



EDMPS

La revue de littérature en pratique

Olivier Cristofini
2026

Presentation



- 10 years of experience in financial auditing, and in strategy and management consulting.
- Ph.D. in Strategic Management from IAE Paris Sorbonne in 2019
- Two visiting positions, King's College and University of Cambridge
- First position at IAE Paris-Est, U. Gustave Eiffel in 2020
- Arrived at IAE Paris-Sorbonne in September 2022
- Research interests: CSR, Corporate Sustainability/Circular Economy, and Organization Theory
- Research methods: qualitative, lexicometry, quantitative (ongoing)

- What to know before starting
- Building your literature review in practice
- Writing your literature review

What to know before starting

Definitions of what a literature review is

Let's begin with some reading!

Le Libellio d'AEGIS
Vol. 7, n° 2 – Été 2011
pp. 15-27

Faire une revue de littérature : pourquoi et comment ?¹

Hervé Dumes
CNRS / Ecole Polytechnique

D'un article qui se propose de traiter de la manière de faire une revue de littérature, on s'attend à ce qu'il fournisse surtout des conseils pratiques, ce que les anglo-saxons appellent des tips, à propos des deux volets complémentaires et nécessaires : la pêche aux références (*literature search*) et, pour poursuivre dans la métaphore, l'art de préparer ce qui a été pêché pour finalement lever les filets (*literature review*)². Comment chercher sur le web, dans une bibliothèque, comment classer ce qu'on a trouvé, comment organiser les références, les mobiliser, les composer en bouquets ? Etc. L'article s'efforcera de répondre à ces questions et de donner des conseils (pour aller plus loin, voir Hart, 2009 ; 2010, qui sera mobilisé à plusieurs reprises dans ces pages). Mais il apparaît d'abord nécessaire de donner quelques précisions, le terme « revue de littérature » recouvrant des éléments divers, et de rappeler ensuite le sens que prend une revue de littérature dans la démarche de recherche. On en viendra alors à ses objectifs, aux deux mouvements qui la caractérisent, avant de donner des indications sur la manière de la mener. Quelques règles seront enfin données dans un tableau récapitulatif.

Définitions

Quelques éléments de définition tout d'abord. Pour les anglo-saxons, dans le cadre d'un PhD, l'étape décisive est le projet (*proposal*) qui s'écrit souvent la première année de thèse. Le travail préparatoire qui mène à la rédaction de ce projet est appelé revue de littérature. Dans le projet écrit, une partie centrale (à ce stade, la partie empirique est forcément succincte et les résultats sont juste annoncés et espérés) est constituée par la revue de littérature (surtout si on estime, comme c'est généralement le cas, que la méthodologie en fait partie intégrante). L'expression « revue de littérature » recouvre donc au moins trois choses distinctes mais reliées entre elles :

- en amont de la rédaction du projet de thèse ou de mémoire (*proposal*), un travail de recherche bibliographique, de lecture, d'analyse de ce qui a été lu, de catégorisation, de détermination de la méthodologie à suivre (travail préparatoire qui, estime-t-on, est souvent de l'ordre d'un an pour un PhD) ;
- dans le cadre de la rédaction du projet, l'écriture d'une partie centrale de ce projet (sur la littérature et la méthodologie) ;
- dans le cadre de la rédaction du document final (thèse ou mémoire), l'écriture d'une partie limitée en taille mais essentielle sur la littérature, aboutissant à des hypothèses (démarche hypothético-déductive) ou propositions (étude de cas).

1. Je remercie Jullie Baccianutti, Paul Chiambretti, Cécile Clamaret, Colette Depeyre, et Marie-Rachel Jacob pour leurs stimulantes remarques et suggestions. L'auteur doit évidemment être tenu pour seul responsable des erreurs que pourrait commettre ce texte.

2. Comme on sait, le mot « review » a, en anglais, des sens beaucoup plus forts qu'en français, en particulier : « a formal assessment or examination of something with the possibility or intention of instituting change if necessary », « a critical appraisal », « a survey or evaluation of a particular subject ».

What to know before starting

The literature review in relation to the research project lifecycle



What to know before starting

Definitions of what a literature review is

“A process of collection and analysis of what has been written around a specific question. A literature review aims at identifying the **tension** between **what is known** and **what is unknown** about a given phenomenon.” Dumez (2011)

“A review of the literature is the way we learn about what is **already known and not known.**” Babbie (2008)

“A literature review is the selection of available documents (both published and unpublished) on the topic, which contain information, ideas, data and evidence written from a particular standpoint to fulfil certain aims or express certain views on the nature of the topic and **how it is to be investigated**, and the **effective evaluation of these documents** in relation to the research being proposed” Hart (2010)

“A literature review is an interpretation of a selection of published and/or unpublished documents... that optimally involves summarization, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of the documents.” Onwuengbuzie et al. (2010)

“A literature review means locating and summarizing the studies about a topic. Often these are research studies (since you are conducting a research study), but they may also include conceptual articles or thought pieces that provide **frameworks for thinking about topics.**” Cresswell (2009)

Source : Benmerikhi & Leuridan, 2015:6

What to know before starting

But meanwhile...

“By general agreement and on the basis of first hand experience, the review of literature in most student research (and some professional academic research too) is clumsy, naive, turgid, confusing and often down right dull.”

Source: Gabbott, 2004: 411

What to know before starting

Literature review is crucial to get through a desk reject

We receive many submissions that fall outside our mission to publish new theoretical insights that advance our understanding of management and organizations [...]

