

Part 1:

#### RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT (RSU)

Unit Sokongan Penyelidikan LEVEL 2, CENTRE OF RESEARCH SERVICES **RESEARCH MANAGEMENT & INNOVATION COMPLEX** 



# **Conducting a Literature** Search & Writing Review Paper

#### Part 1: Systematic Review

# Conducting a Literature Search & Writing Review Paper

#### Nader Ale Ebrahim, PhD

BSc (Mech. Eng., Tehran), MSc (Mech. Eng., Tehran), PhD (Tech. Mang., UM)

\_\_\_\_\_

Research Support Unit

Centre of Research Services

Research Management & Innovation Complex

University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

www.researcherid.com/rid/C-2414-2009

http://scholar.google.com/citations

## Outline

No.	Topic
Day 1:	
1	What is a literature review
2	Some questions that the review of literature can answer
3	Systematic Review
4	Checklist for reading a review paper
5	Narrow the area of research
6	Review biases
7	Identifying a Research Problem
8	Developing a search strategy, Finding keyword
9	Introduce "Research Tools" Box
10	Selecting keywords
11	Finding proper articles

⊌∠U14 Nader Ale Ebranim

#### Nader Ale Ebrahim



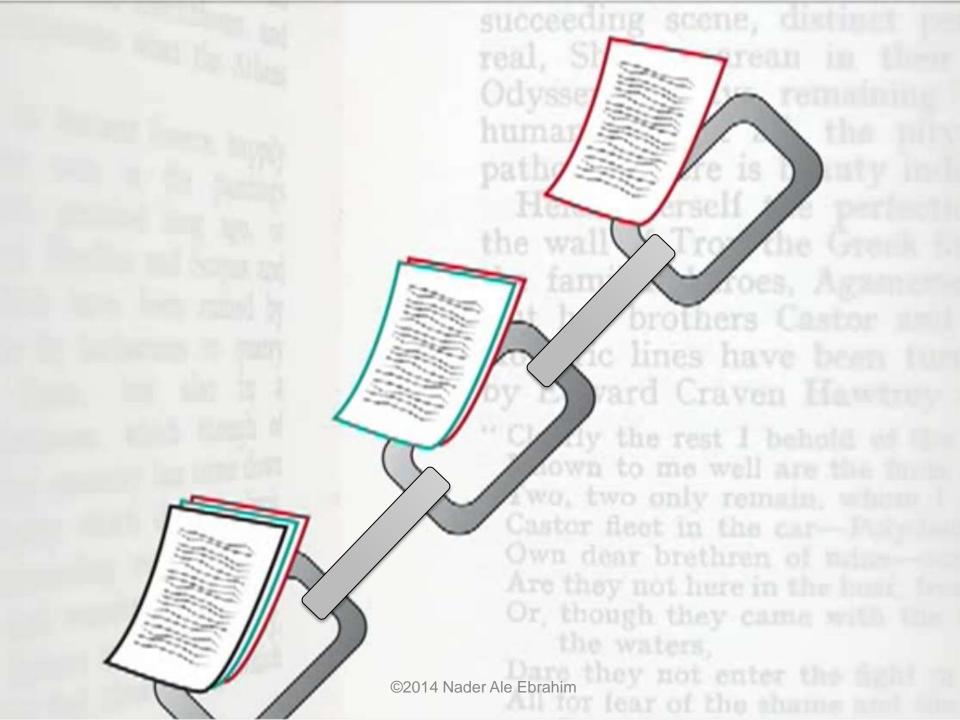
©2014 Nader Ale Ebrahim

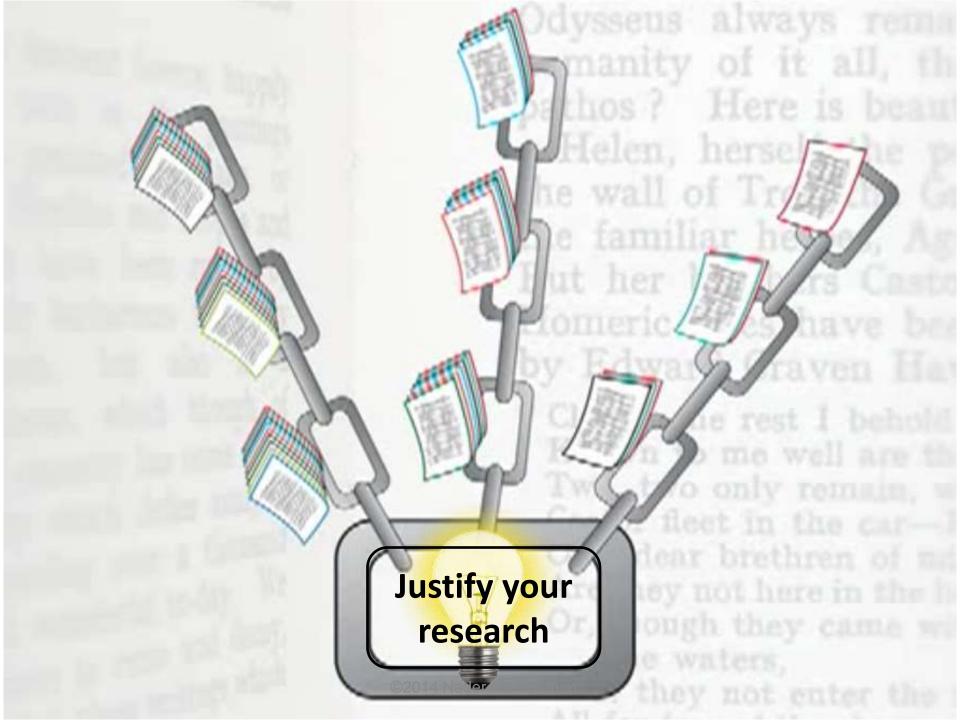
#### What is a literature review

A literature review discusses published information in a particular subject area, and sometimes information in a particular subject area within a certain time period.

A literature review can be just a simple summary of the sources, but it usually 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. And depending on the situation, the literature review may **evaluate the sources and advise the reader** on the most pertinent or relevant

Source: <a href="http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/">http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/</a>





#### 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.



UNE. 2009. The literature review [Online]. University of New England. Available: http://www.une.edu.au/library/eskillsplus/literature/litreview.php [Accessed 25 January 2010].

#### The literature review

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 <a href="mailto:critical thinking skills">critical thinking skills</a> to the findings of past researchers, you are in a better position to apply these same skills to your own work.

UNE. 2009. The literature review [Online]. University of New England. Available: http://www.une.edu.au/library/eskillsplus/literature/litreview.php [Accessed 25 January 2010].

# Critical reading

Critical reading is the process of reading that goes beyond just understanding a text. Critical reading involves:

- Carefully considering and evaluating the reading
- Identifying the reading's strengths and implications
- Identifying the reading's weaknesses and flaws
