
- **Subject Categories:** ENGINEERING, INDUSTRIAL, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, OPERATIONS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT SCIENCE

**Journal Impact Factor**
- **Cites in 2008 to items published in:** 2007 = 144, Number of items published in: 2007 = 278
- **2006 = 280**
- **Sum:** 424
- **Calculation:** Cites to recent items / Number of recent items = 424 / 548 = 0.774

**Eigenfactor™ Metrics**
- Eigenfactor™ Score: 0.01042
- Article Influence™ Score: 0.360
Impact Factor Trend Graph: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRODUCTION RESEARCH

The journal impact factor is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year. The impact factor will help you evaluate a journal's relative importance, especially when you compare it to others in the same field. For more bibliometric data and information on this and other journal titles click on the "Return to Journal" button.

NOTE: Title changes and coverage changes may result in no impact factor for one or more years in the above graph.

2008 Impact Factor
Cites in 2008 to articles published in: 2007 = 144  Number of articles published in: 2007 = 278
  2006 = 260  2006 = 270
Calculation: Cites to recent articles = 424  Number of recent articles = 548
  Sum: 424  Sum: 548

2007 Impact Factor
Cites in 2007 to articles published in: 2006 = 88  Number of articles published in: 2006 = 270
  2005 = 204  2005 = 251
Calculation: Cites to recent articles = 292  Number of recent articles = 521
  Sum: 292  Sum: 521
### Rank in Category: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRODUCTION RESEARCH

**Journal Ranking**

For 2008, the journal **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRODUCTION RESEARCH** has an Impact Factor of 0.774.

This table shows the ranking of this journal in its subject categories based on Impact Factor:

<table>
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<th>Category Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Q3</td>
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<tr>
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**Category Box Plot**

For 2008, the journal **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PRODUCTION RESEARCH** has an Impact Factor of 0.774.

This is a box plot of the subject category or categories to which the journal has been assigned. It provides information about the distribution of journals based on Impact Factor values. It shows median, 25th and 75th percentiles, and the extreme values of the distribution.

![Box Plot](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Rank</th>
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# Journal Citation Reports

## Journal Summary List

**Journals from:** Subject categories ENGINEERING, INDUSTRIAL

**Sorted by:** Total Cites

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Real Impact Factor

Journal Self Cites (JOURNAL OF THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY- IF= 1009)

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An item is classified as a **review** if it meets any of the following criteria:
- it cites more than **100 references**
- it appears in a review publication or a **review section of a journal**
- the word **review or overview** appears in its title
- the abstract states that it is a **review** or survey

Other items include editorials, letters, news items, and meeting abstracts. These items are not counted in JCR calculations because they are not generally cited. Data in this column are available only in JCR 2003 and subsequent years.

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Thank you!

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