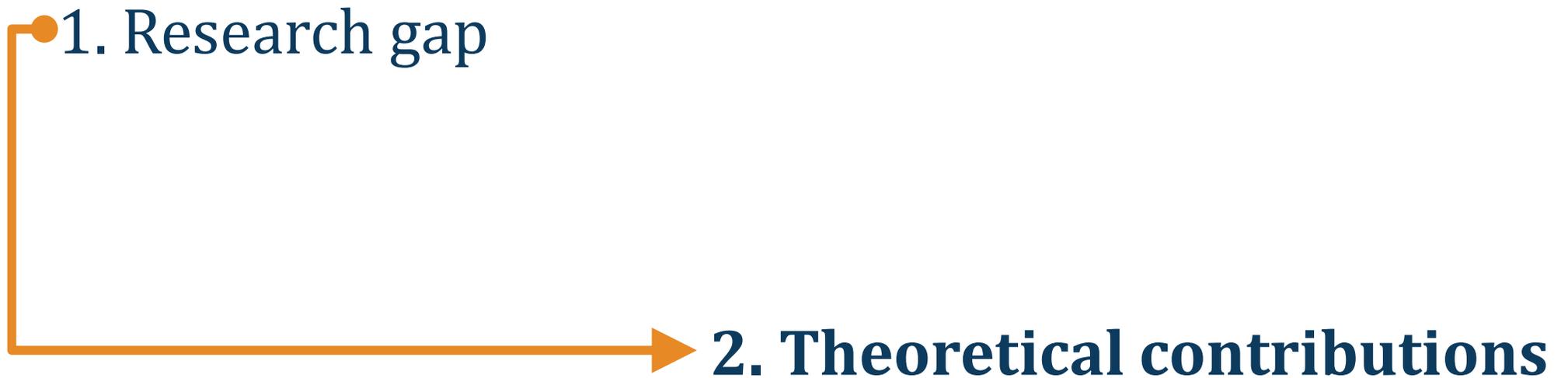
A major reason for being categorized as non reviewable is that **papers simply review the existing literature**, sometimes summarizing the literature in propositions but **failing to offer distinctive contributions to theory** beyond what has already been written by others.

Many of these papers resemble literature review chapters from dissertations. There are other outlets for these kinds of papers, including the new annual book series the Academy of Management Annals and the literature review journal associated with the British Academy of Management, the International Journal of Management Review

Source: Editor's comments: the top ten reasons why your paper might not be sent out for review, AMR 2007

What to know before starting
A literature review in a few key words

● 1. Research gap



2. Theoretical contributions

What to know before starting

The importance of theoretical contributions

Discuss with your neighbor to understand what contributions are expected from their research.

In what way does it have the potential to be new?

What to know before starting

The importance of theoretical contributions

“Theory is the **currency** of our scholarly realm, even if there are some misgivings about a possible overemphasis on theory building in organization and management studies” [...] Every top-tier management journal requires a “theoretical contribution” before a manuscript will be considered for publication” (p.12)

Source: Corley & Gioia, D. A. (2011). Building theory about theory building: what constitutes a theoretical contribution? *Academy of Management Review*, 36(1), 12-32.

What to know before starting

The importance of theoretical contributions

- References
- Data
- Variables
- Diagrams/Figures
- Hypotheses
- Research object
- Managerial Practices
- Research field



Are **NOT** a theory!

What to know before starting

What a theory is

“Theory is a statement of **concepts** and their **interrelationships** that shows **how** and/or **why a phenomenon occurs**”

Corley & Gioia, 2011: 12

“A collection of assertions, both verbal and symbolic, that identifies what **variables** are important and for what reasons, specifies how they are **interrelated** and why, and identifies the **conditions** under which they should be related or not related”

Campbell, 1990: 65

“An account of a social process, with emphasis on empirical tests of the plausibility of the narrative as well as careful attention to the scope conditions of the account”

DiMaggio, 1995: 391

What to know before starting *What a theoretical contribution is*

“A challenge or fundamental **advance** of our knowledge of the concepts, relationships, modes, or theories embedded in the **relevant literatures**.”

“It causes us to think about some organizational phenomenon in a way that would not normally be anticipated from extrapolations of existing work, thereby advancing future work in an important and useful way.”

Source: Corley (2012) AOM PDW revisited by Philippe D. at IAE Paris Sorbonne Workshop 2024

What to know before starting

What's the problem with the literature review in there?

Comprendre les mouvements de résistance aux nouvelles technologies :

le cas de la 5G

L'opposition à la 5G est emblématique des mouvements de résistance à la technologie auxquelles les organisations et les décideurs politiques pourraient avoir à faire face de manière croissante dans un avenir proche. Cette recherche analyse les lignes argumentatives des opposants à la 5G, par une analyse textuelle algorithmique d'un corpus de 214 848 mots constitué de tracts et de vidéos d'opposants. Il en émergent quatre lignes argumentatives clés, et sept familles d'opposants. Le cas de la résistance à la 5G se démarque et contribue à la littérature sur la résistance aux innovations par la diversité des lignes argumentatives qu'elle entremêle, et par l'usage que font les opposants de cette diversité argumentative. Cette observation nous permet d'identifier en particulier un mécanisme de décentrage argumentatif, phénomène consistant à utiliser la controverse sur sujet pour justifier des opinions sur une autre problématique. Un tel mécanisme contribue à expliquer l'importance et la résilience du mouvement de résistance à la 5G dans les débats publics, et préfigure la forme que pourrait prendre des mouvements de résistance sur d'autres technologies, comme l'intelligence artificielle (IA) et l'internet des objets (IoT), et les stratégies que pourraient adopter les organisations pour les gérer.

Mots-clés : Résistance à l'innovation – Pratiques argumentatives – 5G – Analyses textuelles algorithmiques

Analyze the literature review presented in this article.

What do you think about it?

What to know before starting
All this, what for?

