
“Doing” the Literature Review

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Today's Plan

- **Session 1:**
 - What are literature reviews?
 - The functions of literature reviews;
 - Synthesising and organising the literature review;
 - The critical nature of literature reviews
 - Activity
- **Session 2**
 - Composing
 - Summarising and paraphrasing;
 - Referencing;
 - AI Use
 - Introductions and conclusions to your review;
 - Activity

Session One



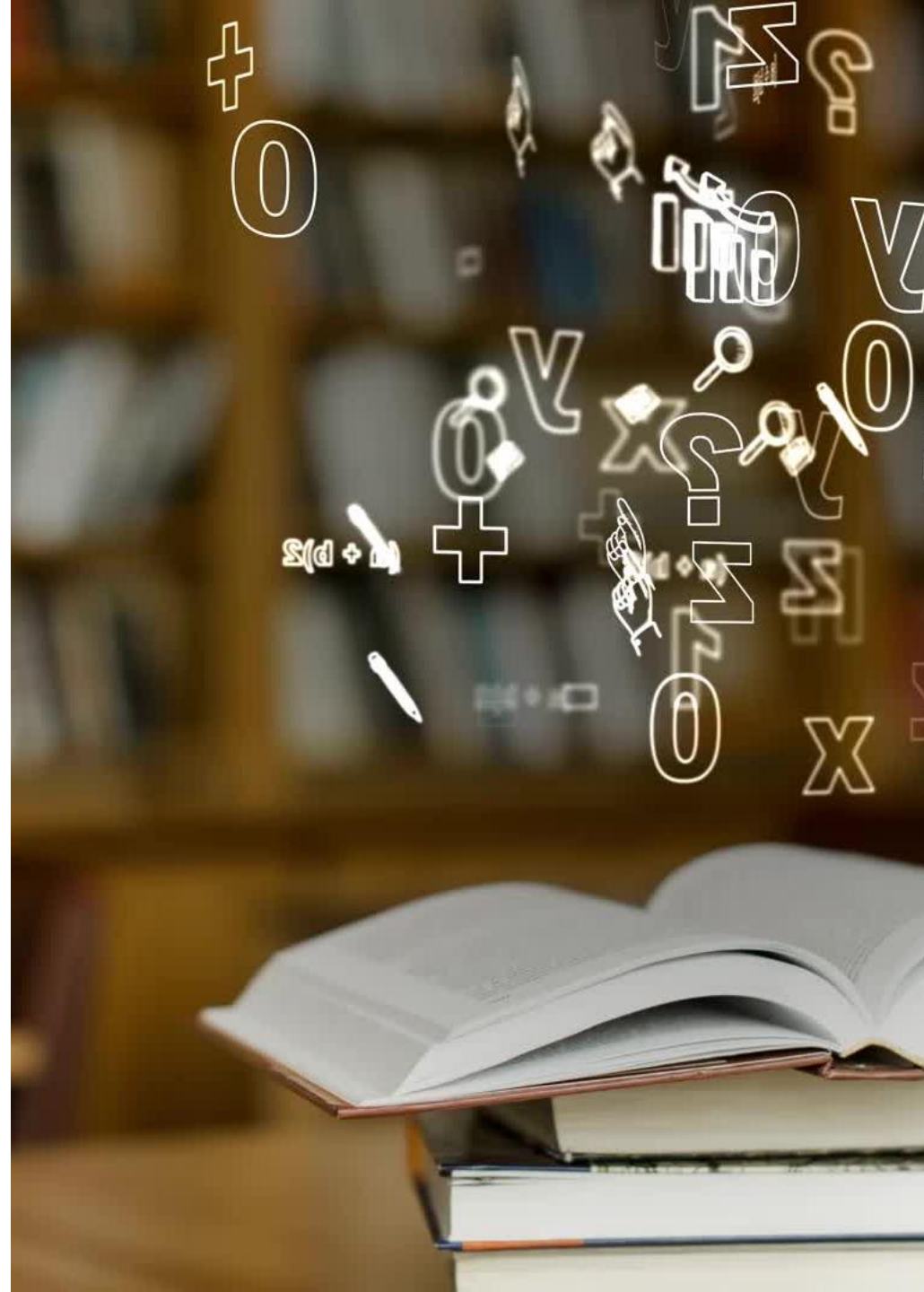


Question: What are Literature Reviews?

- With the people around you, think of a way to define or describe a literature review?
- How long should they be?
- What should you cover?

What are Literature Reviews?