- Looking at the 'big picture' and deciding how the reading fits into the greater academic context (the understandings presented in other books and articles on this topic)

Source: http://owll.massey.ac.nz/study-skills/critical-reading.php

# Critical reading

Critical reading often involves asking questions about the reading. In particular, you are examining the strengths and weaknesses of the reading's argument. To do this, you need to consider:

- the reading's background
- its purpose and overall conclusion (claim)
- the evidence used in the reading
- the logical connections between the claim and the evidence
- the reading's balance
- its limitations
- how it relates to other sources and research
- if the reading is based on research, how this research was conducted

Source: http://owll.massey.ac.nz/study-skills/critical-reading.php

# Some questions that the review of literature can answer



Source: http://www.languages.ait.ac.th/EL21LIT.HTML

## Systematic Review 1/2

 A systematic literature review is a means of identifying, evaluating and interpreting all available research relevant to a particular research question, or topic area, or phenomenon of interest. Individual studies contributing to a systematic review are called *primary studies; a systematic* review is a form a secondary study.

## Systematic Review 2/2

 A systematic review is a <u>literature review</u> focused on a research question that tries to identify, appraise, select and synthesize all high quality research evidence relevant to that question.

Source: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systematic\_review">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systematic\_review</a>

 A Guide to Writing the Dissertation Literature Review

#### **Reasons for Performing Systematic Reviews**

- To summarise the existing evidence concerning a treatment or technology e.g. to summarise the empirical evidence of the benefits and limitations of a specific agile method.
- To identify any gaps in current research in order to suggest areas for further investigation.
- To provide a framework/background in order to appropriately position new research activities.

However, systematic reviews can also be undertaken to examine the extent to which empirical evidence supports/contradicts theoretical hypotheses, or even to assist the generation of new hypotheses

#### **The Systematic Review Process**



Source: Adapted from Systematic Review

## Planning the review

- Identification of the need for a review
- 2. Development of a review protocol. (The most important activity during protocol is to formulate the research question.)

# Conducting the review

- 1. Identification of research
- 2. Selection of primary studies
- 3. Study quality assessment
- 4. Data extraction & monitoring
- 5. Data synthesis.



#### Reporting the review

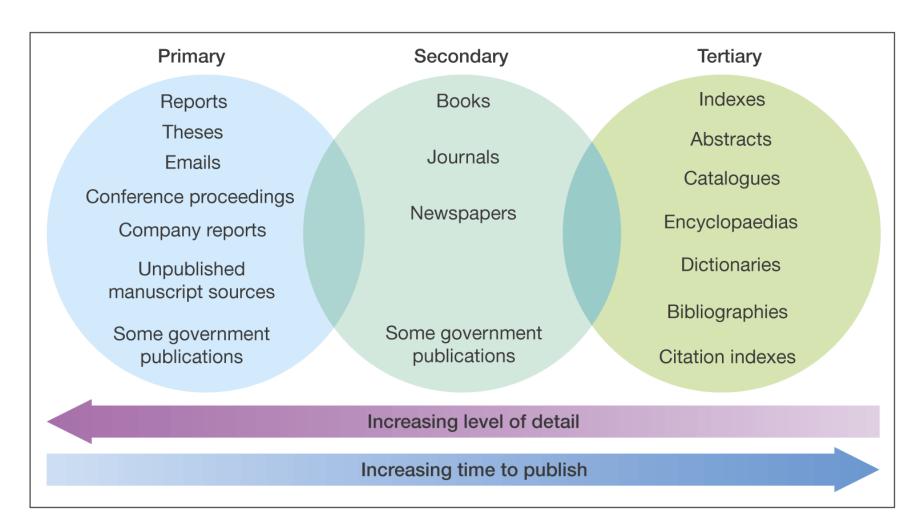
# Reporting the review is a single stage phase.