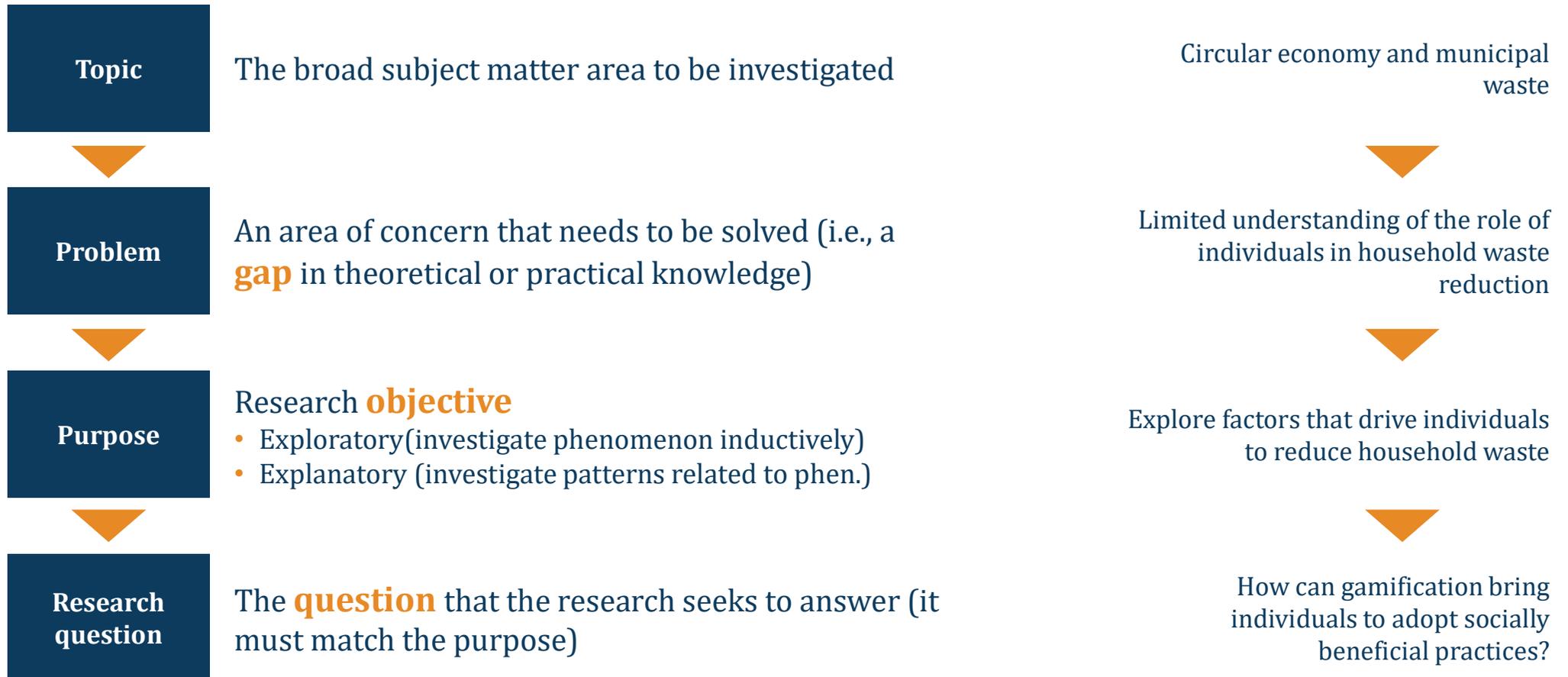
Literature
review



Research
question

What to know before starting

From the topic to the research question



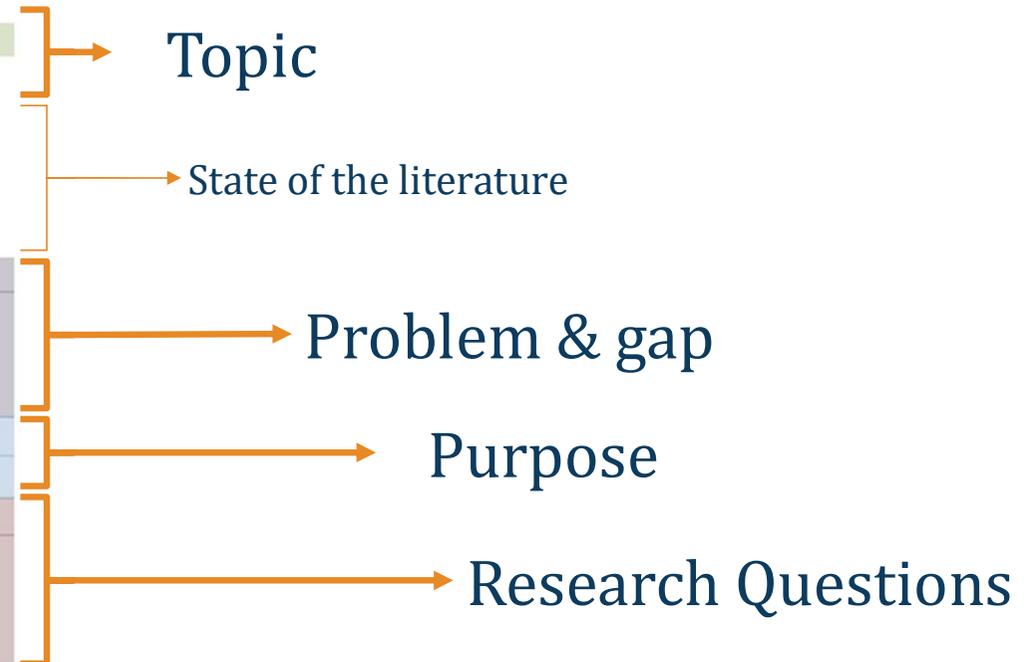
What to know before starting

From the topic to the research question

A prime means through which decontestation can be achieved is “narrativization” (Thompson, 1990, p. 61), which means that the essentially contestable concept is incorporated into a story. Indeed, narratives have the power to “magnetize” (Shenhav, 2015, p. 1) and “transport” (Green & Brock, 2000, p. 701) their audience, thereby reducing its vigilance with regard to possible inconsistencies (Deighton, Romer, & McQueen, 1989; Green & Brock, 2000).