- “A literature review has an organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis. A summary is a recap of the important information of the source, but a synthesis is a re-organization, or a reshuffling, of that information. It might give a new interpretation of old material or combine new with old interpretations. Or it might trace the intellectual progression of the field, including major debates” (UNC College of Arts & Sciences, Writing Center).





What are literature reviews?

- Discusses and critiques published work on a particular subject area (or subject areas).
- A literature review should:
 - Organise
 - Interpret/evaluate
 - Identify patterns and trends
 - Synthesize research

Purpose of a literature review



Learning about the research that has been conducted on a particular topic



Learn about the evolution of your particular topic or field



Display competence and understanding of a particular research topic in terms of:

- Identification of significant works
- Points of agreement (consensus)
- Points of disagreement (controversy)
- Identification of areas of potential future research



Offers readers the intellectual context in which you are situating your research (motivation)

Functions



Offer an overview of non-research related literature in order to synthesize the context of the research



A review of theoretical perspectives about a topic



A review of research literature related to your study



Present the “historical record” of your research-related topic

Functions

- A critique of research that:
 - Identifies arguments for and against issues and controversies related to the previous functions (listed above)
 - Assess the value of theories, ideas, claims, research designs, methods and conclusions, including an identification of the strengths and weaknesses
- Identification of gaps or shortcomings in already established knowledge

Functions

- A rationale justifying why the gap in research is important
- An explanation of how the research design of your project was informed by the previous steps. This will explain how the literature provided:
 - A focus for the research questions or hypotheses that were investigated and
 - Guidelines for an appropriate methodology and research design

Types of literature reviews

Chapter in a thesis or dissertation

A section in an article or book chapter

A section in a research proposal

A section in a grant proposal

Section in a research report

Full-length, stand-alone review article



Thesis Example

Allen, 2018

Chapter 2: Literature Review	34
2.1 Introduction and Chapter Outline	34
2.2 Listener Behaviour	35
2.2.1 Forms and Locations	36
2.2.2 Frequency	41
2.2.3 Functions	44
2.2.4 Gender and Listener Behaviour	56
2.2.5 The Role of the Listener	58
2.2.6 Concluding Remarks and Summary	59
2.3 Non-Verbal Listener Behaviour	60
2.3.1 Head Nodding	61
2.4 Emic and Conversation Analytic Perspectives of Listener Behaviour ..	67
2.4.1 Emic Perspectives	68
2.4.2 Conversation Analytic Perspectives	75
2.4.3 Summary	76
2.5 The Kantō and Kansai Regions of Japan	77
2.5.1 Linguistic Variation	79
2.5.2 Cultural Variation	85
2.5.3 Listener Behaviour Variation	88
2.5.4 Summary	91
2.6 Perception and Awareness of Language and Culture	92
2.6.1 Listening Behaviour, Perception and Awareness	96
2.6.2 Expectancy and Deviancy	99
2.6.3 Summary	100
2.7 Summary and Concluding Remarks	101

Literature reviews VS. other forms of writing

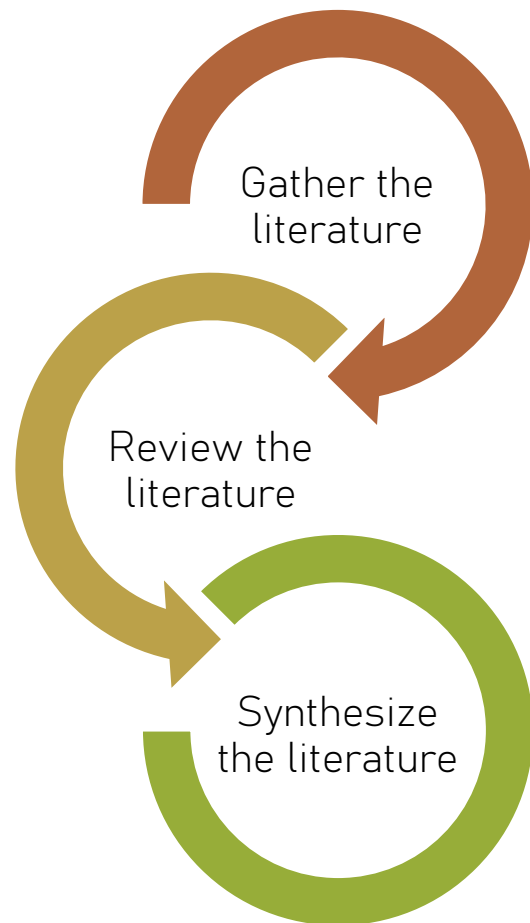
Other forms of writing, such as an essay, typically use already established knowledge to articulate an argument

Only the knowledge related to the argument may be used to support the argument, and author's names are only mentioned for referencing purposes

Literature reviews are constructed in order to be a critical analysis of all the knowledge that has been discovered about a topic

Essays emphasize the information whereas literature reviews emphasize the authors

Literature review process



Gather: use library and other resources to search for and collect appropriate materials

Review: describe, summarize, analyse, and identify key concepts

Synthesize: compare and contrast, critically evaluate and interpret, so that you can articulate a new conclusion

Question: How do you write critically?