#### Checklist for reading a review paper

- What are the review's objectives?
- What sources were searched to identify primary studies? Were there any restrictions?
- What were the inclusion/exclusion criteria and how were they applied?
- What criteria were used to assess the quality of primary studies and how were they applied?
- How were the data extracted from the primary studies?
- How were the data synthesised? How were differences between studies investigated? How were the data combined? Was it reasonable to combine the studies? Do the conclusions flow from the evidence?

# Checklist for reading a review paper-From a more general viewpoint

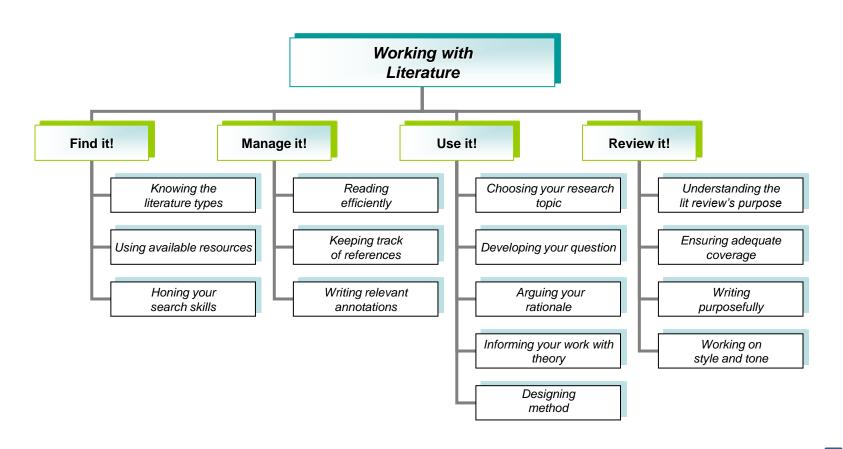
- Can you find an important question, which the review addressed?
- Was a thorough search done of the appropriate databases and were other potentially important sources explored?
- Was methodological quality assessed and the trials weighted accordingly?
- How sensitive are the results to the way that the review has been done?
- Have numerical results been interpreted with common sense and due regard to the broader aspects of the problem?



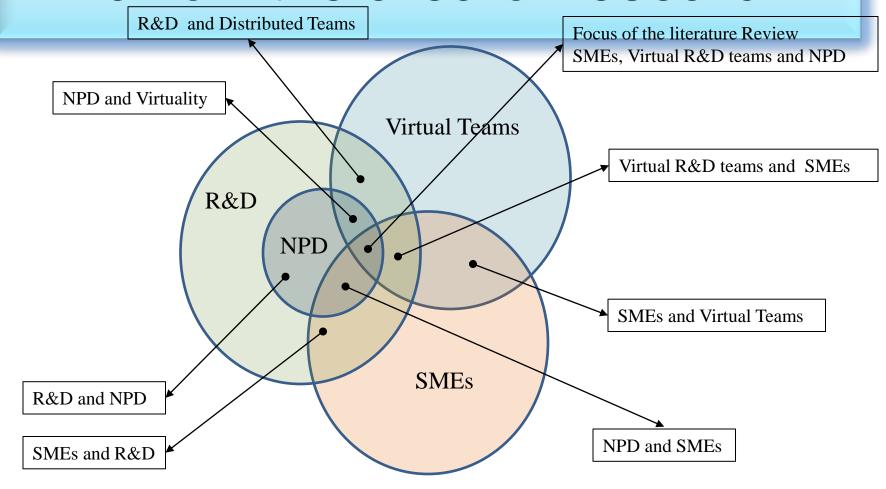
#### Literature sources available

Source: Research methods for business students / Mark Saunders, Philip Lewis, Adrian Thornhill. —5th ed.

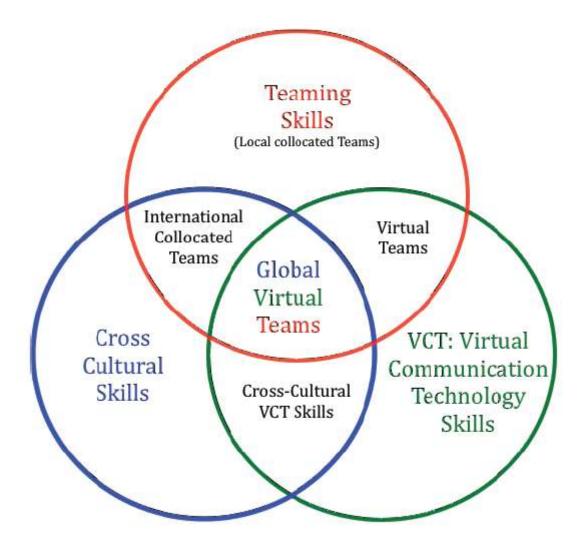
#### Working with literature



#### Narrow the area of research



Ale Ebrahim, N., Ahmed, S., & Taha, Z. (2009). Virtual R & D teams in small and medium enterprises: A literature review. [Review]. Scientific Research and Essay, 4(13), 1575–1590.