The notion of CSR becomes decontested, inter alia, in what we call *institutional CSR narratives*. These are stories which evoke the origins, historical evolutions, and prospected developments of CSR and which are propagated by organizations whose purpose is to promote the “CSR institution” (CSRI; i.e., the institutionalized norms of conduct which regulate corporate behavior under the banner of CSR; Bondy, Moon, & Matten, 2012; Brammer, Jackson, & Matten, 2012; Kaplan, 2015). Interestingly enough, these narratives have so far remained largely out of sight of the scholarly literature. This is all the more remarkable as they can be assumed to fulfill a critical role in legitimizing the CSRI. To achieve this purpose, these stories must decontest the concept of CSR in a manner that establishes the CSRI’s worth to society. This article investigates the decontesting role and functioning of these narratives, in addressing a twofold question: How does the concept of CSR become narratively decontested with a view to legitimizing the CSRI? And, given the possibly double-edged nature of such decontestation, to what extent shall this be considered conducive to attaining broader social and environmental ends?

To investigate these questions, our study proceeds as follows. After laying the conceptual foundations of our argumentation, we present the corpus of



What to know before starting

Your turn



In groups of two students, discuss your respective research projects/Ph. D and identify their :

- subject,
- problem,
- purpose, and
- (what could be your) **research question**

What to know before starting *Building your research question*

The research question arises from the interaction between:

- Your initial topic
- The academic literature
- Potentially, the professional and journalistic literatures
- Sometimes an initial exploratory empirical phase (observations, informal interviews)

It is a question (or less preferably a set of questions) that ties **concepts** together:
→ How can discourses contribute to shaping the theorization of a hybrid practice?

You must construct your research question; it does not appear "spontaneously" (unless you are already a very experienced researcher).

What are the theories and concepts likely to help you structure your research question?

What to know before starting *Summary*

- Who has studied the problem before ?
 - What do they think ?
 - What are the limits of this literature ?
 - Compelling arguments for building your hypotheses OR compelling arguments for building your research questions
 - 5-6 pages is (more than)enough
-
- Do not make a confusion between the literature review and the theoretical framework/research object
 - The theoretical framework makes it possible to resolve the theoretical gap and to have a better understanding of the phenomenon analyzed
 - Discuss the literature as it informs your research question. Do not provide a listing of vaguely related prior findings

- What to know before starting
- Building your literature review in practice
- Writing your literature review

Building your literature review in practice

One processual view



NAVIGATE

- Exploration of the world library
- An immense but finite set
- Multiplication of keywords and specification of sources

SELECT

- Building of a personal library
- Selection and comments of the 'goods sheets'
- Identification of key quotations

STRUCTURE

- Grouping
- Articulated formating
- Writing

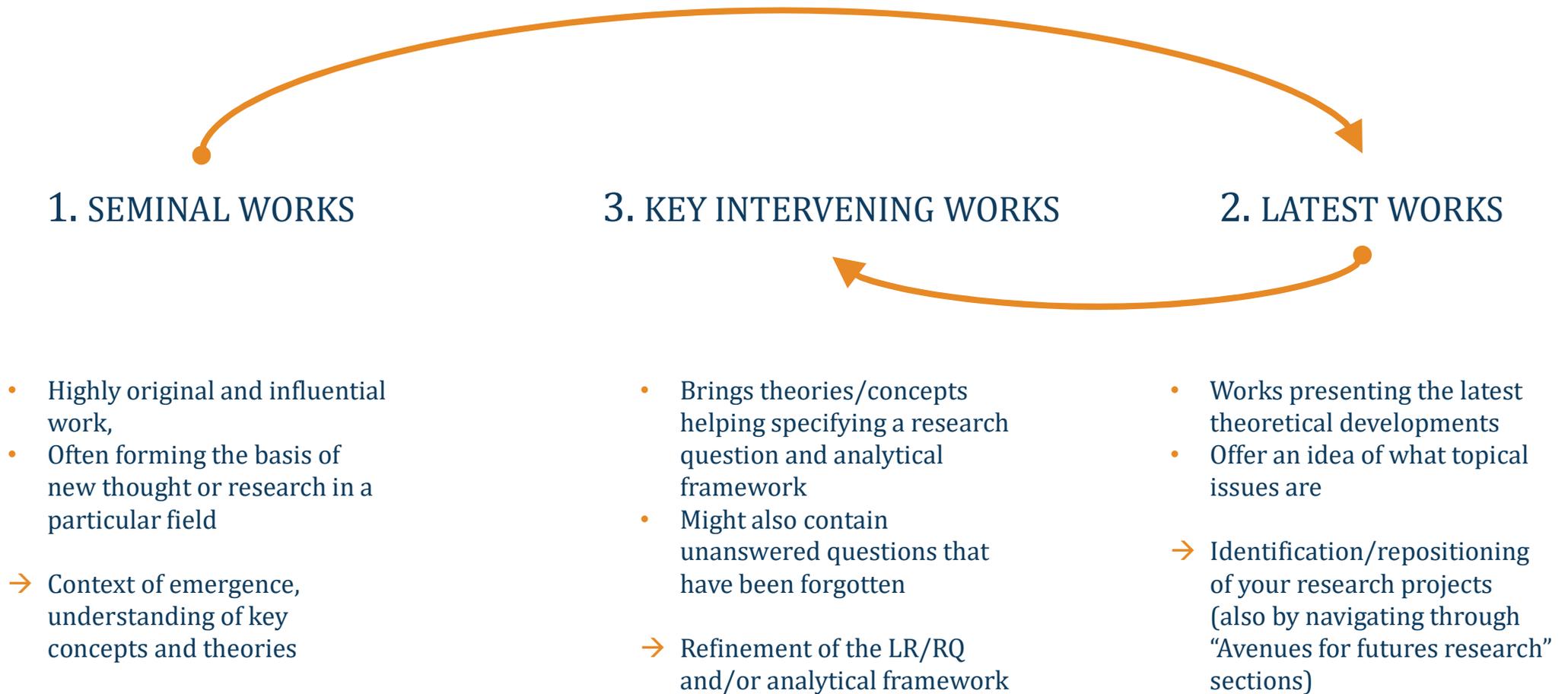
Building your literature review in practice