- With the people around you, discuss the ways in which you write critically?
- What does critically mean?



Being critical (language style)

Critical means:

- a) Expressing or involving an analysis of the merits and faults of a work or literature, music, or art;
- b) Incorporating a detailed and scholarly analysis and commentary;
- c) Involving the objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgement.

(Para 1) While **providing sound reasons** for the eruption of the conflict, **none of these arguments adequately engage the critical issue of** the entrenched ethnic tensions in the region.

(Para 2) **The advantage of X's work** is that these observations are lodged within a perspective built up in the course of a survey of processes that shaped the categorization of old age in a single culture, over a long period of time. . . .**X's work is important for the purposes of this thesis, not only** because of. . . .**More importantly**, the broad sweep of her study **highlights** the systemic changes that underpin shifts in the experience of old age and public understanding of it.

(Para 3) **Such** clinical **interpretations overlook** the fact that mutuality and sociality make us human as much as extendable knowledge. Human personhood is shaped as much through the symbolic mediation of social relations as it is through the mediation of human, knowing relations with the non-sentient world. In short, sociality can be built through restricted codes even though these codes remain restricted.

Being critical (evaluation)

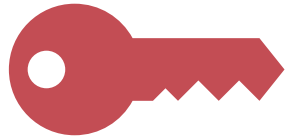
- Key concepts include:
 - Strengths and weaknesses/limitations
 - Accounts of different findings – how can these be explained? (e.g., theory or methodology).
 - Identify unresolved problems, ambiguities, issues and gaps.
 - Implications and the relationship to your work.

Synthesizing literature



- The word *synthesize* means to combine two or more elements to form a new whole. In the literature review, the “elements” are the findings of the literature you gather and read; the “new whole” is the conclusion you draw from those findings or the critical analysis you provide in your review.

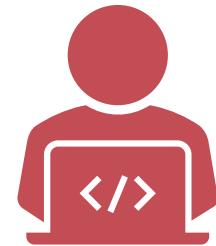
Q: How do you synthesize literature?



Is it effective?



Time consuming?



Use of computer or manually?

Complete Reference	Problem Statement/Key Questions	Methods	Findings	Remarks

(Bitchener, 2010, p. 63)

Author/Date	Full Reference 1	Full Reference 2	Full Reference 3
Focus/Topic			
Research Design			
Participants/Context			
Key Findings			
Limitations			
Similarities/Differences to other literature			

Organising your literature review

Themes and topics of research

Research questions or hypotheses being addressed

The variables investigated in the research

The methodology used in the study

Chronological order

A combination of these



Thesis Example

Thematic Organisation (Table of contents)