The interactions between teaming, cross-cultural and virtual communication skills to create new engineering interactions.

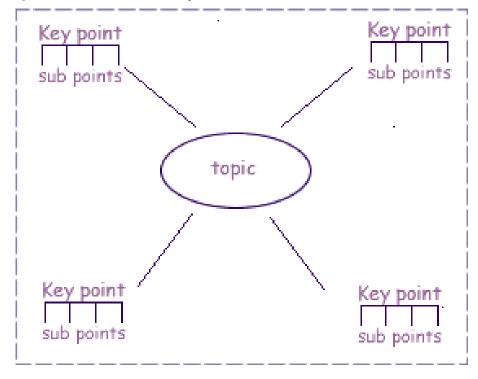


Figure from: http://memeburn.com/2012/06/do-links-from-social-media-sites-really-hold-any-seo-value/

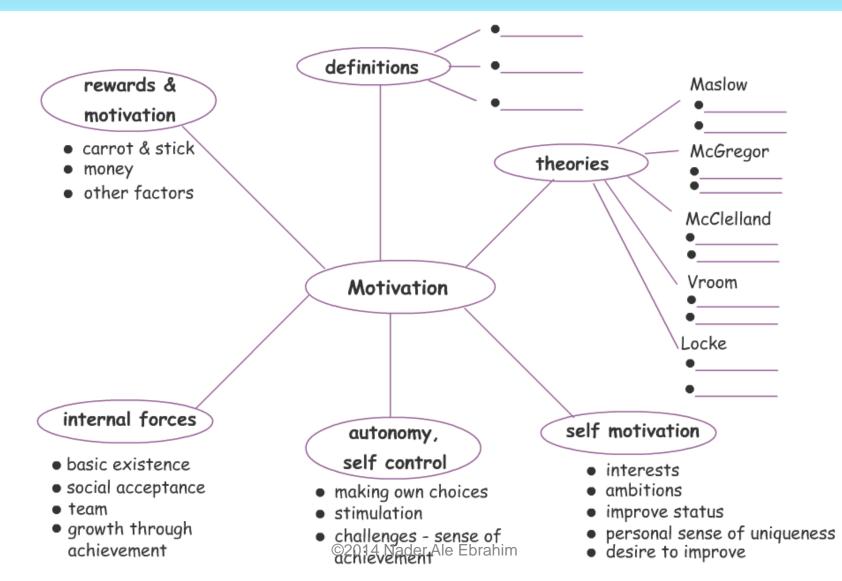
# Structure & planning your writing - MindMaps

MindMaps are a visual map to link and organise key concepts of your research. They also show links and relationships between ideas. Sometimes it is a good idea to number key ideas in the order that you are going to place them in your literature review.

#### **Example**



#### Example of a MindMap



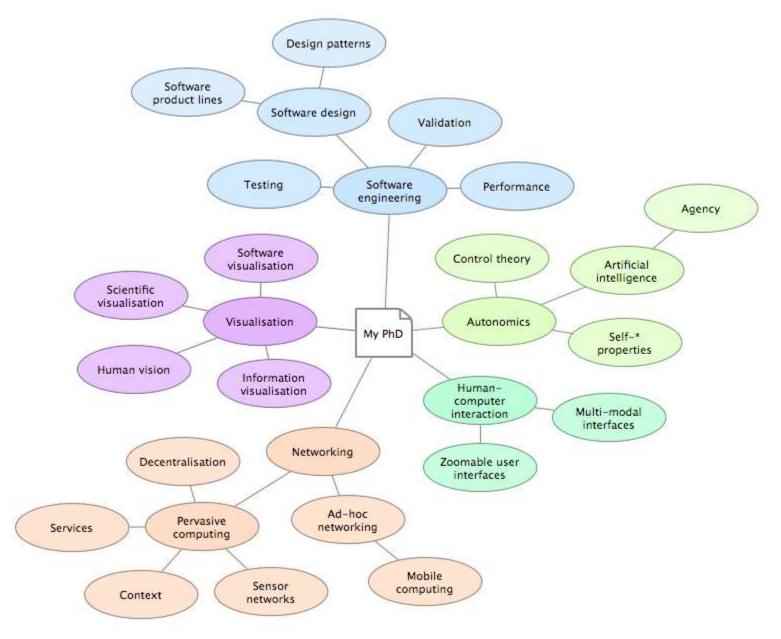
#### A Literature Map, Hierarchical Design Literature Map The Need for Teaching Programs to Be Culturally Responsive Bennet, 1995; Eastman & Smith, 1991; Grant, 1994; Noel, 1995 Study Abroad U.S. Programs Programs Possible Improvements Martin & Rohrlich, 1991 Stachowski, 1991 Personal Insights of Personal Insights of Attitudes Toward Preservice Teachers Preservice Teachers Study Abroad Cockrell, Placier, Friesen, Kang, & Cockrell & Middleton. King & Young, 1994 McDougall, 1995; 1999: Goodwin. Mahan & Stachowski, 1991 1997; Kea & Bacon, 1999 Predominantly English Need for Further Study: Conventional Programs Cross-Cultural Programs Speaking Cultures Non-English Speaking Cultures Colville-Hall, Macdonald, & Cooper, Beare, & Thorman, Mahan & Stachowski, 1990; Question: Do short-term study Smolen, 1995; Rodriguez & 1990; Larke, Wiseman, & abroad programs in non-Quinn, Barr, McKay, Sjostrom, 1995; Vavrus, Bradley, 1990