One processual view



Building your literature review in practice

Where to start? A personal approach



Building your literature review in practice

Navigating the literature, how to focus?

“ ” (quotation marks) to search for an exact phrase or combination of words, enclose it in quotation marks.

→ For example, "climate change" will return documents that contain this exact phrase

- (minus sign) to exclude a term from the search, place a minus sign directly in front of it without a space.

→ For example, waste -hazardous will remove results that include the term "hazardous"

OR to include synonyms or related terms, use "OR" (in uppercase).

→ For example, "global warming" OR "climate change"

AND operator is not explicitly used in Google Scholar but it is applied when you enter multiple search terms.

() (Parentheses) to control how search terms are combined, use parentheses.

→ For example, (PSS OR "functional economy") AND "circular economy"

Author: to search for works by a specific author, use the "author:" operator.

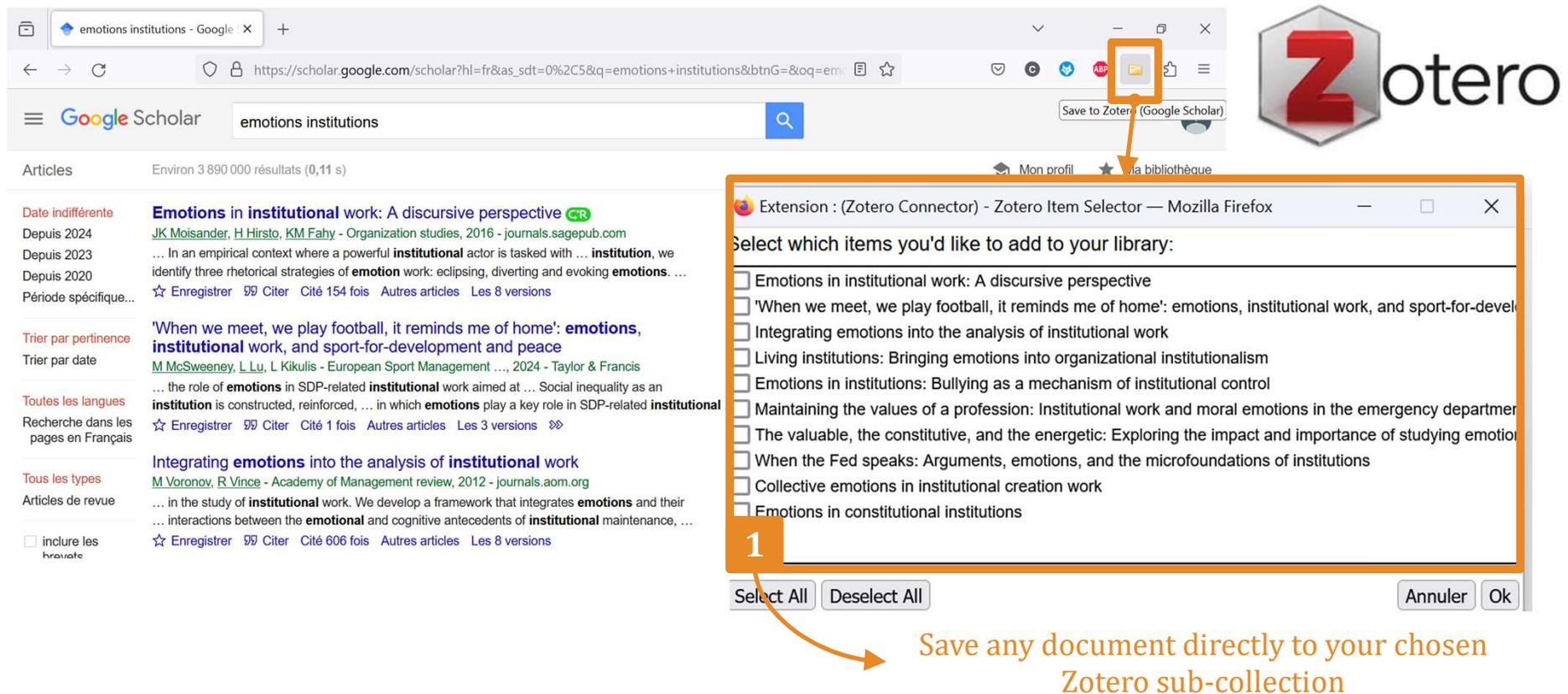
→ For example, author:curie will find articles written by an author with the last name Curie

Source: to search for articles from a specific publication, use the "source:" operator.