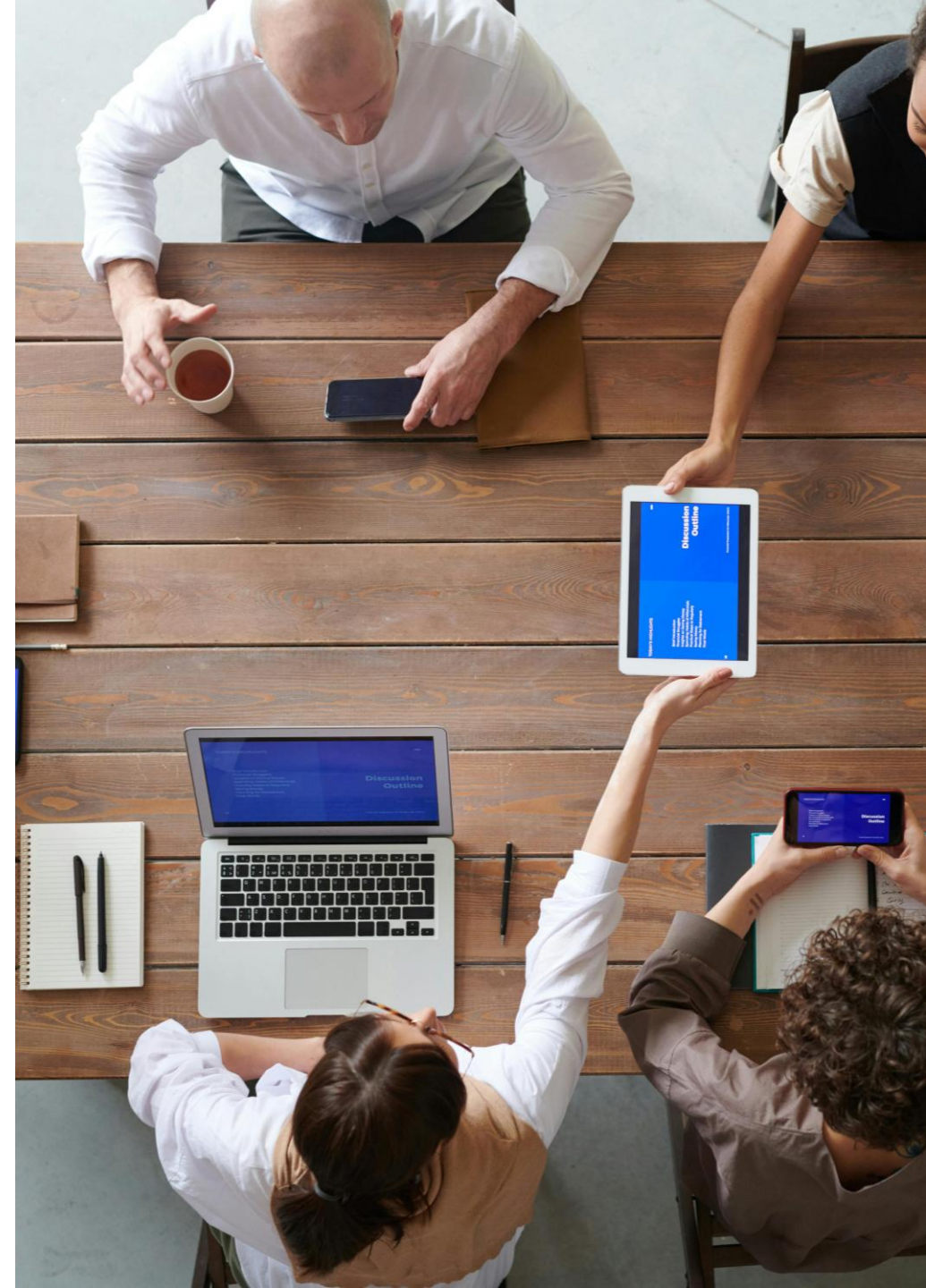
2.2 Listener Behaviour	35
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Chronological Organisation (Writing)

Although a number of studies that have investigated listener behaviour (including listener responses, backchanneling, and reactive tokens) have claimed that the body of work began with Fries (1952), the psycholinguist and natural language professor Victor Yngve (1970) has been credited with coining the term 'backchannel' to name and describe the behaviour of listeners during interaction. His description portrays backchannels as short messages such as 'yeah', 'yes' and 'uh-huh' verbalised by listeners. Yngve (1970) also asserts:

Activity

- Read the handout provided, and with your neighbor discuss the ways in which the author has organised the literature review in the journal article.
- **Reference:** Endo, T. (2018). The Japanese change-of-state tokens *a* and *aa* in responsive units. *Journal of pragmatics*, 123, 151-166.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2017.06.010>



Session 1 Wrap Up



You learned about:

- Defining and understanding the functions of literature reviews
- Being critical in your literature reviews
- Synthesizing and organising the literature in logical ways



Session Two



Advice From Elsevier

- “This section should extend (but not repeat) the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for the work being reported. It should identify the most relevant previous literature on the topic (but not in excessive detail) in order to position the paper and demonstrate how it will make a significant contribution. It (or a separate section) should set out (and justify) the theoretical or conceptual framework adopted in the paper. It may identify a number of hypotheses to be tested or research questions to be explored. In short, this section (or sections) should explain what is the motivation for the paper and why its contribution is original and significant” (Journal of Policy Studies).

Advice From Elsevier

- “State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results” (Journal of Pragmatics).

Advice From Elsevier

- “Clearly state the purpose of the article. Summarize the rationale for the study or observation. Give only pertinent references and do not review the subject extensively; the introduction should serve only to introduce what was done and why it was done. End introduction by stating the specific purpose, research objective, or hypothesis tested by the study (typically found at the end of the introduction section)” (Journal of Chiropractic Humanities).

Advice From Elsevier

- “State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results”. (Obesity Medicine and Preventative Medicine).