Jarchow, & Powell, 1995; Vall & Tennison, 1992

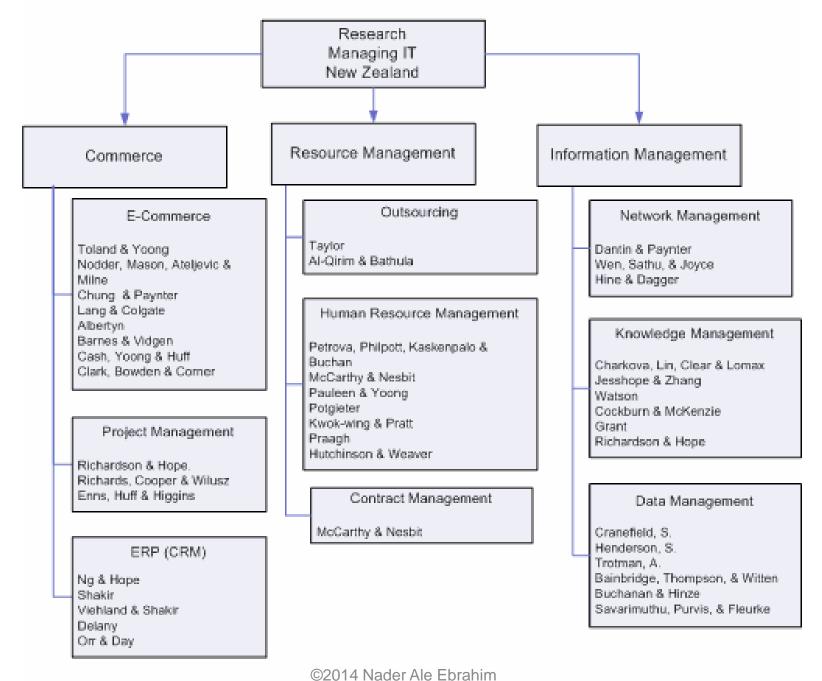
English speaking cultures help create cultural responsiveness in preservice teachers?

1994

#### A Literature Map, Circular Design Need for Further Study: Non-English Speaking Cultures Question: "Do short-term study abroad programs in non-English speaking cultures help create cultural responsiveness in preservice teachers?" Study Abroad U.S. Programs **Programs** Personal Insights of Preservice Personal Insights of Teachers (Cockrell, Placier, Preservice Teachers Cockrell, & Milleton, 1999) (Friesen, Kang, & McDougall, 1995) Attitudes Toward Conventional Programs Study Abroad (Colville-Hall, Macdonald, & (King & Young, 1994) Smolen, 1995) Predominantly English Speaking Cultures Cross-Cultural Programs (Mahan & Stachowski, 1990) (Cooper, Beare, & Thorman, 1990)



Source: Ross' PhD Literature Review Mind Map



#### Review biases

- Read outdated version of a paper/book
- Reading but not writing
- Read unlinked papers (detect as much of the relevant literature as possible)
- Read before planning (defining a review protocol that specifies the research question being addressed)
- Start reading with few resources
- Language bias
- Publication bias
- Read everything
- Not keeping bibliographical information

## Identifying a Research Problem

Researchers begin a study by identifying a research problem that they need to address. They write about this "problem" in the opening passages of their study and, in effect, give you as a reader the rationale for why the study is important and why you need to read their study.