→ For example, source:"Journal of Management" or source:management OR organization

Building your literature review in practice

Select your documents with Zotero or Mendeley



The image shows a browser window with a Google Scholar search for "emotions institutions". The search results list several articles. An orange box highlights the "Save to Zotero (Google Scholar)" button in the browser's toolbar. A second orange box highlights the Zotero Connector extension window, which is titled "Extension : (Zotero Connector) - Zotero Item Selector — Mozilla Firefox". This window displays a list of search results with checkboxes next to them, allowing the user to select items to add to their library. A large orange number "1" is placed over the "Select All" button at the bottom of the extension window. An arrow points from this button to the text "Save any document directly to your chosen Zotero sub-collection". The Zotero logo is visible in the top right corner of the overall image.

emotions institutions - Google x +

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=fr&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=emotions+institutions&btnG=&oq=em

Google Scholar emotions institutions

Articles Environ 3 890 000 résultats (0,11 s)

Date indifférente Depuis 2024 Depuis 2023 Depuis 2020 Période spécifique...

Trier par pertinence Trier par date

Toutes les langues Recherche dans les pages en Français

Tous les types Articles de revue

inclure les brevets

Emotions in institutional work: A discursive perspective 
JK Moisaner, H Hirsto, KM Fahy - Organization studies, 2016 - journals.sagepub.com
... In an empirical context where a powerful **institutional** actor is tasked with ... **institution**, we identify three rhetorical strategies of **emotion** work: eclipsing, diverting and evoking **emotions**. ...
☆ Enregistrer Citer Cité 154 fois Autres articles Les 8 versions

'When we meet, we play football, it reminds me of home': emotions, institutional work, and sport-for-development and peace
M McSweeney, L Lu, L Kikulis - European Sport Management ..., 2024 - Taylor & Francis
... the role of **emotions** in SDP-related **institutional** work aimed at ... Social inequality as an **institution** is constructed, reinforced, ... in which **emotions** play a key role in SDP-related **institutional** ...
☆ Enregistrer Citer Cité 1 fois Autres articles Les 3 versions

Integrating emotions into the analysis of institutional work
M Voronov, R Vince - Academy of Management review, 2012 - journals.aom.org
... in the study of **institutional** work. We develop a framework that integrates **emotions** and their ... interactions between the **emotional** and cognitive antecedents of **institutional** maintenance, ...
☆ Enregistrer Citer Cité 606 fois Autres articles Les 8 versions

Extension : (Zotero Connector) - Zotero Item Selector — Mozilla Firefox

Select which items you'd like to add to your library:

- Emotions in institutional work: A discursive perspective
- 'When we meet, we play football, it reminds me of home': emotions, institutional work, and sport-for-devel
- Integrating emotions into the analysis of institutional work
- Living institutions: Bringing emotions into organizational institutionalism
- Emotions in institutions: Bullying as a mechanism of institutional control
- Maintaining the values of a profession: Institutional work and moral emotions in the emergency departme
- The valuable, the constitutive, and the energetic: Exploring the impact and importance of studying emotio
- When the Fed speaks: Arguments, emotions, and the microfoundations of institutions
- Collective emotions in institutional creation work
- Emotions in constitutional institutions

1

Select All Deselect All Annuler Ok

Save any document directly to your chosen Zotero sub-collection



Building your literature review in practice

What works to select, three criteria to consider

The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search for 'legitimacy' with approximately 52,200 results. The interface includes a search bar, a filter sidebar on the left, and a list of search results. Annotations in orange boxes and arrows highlight specific elements: the 'Date indifférente' filter, the citation count 'Cité 2481 fois' for the first article, the journal name 'Academy of management review' for the second article, and the citation count 'Cité 25146 fois' for the second article. A third article is also visible with 'Cité 791 fois'.

- ### Criteria to consider
1. Journal ranking
 2. Number of citations
 3. Usefulness
- Multiply key words
 - Play with dates
 - Consult citing articles



Building your literature review in practice

What frame of reference for the review ranking?

The image shows three overlapping browser windows illustrating journal ranking sources:

- FT.com:** A list of 50 journals used in FT Research, including:
 1. Academy of Management Journal
 2. Academy of Management Review
 3. Accounting, Organizations and Society
 4. Administrative Science Quarterly
 5. American Economic Review
 6. Contemporary Accounting Research
 7. Econometrica
 8. Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice
 9. Harvard Business Review
- FNEGE:** A table titled "Classement des Revues scientifi..." showing journal rankings by domain and year.

piISSN (Print)	eISSN	TITLE	DOMAINE	Classement 2019	Classement 2022
2034-9130	2295-9149	'@GRH	HRM	3	3
0001-3072	1467-6281	ABACUS	ACC	2	2
1941-6520	1941-6067	ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT ANNALS	GEN MAN	1	1
2168-1007	2168-1007	ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT DISCOVERIES	GEN MAN		4
0001-4273	1948-0989	ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT JOURNAL	GEN MAN	1	1*
1537-260X	1944-9585	ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT LEARNING AND EDUCATION	GEN MAN	2	1
1558-9080	1558-9080	ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT PERSPECTIVES	GEN MAN	2	2
0363-7425	1930-3807	ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT REVIEW	GEN MAN	1*	1*
0001-4788	2159-4260	ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS RESEARCH	ACC	3	3
0810-6301	1467-6281	ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE	ACC	3	3
- JournalRanking.org:** A table titled "JOURNAL RANKING PORTAL" showing journal rankings by field and year.