Establishing the importance of the topic (time frame given)

One of the most important events of the 1970s was
Traditionally, Xs have subscribed to the belief that
Recent developments in X have heightened the need for
In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in
Recent trends in X have led to a proliferation of studies that
Recent developments in the field of X have led to a renewed interest in
Recently, researchers have shown an increased interest in
The past decade has seen the rapid development of X in many
The past thirty years have seen increasingly rapid advances in the field of
Over the past century there has been a dramatic increase in
X proved an important literary genre in the early Y community.
The changes experienced by Xs over the past decade remain unprecedented.
Xs are one of the most widely used groups of Y and have been extensively used for

Synopsis of literature

Previous studies have reported
Recent evidence suggests that
Several attempts have been made to
Studies of X show the importance of
A number of researchers have reported
Recently investigators have examined the effects of X on Y.
Factors found to be influencing X have been explored in several studies.
In the past two decades a number of researchers have sought to determine
A considerable amount of literature has been published on X. These studies
Surveys such as that conducted by Smith (1988) showed that
The first serious discussions and analyses of X emerged during the 1970s with
There have been a number of longitudinal studies involving X that have reported
Xs were reported in the first models of Y (e.g., Smith, 1977; Smith and Patel, 1977).
What we know about X is largely based upon empirical studies that investigate how
Smith (1984: 217) shows how, in the past, research into X was mainly concerned with

Word/Phrase lists

(Morley, 2014, p. 8)

Q: How do you compose your literature review?

- With the people around you, discuss the ways in which you compose your literature review.
- Write down the strategies that you find helpful.



Composing your literature review

1

The first step is to settle on a general pattern of organisation

2

Once you have established your organisational pattern, begin composing

3

Try formulating questions, rather than statements.



Further Advice

- Narrow your topic: the narrower your topic, the easier it is
- Find models: look at other reviews to see how others do it
- Explain it to your reader: tell your readers what to expect (road map, discussed in next session)
- Consider whether your sources are current: use up to date material (rule of thumb is no older than 5-10 years*)
- Keep your own voice: while the focus is on other researchers/authors, you should keep your ideas and words in focus
- Use evidence: your evaluation must be supported with evidence

Q: Is your topic narrow enough?

- Think about your research questions, and discuss the specificity of the question.
- Can they be answered?
- What about them needs further information?



Summarising

- You should summarise **each** source – this involves finding the most important and relevant information from each piece of literature. This can include the findings, particular theories, adopted methodologies or the researcher's methodological perspectives
- **Annotated bibliographies** can be a good way to summarise sources. But remember, when you do an annotated bibliography, you should include an evaluation of the literature in terms of the argument, intended audience, evidence, and methods

An annotated bibliography is a summary AND evaluation of each source

Paraphrasing

- Paraphrasing involves creating your own conceptualization of necessary information and/or ideas articulated by another;
- It is presented in a new form;
- One legitimate way to borrow from a source (if accompanied with appropriate documentation and acknowledgement).
- A more detailed restatement than a summary, which focuses on a single main idea.

Paraphrasing is a valuable skill because it allows you to synthesize material more effectively, avoids over-quotation, and allows the writer to fully understand the ideas expressed by the author.

6 Steps to help

1. Reread the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
2. Set the original aside, and write your paraphrase on a note card.
3. Jot down a few words below your paraphrase to remind you later how you envision using this material. At the top of the note card, write a key word or phrase to indicate the subject of your paraphrase.
4. Check your rendition with the original to make sure that your version accurately expresses all the essential information in a new form.
5. Use quotation marks to identify any unique term or phraseology you have borrowed exactly from the source.
6. Record the source (including the page) on your note card so that you can credit it easily if you decide to incorporate the material into your paper.

Activity

- Paraphrase the following paragraph:

Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed., 1976, pp. 46-47.

Example answers

1. In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester, 1976), or;
2. Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester, 1976).