Reference: Creswell, J. W. (2012). Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research (4th ed. ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

# Reviewing the Literature

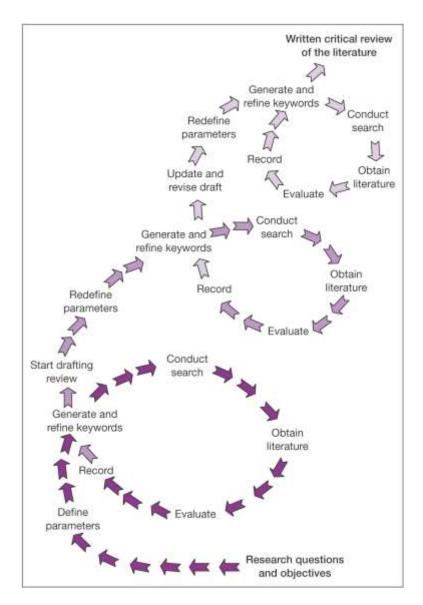
With so much information available, searching and locating good literature on your topic can be challenging. Five steps will provide a sense of how researchers proceed in reviewing the literature are:

- 1. Identify key terms to use in your search for literature.
- 2. Locate literature about a topic by consulting several types of materials and databases, including those available at an academic library and on the Internet.
- 3. Critically evaluate and select the literature for your review.
- 4. Organize the literature you have selected by abstracting or taking notes on the literature and developing a visual diagram of it.
- 5. Write a literature review that reports summaries of the literature for inclusion in your research report.

Reference: Creswell, J. W. (2012). Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research (4th ed. ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.



# Developing a search strategy, Finding keyword



#### The literature review process

# Effective searching

- » Developing a search strategy
  - » Searching the library catalogue
  - » Finding journal articles and papers
  - » Searching the Internet
  - » Other sources

Source: http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/myresearch/plan/searchstrategy.html

# Developing a search strategy

- Defining the topic
  - » Considering the scope of your topic
  - » Identifying the main or important aspects



- » Compiling a list of keywords
- » Developing your search strategy
- It is important to develop a search strategy to, not only, find the information you need but to also clarify your topic.

# How to Find and Develop a Viable Research Topic?

**Step One: Identify a Topic.** 

**Step Two: Test Your Topic.** 

Test the main concepts or keywords in your topic by looking them up in the appropriate background sources or by using them as search terms.

If you are finding too much information and too many sources, narrow your topic by using the **and** operator

Finding too little information may indicate that you need to broaden your topic.

### 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.

# Research Tools Mind Map



# Keywords

Selecting keywords lead to get more citation.



MASTER KEYWORDS

LIST

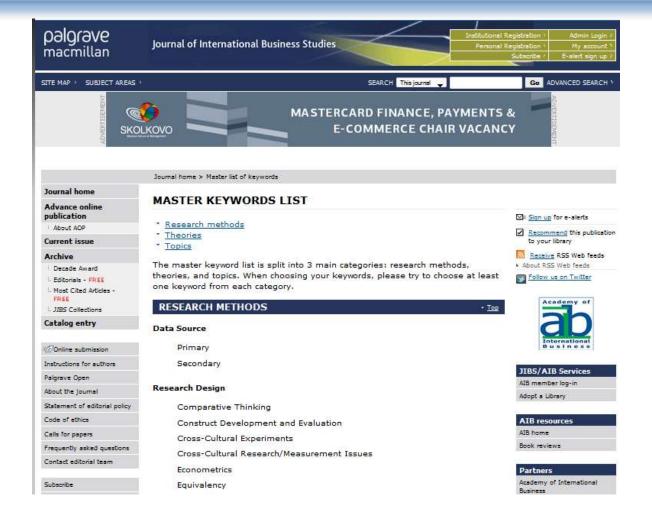
Journal of International Business

Studies



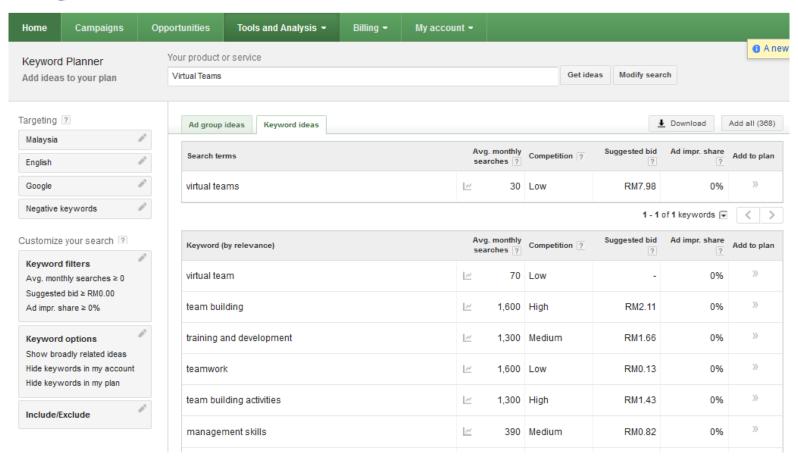
MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)