ISSN	FIELD	JOURNAL TITLE	PUBLISHER	AJG2021	AJG2018
1614-2411	OR&MANSCI	4OR	Springer Nature	2	2
1467-6281	ACCOUNT	Abacus	Wiley-Blackwell	3	3
2056-5127	IB&AREA	Academia Revista Latinoamericana de Administracion	Emerald	1	1
1941-6067	ETHICS-CSR-MAN	Academy of Management Annals	Academy of Management	4*	4
2168-1007	ETHICS-CSR-MAN	Academy of Management Discoveries	Academy of Management	3	
1948-0989	ETHICS-CSR-MAN	Academy of Management Journal	Academy of Management	4*	4*
1944-9585	MDEV&EDU	Academy of Management Learning and Education	George Washington University	4*	4

→ Everything you finally collect must **HELP** your thought process/demonstration (and in any case brings confusion)

Building your literature review in practice

Exercise (30 minutes)

1. Identify 3 to 4 seminal works (articles, books, or book chapters) that are central to your PhD research topic.

- Seminal works are typically: Highly original and influential contributions;
- Works that have shaped a stream of research or introduced key theoretical concepts;
- References that are consistently cited and that structure how the field has evolved over time.

2. Identify approximately 10 recent works, preferably published within the last 3 to 5 years, typically:

- Present the most recent theoretical, conceptual, or empirical developments;
- Reflect current debates, tensions, or unresolved issues in the literature;
- Often explicitly discuss limitations or propose “avenues for future research”.

For each work, briefly note:

- Full reference
- Core theoretical contribution or key concept
- Why this work is important for your PhD project (e.g. conceptual breakthrough, foundational framework, interesting methods, point of departure for later research)

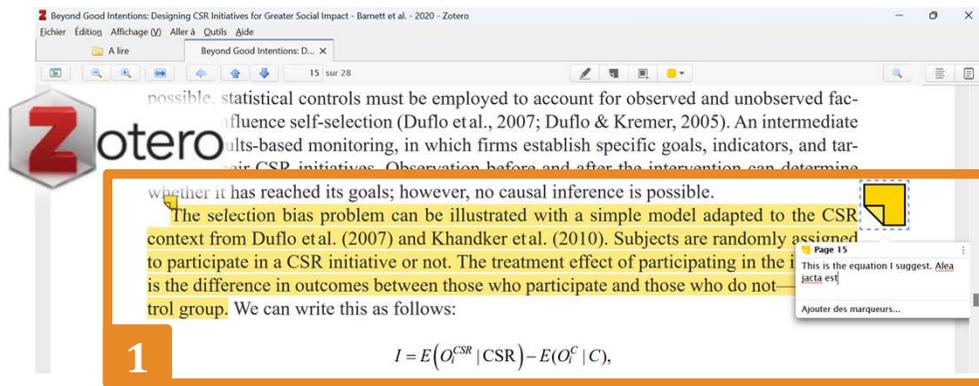
Building your literature review in practice

AI tools can help a lot to position and structure your set of documents

From this point on, this course becomes (even more) a space for sharing information and best practices.

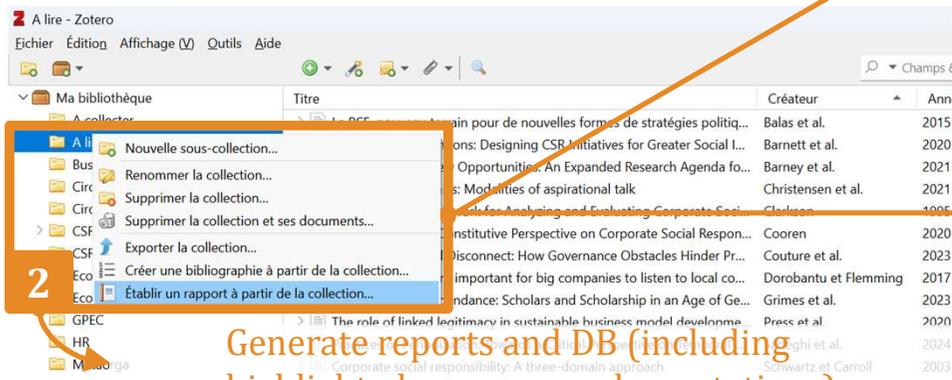
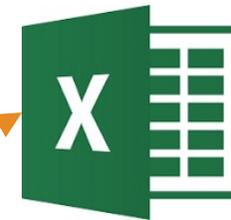
Building your literature review in practice

Structuring and synthetizing your documents with Zotero



1

Highlight and annotate



2

Generate reports and DB (including highlighted passages and annotations)

beyond Good Intentions: Designing CSR Initiatives for Greater Social Impact

type de document Article de revue

Auteur Michael L. Barnett

Auteur Irene Henriques

Auteur Bryan W. Husted

Résumé Are corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives providing the societal good that they promise? After decades of CSR studies, we do not have an answer. In this review, we analyze progression of the CSR literature toward assessing the performance of CSR initiatives, identify factors that have limited the literature's progress, and suggest a new approach to the study of CSR that can overcome these limits. We begin with comprehensive bibliometric mapping illustrating that although social impact has measured outcome decade. Thereafter, we studies. Adapting a log cited studies have stop

Annotations
(21/04/2024 à 18:34:10)

« The selection bias problem can be illustrated with a simple model adapted to the CSR context from Duflo et al. (2007) and Khandker et al. (2010). Subjects (S_{it}) are randomly assigned to participate in a CSR initiative or not. The treatment effect of participating in the initiative is the difference in outcomes between those who participate and those who do not—the control group. » (Barnett et al., 2020, p. 15)