A bad example

- Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

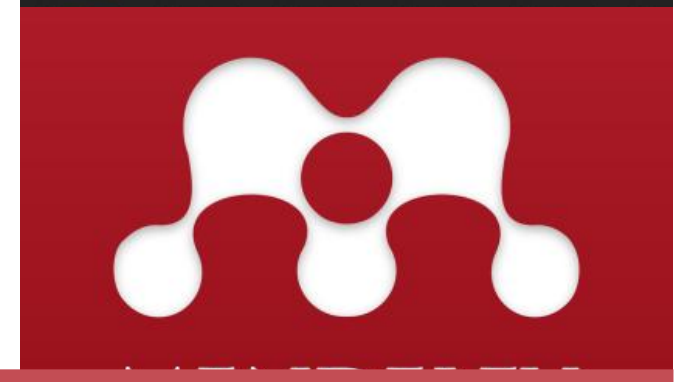
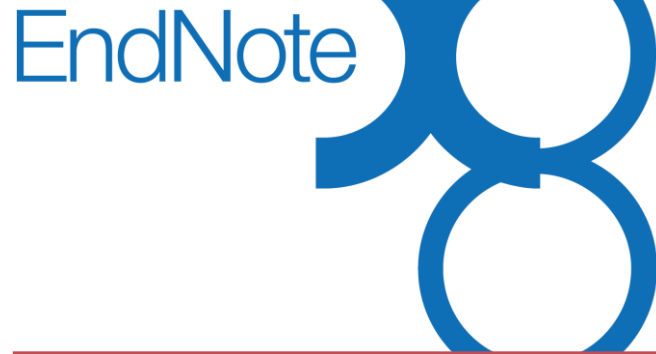
Referencing

- APA style is a type of referencing that comes from the American Psychological Association. While referencing is a major part of APA, the system refers to a style of writing that outlines how documents should be formatted for scientific/academic writing. In other words, APA refers to “when we talk about style—the rules that govern scientific communication...” (APA Concise Rules, 2010, p. 3). This includes:
 - Which numbers are expressed as numerals or letters
 - Which words are capitalized
 - Tables and footnotes
 - Credit for sources and formatting an accurate reference list

Avoiding plagiarism

- Plagiarism applies to online and print materials. It also applies to your own work (**self plagiarism**).
- Paraphrase ideas clearly, or become more familiar with referencing conventions (e.g., APA7).
- If you synthesize your work carefully, use appropriate referencing software and keep track of your sources, then you will be less likely to plagiarize.
- Such software includes: Endnote, Mendeley, RefWorks and others.





Referencing Software

Mendeley Desktop

collections Sync

All Documents Edit Settings

★	●	📁	Authors	Title	Year	Published In	Added
☆	●		Aponte, Jairo; Marcu...	Improving Traceability Link Recovery Methods through Software Artifact Summarization		Evaluation	Oct 26
☆	●		Apr, Sun	xapian-core Reference Manual	2009		10-06-29
☆	●		Arador, Estel; Guide...	Jump clones	2009		Oct 26
☆	●		Arafati, Oliver; Riehl...	The comment density of open source software code	2009	2009 31st International ...	10-06-29
☆	●		Aranda, Jorge; Easter...	Observations on Conway 's Law in Scientific Computing	2008	Quality	Oct 26
☆	●		Aranda, Jorge; Nicol...	ESEC / FSE 2011 Additional Reviewers	2011		Oct 28
☆	●		Aranda, Jorge; Venol...	The secret life of bugs: Going past the errors and omissions in software repositories	2009	2009 IEEE 31st Internati...	10-11-16
☆	●		Araujo, Wladimir; Bri...	Enabling the Runtime Assertion Checking of Concurrent Contracts for the Java Modeling La...	2011	Work	Oct 26
☆	●		Araya, Vanessa Peña	Test Blueprint : An Effective Visual Support for Test Coverage	2011	Computer	Oct 26
☆	●		Arbuckle, Tom	Measuring Multi-language Software Evolution : A Case Study	2011	Analysis	Oct 28
☆	●		Arcoverde, Roberta; ...	Understanding the Longevity of Code Smells Preliminary Results of an Explanatory Survey	2011	Techniques	Oct 26
☆	●		Arifovic, Jasmina	Coordination via genetic learning	1995	Computational Economics	10-06-29

1 of 2701 documents selected

Details Notes

Type: Conference Proc

The secret life of bugs: Going past the errors and omissions in software repositories

Authors: J. Aranda

View res

Proc. Title: 2009 IEEE 31st International Conference on Software Engineering

Year: 2009

Pages: 298-308

Abstract:

Tags:

Keywords: [Electronic Manuscript]

City:

2015 02 20 - Manuscript Body - LOHC: Learning from the Crowd (iterations 2).indd

Bibliography 1 TimesNewRoman 12

References

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- 2 Stanimirović D, Vintar M. Development of eHealth at a national level - comparative aspects and mapping of general success factors. *Inform Health Soc Care* 2014;**39**:140-60. doi:10.3109/17538157.2013.872108
- 3 Currie WL, Seddon JJM. A cross-national analysis of eHealth in the European Union: Some policy and research directions. *Inf Manage* 2014;**51**:783-97. doi:10.1016/j.im.2014.04.004
- 4 Adler-Milstein J, Sarma N, Woskie LR, et al. A comparison of how four countries use health IT to support care for people with chronic conditions. *Health Aff Proj Hope* 2014;**33**:1559-66. doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2014.0424
- 5 The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), The Office of the Secretary, United States Department of Health and Human Services. Update on the adoption of health information technology and related efforts to facilitate the electronic use and exchange of health information. 2014.
- 6 Finnell JT, Overhage JM, Grannis S. All health care is not local: an evaluation of the distribution of Emergency Department care delivered in Indiana. *AMIA Annu Symp Proc* 2011;**2011**:409-16.
- 7 Dixon BE, Vreeman DJ, Grannis SJ. The Long Road to Semantic Interoperability in Support of Public Health: Experiences from Two States. *J Biomed Inform Published Online First*: 25 March 2014. doi:10.1016/j.jbi.2014.03.011

Properties

Character TimesNewRomanPSMT 12

Paragraph

Spacing Indent

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Referencing Software

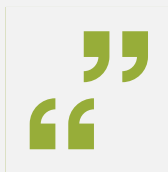
Introductions



Devise a very clear “road map” or “advanced organiser” for your readers (particularly for larger documents).



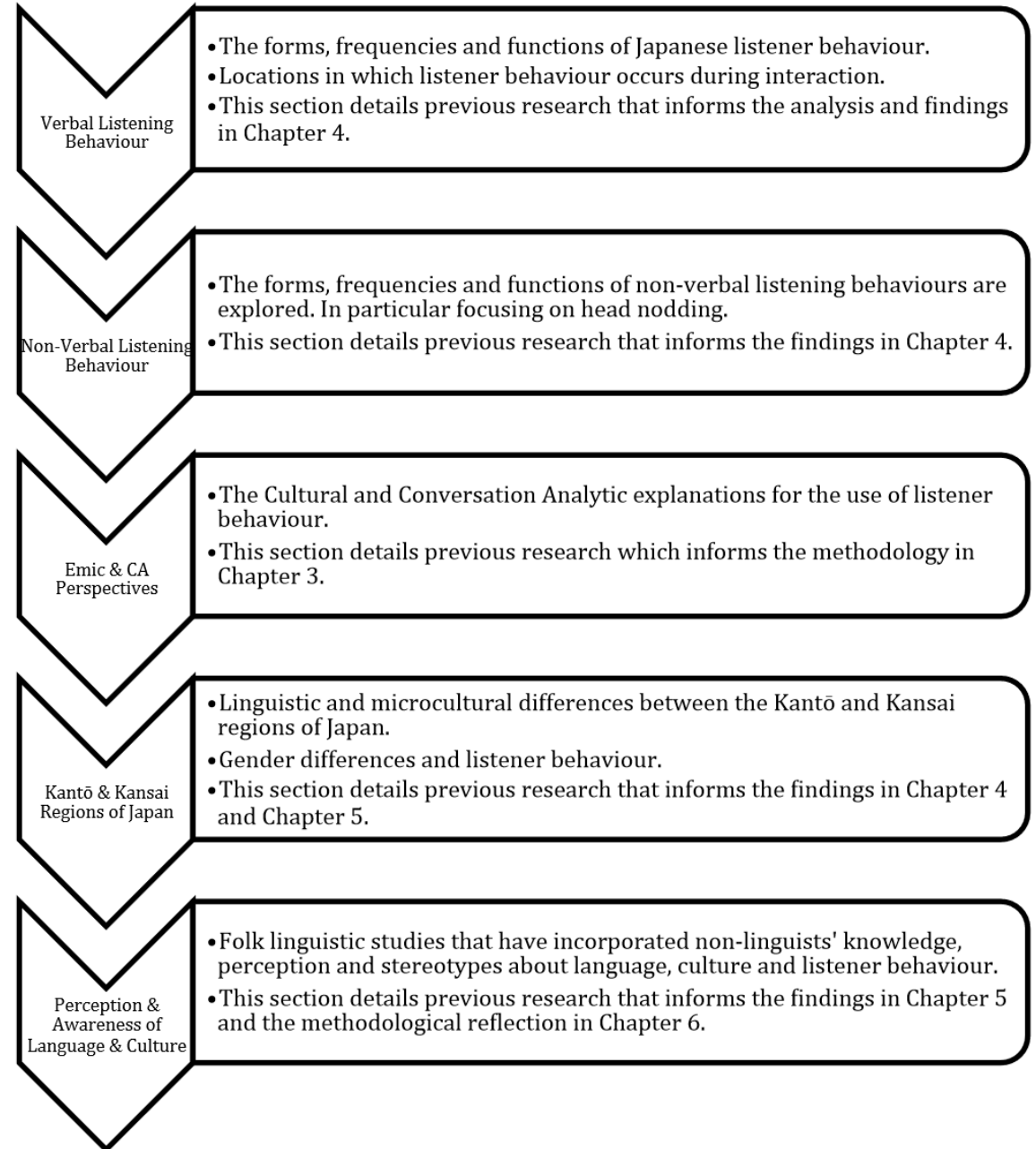
Remember to explicitly show where these items relate to your overall work and where you discuss them in the thesis/paper (e.g., section XX).