# **Master Keywords List**



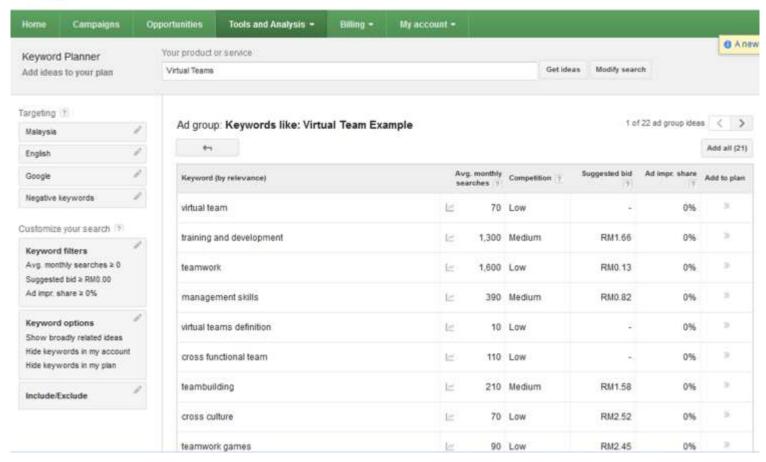
### Google AdWords - Keyword Planner

#### Google AdWords

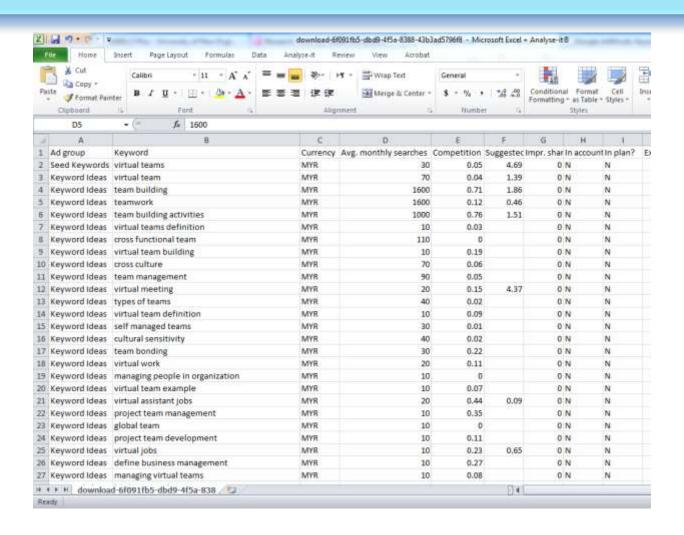


### Google AdWords - Keyword Like





### Google AdWords - Keyword Output



# Keywords Plus

 KeyWords Plus® are index terms created by Thomson Reuters from significant, frequently occurring words in the titles of an article's cited references.