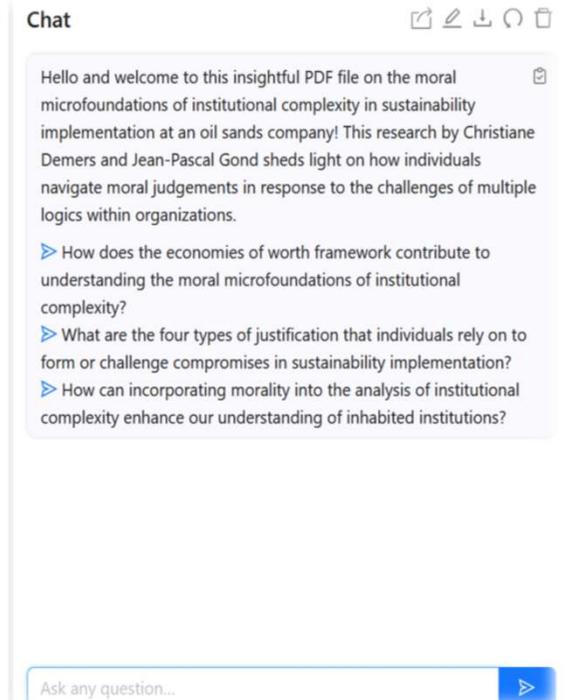
This is the equation I suggest. Alea jacta est

Building your literature review in practice

AI tools can help to dive into the papers that you have collected



- Dive into papers to get specific information
- Discuss with the AI after you have loaded your pdf
- Give a good overview of a specific section of an article



Building your literature review in practice

AI tools can help a lot to position your set of documents



www.researchrabbit.ai

- Visualise connections between your reference paper and other papers of the field ('Similar works')
- Build-up your own network of references

The screenshot displays the Research Rabbit interface with several key components:

- Left Panel:** A sidebar with navigation options like 'New Collection', 'New Category', and 'Connect to Zotero'. It shows a collection named 'Experiential Learning' with 19 selected papers.
- Main Paper List:** A list of papers with details such as title, year, and journal. Examples include 'Research on Situated Learning Theory and its New Development' (2014) and 'Kurt Lewin's change model: A critical review of the role of leadership and employee involvement in organizational change' (2016).
- Right Panel:** A 'Similar Work' section with a network graph showing connections between papers. It includes filters for 'Relevance' and 'Connections between your collection and 50 papers'. Below the graph are statistics for 'These Authors' (34), 'Suggested Authors' (153), and 'Linked Content' (13).
- Bottom Panel:** A 'Connections' section showing a network graph of authors and papers, with options to 'Zoom Out', 'Fit All', and 'Zoom In'.

Building your literature review in practice

AI tools can help a lot to position your set of documents

Artificial intelligence is still in its early stages and is poised to revolutionize the literature review process

To be continued....

- Connected papers
- Scholargpt
- Notebook LM
- Scispace
- Hu mata
- Bibliometrix
- MAPIFY.SO

- What to know before starting
- Building your literature review in practice
- Writing your literature review

6 tips for writing your literature review

Tip #1, think about your first reader!

Writing an academic article is like walking a tightrope.

You need to be both:

- clear and instructive as if speaking to a novice,
- yet also sharp, concise, and persuasive to reflect your expert status.

This can be sort out by articulating the building blocks of “common ground” and “complication”



6 tips for writing your literature review

Tip #1, think about your first reader!

- Keep in mind that your “first customer” – the reviewer – is an **EXTREMELY BUSY PERSON**
- **READABILITY:** Make it easy for a reader/reviewer to like your paper/PhD thesis:
 - Short sentences!
 - Short paragraphs!
 - Point out the specific novel insights!
- Review your work with care for the structure:
 - Is the writing easy to understand?
 - Do the ideas flow?
 - Smooth landing on the research question!



6 tips for writing your literature review

Tip #2, be perseverant

- Many (all?) scholars revise dozens of drafts before submission
- Consider professional copy editing before submitting



6 tips for writing your literature review

Tip #3, don't fall in a long list of traps

- Forgetting key authors
- Just list some pieces of work
- Too syncretic
- Not hierarchical enough
- Too detailed
- Reinventing the known
- Not enough respect
- Too much respect
- Everything new is wonderful
- Going back to the Sumerians
- Too many quotations
- Too abstract or confused structure
- Endless quest for the perfect structure
- Do not directly link literature review and research question
- Too many expressions like: The authors show/suggest... According to the authors...
- Overuse of euphemization
- Not making clear who is speaking (the PhD candidate or the authors)
- Get drawn in the litany

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Tip #4, connect your whole literature review with your core message

“ (...) avoid letting the names play too prominent a role in your writing. One rule of thumb is never to start a paragraph with a name. When you start with a name, you have effectively neglected any transition, and the reader does not know how the new paragraph fits into your evolving argument. (...)

Use the first or last sentence of each paragraph to connect with your take-home message.”

Baumeister, 2003

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Tip #5, keep in mind the 5 Cs

Concise

Clear

Critical

Convincing

Contributive

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Tip #6, Only Wear One Hat at a Time (Focus on just one stage at a time)

- **Mind-Mapping** – Generate and explore ideas; no polishing or editing yet.
- **Bulleted Skeleton / Outline** – Organize your key points; don't worry about wording.
- **Drafting (Writing)** – Get the words down; avoid self-editing mid-sentence.
- **Ideas Editing** – Revisit the structure and logic of your argument; check if the points flow.
- **Word Editing** – Fine-tune phrasing and eliminate clutter.
- **Print & Gap** – Print your draft with extra line spacing (e.g., 2.5 spacing) for easier markup.
- **Read Aloud** – Catch awkward phrasing or repetitive language by listening to how it sounds.
- **Check 'Dosage'** – Look for overused words/phrases; vary sentence structure.
- **Find & Review** – Use the “Find” function (PDF or word processor) to quickly spot repeated words or phrases.



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And more important than everything, just WRITE!

If you hesitate then **Write!**

If you don't know where to start then **Write!**

If you're anxious then **Write!**

If you experience the writing block then **Write!**

If you're stuck in your thought process then **Write!**

If you think it can wait for tomorrow then **Write!**

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If you need to get further tips