Introduce specific sections of the review, and explicitly detail what the reader should expect as well as the relationship between the subject and the overall thesis topic.



Thesis Example



Conclusions

Remind your reader about the importance of what you have just reviewed – explicitly show how this relates to the overall thesis topic.

Draw out the gaps/under-developed research areas. Explicitly tell the reader where your study fits.

You may introduce your research questions to highlight the under-developed areas.

If your review is long, provide summary sections after each major section.

You may wish to conclude particular sections if they are long.

Activity

For your own literature review, I would like you to either:

Write an outline for your introduction (for thesis type literature reviews) using the strategies discussed previously, or;

Write a paragraph (for a paper) to introduce your literature review section.



Then share it with your neighbor and see what they think.

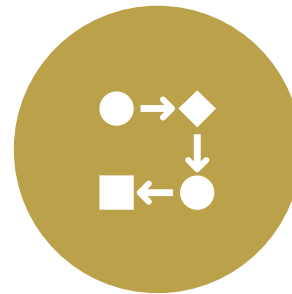
How do you
use AI?



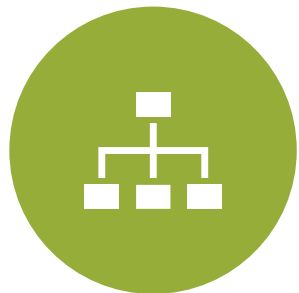
AI & Literature Reviews



Why Use AI for Literature Reviews?



Saves time in summarizing and synthesizing research.



Helps in organizing ideas and structuring arguments.



Enhances clarity and coherence in academic writing.

Finding Relevant Literature



Generating Search Queries

Example: Suggest search terms for studies on intercultural communication in Japan.



Summarizing Abstracts

Quickly condense multiple article abstracts for a quick review.



Identifying Key Papers

AI can help suggest key studies (but always verify sources).



Synthesizing Key Themes and Trends

Identifying Patterns in Research

What common themes emerge across studies?

- Example: Summarize recent findings on short-term study abroad programs.

Comparing Theories and Frameworks

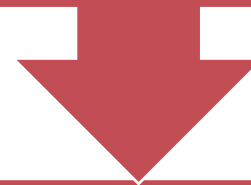
- Example: Contrast theoretical perspectives on sociopragmatics in hospitality.

Creating a Coherent Outline

AI can help generate a structured outline based on relevant sources.



Example Prompt: *Generate an outline for a literature review on multilingualism in Japan.*



Example Output:

Introduction: Definition & importance of multilingualism	Historical Context: Language policies in Japan	Current Trends: Multilingualism in education, business, and tourism	Challenges & Opportunities: Attitudes, policies, and implementation issues	Conclusion & Future Research Directions
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Organizing Sections & Subsections

AI can help break down large sections into logical subsections.

Example:

- Main Section: The Role of Study Abroad in Language Learning
- Subsection 1: Impact of short-term vs. long-term programs
- Subsection 2: Cultural adaptation and identity shifts
- Subsection 3: Post-study abroad language maintenance

Ensuring Logical Flow Between Sections

AI can suggest transition sentences to improve readability.

- Example: "While many studies focus on language gains during study abroad, fewer explore the long-term retention of these skills."

AI can rephrase section summaries for coherence.

- Example: "This section outlined the key factors influencing study abroad outcomes. The next section examines how institutional support can enhance these experiences."
-

Writing and Paraphrasing



Drafting Summaries & Syntheses

Example:
Summarize findings from recent studies on study abroad outcomes.



Paraphrasing for Clarity & Coherence

Example: *Rewrite this excerpt in a more concise academic style.*



Editing and Proofreading



Checking Flow & Coherence

Example: Suggest a transition between sections on study abroad outcomes and pedagogical implications.



Improving Grammar & Academic Style

Example: Make this paragraph more formal and aligned with APA style.



Limitations & Best Practices



Use AI for brainstorming, but verify with primary sources.



Manually check all citations—AI does not have direct access to academic databases.



Engage critically—AI should assist, not replace analytical thinking.



Review and edit AI-generated text for accuracy and clarity.

Questions?