Source: http://images.webofknowledge.com/WOK46/help/WOS/h\_fullrec.html

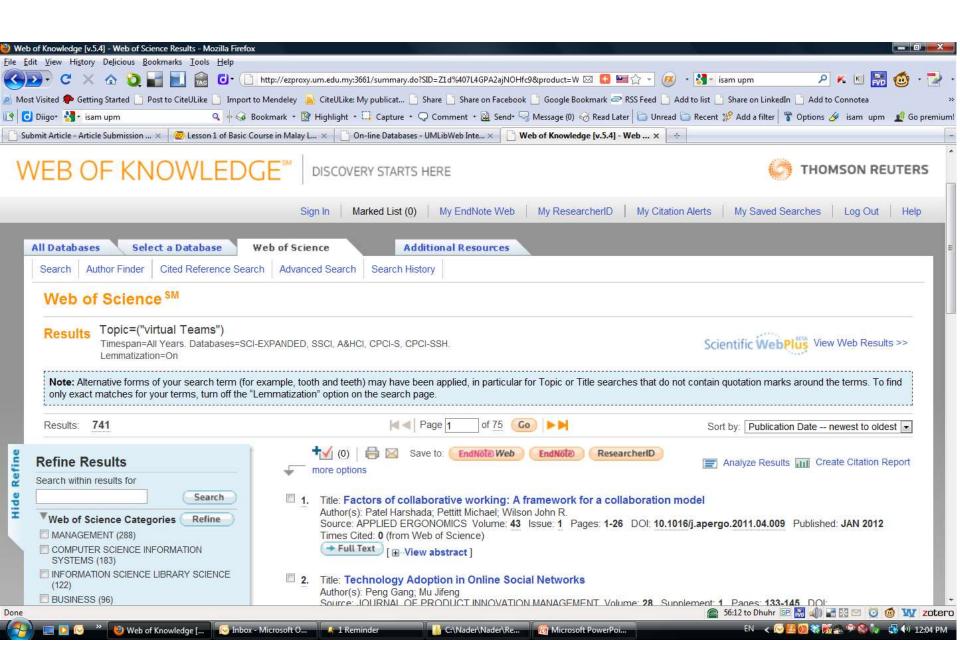
### **Keywords and Keywords Plus®**

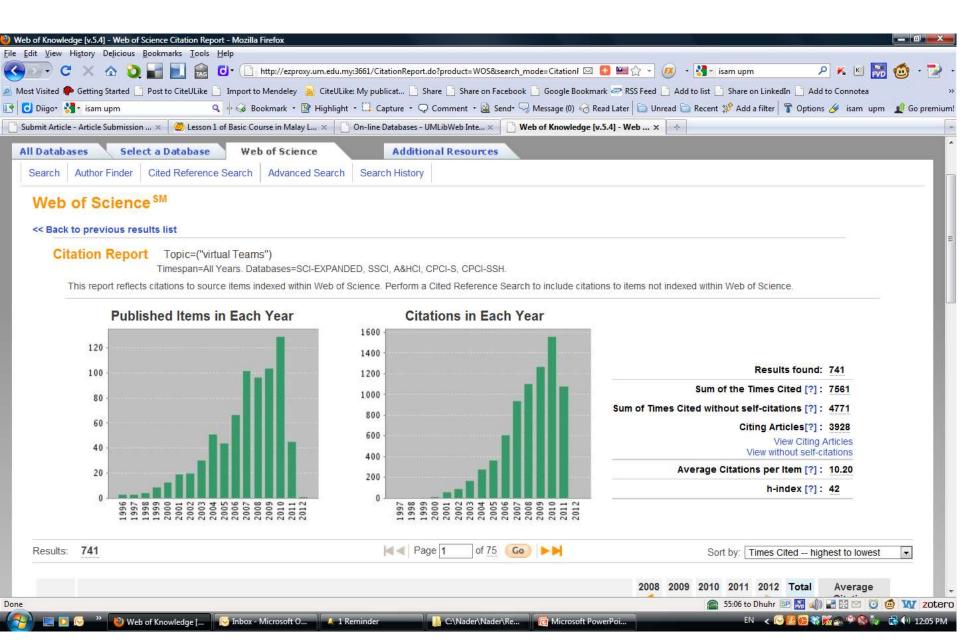
Authors sometimes provide a list of keywords or terms that they feel best represent the content of their paper. These keywords are contained in the ISI record (1991 data forward, depending on the database) for each article and are searchable. In addition, ISI generates KeyWords Plus for many articles. **KeyWords Plus** are words or phrases that frequently appear in the titles of an article's references, but do not necessarily appear in the title of the article itself. KeyWords Plus may be present for articles that have no author keywords, or may include important terms not listed among the title, abstract, or author keywords.

Source: http://wos.isitrial.com/help/helpdefs.html

### KeyWords Plus- Example

- 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







### Task for first session

#### 1. Draw the literature map

#### 2. Read:

- https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/2 AssessmentTasks/assess tuts/lit review LL/re ading.html
- Cottrell, S. (2005). <u>Critical thinking skills Developing Effective Analysis and Argument</u>.
   Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Chapter 3 of "Creswell, J. W. (2012). <u>Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and</u>
   <u>Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research</u> (4th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc"
- Chapter 3 of "Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2009). <u>Research methods for business</u> <u>students</u> (5th ed.). Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE, England: Pearson Education Limited."

#### 3. Search for:

- The research keyword/s within Keywords Plus®
- The relevant article
- 4. Make a Bibliometrics database based on The research keywords
- 5. Find a good literature review paper In your field of study



©2014 Nader Ale Ebrahim





#### RESEARCH SUPPORT UNIT (RSU)

Unit Sokongan Penyelidikan
LEVEL 2, CENTRE OF RESEARCH SERVICES
RESEARCH MANAGEMENT & INNOVATION COMPLEX

# Thank you!

#### Nader Ale Ebrahim, PhD

Research Support Unit
Centre of Research Services
Research Management & Innovation Complex
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<a href="http://scholar.google.com/citations">www.researcherid.com/rid/C-2414-2009</a>
<a href="http://scholar.google.com/citations">http://scholar.google.com/citations</a>

#### References

- 1. Ale Ebrahim, N. (2013). Introduction to the Research Tools Mind Map. *Research World, 10*(4), 1-3. http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7712
- 2. Ale Ebrahim, N., Salehi, H., Embi, M. A., Habibi Tanha, F., Gholizadeh, H., Motahar, S. M., & Ordi, A. (2013). Effective Strategies for Increasing Citation Frequency. *International Education Studies*, *6*(11), 93-99., <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/ies.v6n11p93">http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/ies.v6n11p93</a>
- 3. Leary, Z. (2004) The Essential Guide to Doing Research. London: Sage Chapter Six
- 4. Ale Ebrahim, N., Ahmed, S., & Taha, Z. (2009). Virtual R & D teams in small and medium enterprises: A literature review. [Review]. Scientific Research and Essay, 4(13), 1575–1590.
- 5. UNE. 2009. The literature review [Online]. University of New England. Available: http://www.une.edu.au/library/eskillsplus/literature/litreview.php [Accessed 25 January 2010].
- 6. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systematic\_review
- 7. ISI Web of Knowledge
- 8. <a href="https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/2\_AssessmentTasks/assess\_tuts/lit\_review\_LL/reading.html">https://www.dlsweb.rmit.edu.au/lsu/content/2\_AssessmentTasks/assess\_tuts/lit\_review\_LL/reading.html</a>
- 9. Cottrell, S. (2005). <u>Critical thinking skills Developing Effective Analysis and Argument</u>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 10. Creswell, J. W. (2012). <u>Educational research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research</u> (4th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc
- 11. Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2009). *Research methods for business students* (5th ed.). Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE, England: Pearson Education Limited.