

Literature Review

Learning Development Service

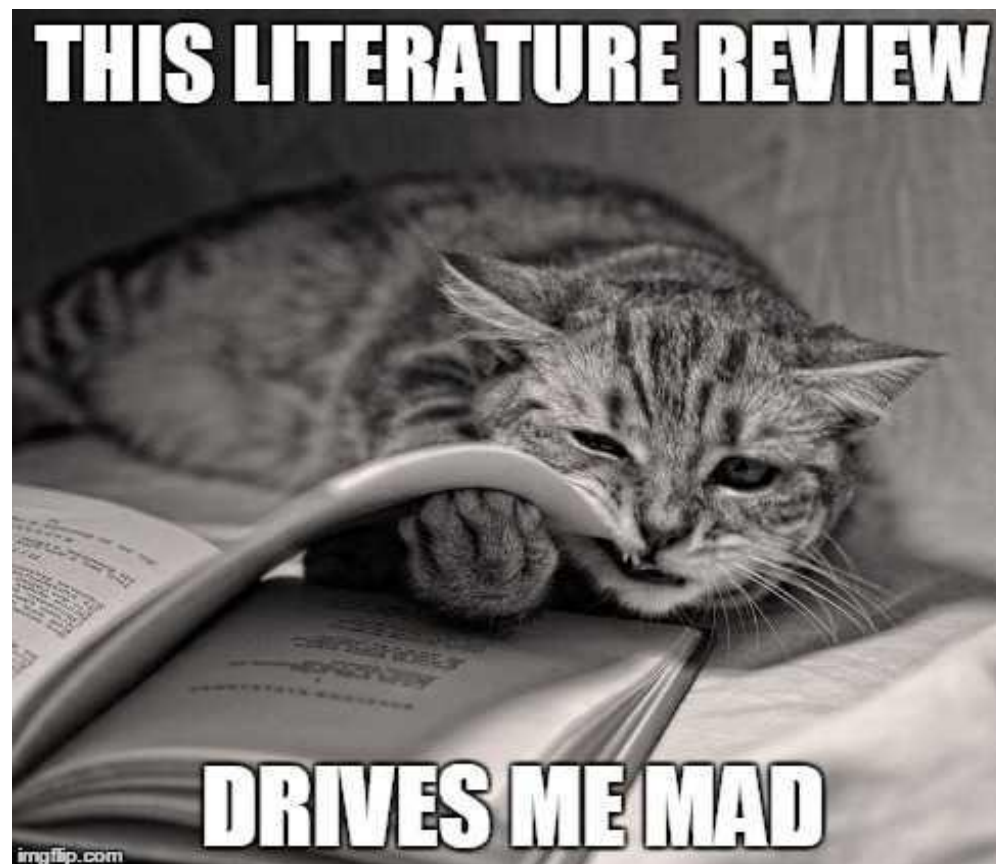
19th of November 2015

Leonie Maria Tanczer, MSc.

LDS Workshop Series

- **Week 2 – 8th October 2015 Independent Study & Time Management**
- **Week 3 – 15th October 2015 Literature Search**
- **Week 4 – 22nd October 2015 Essay Writing**
- **Week 5 – 29th October 2015 Referencing**
- **Week 6 – 5th November 2015 Critical Reading and Writing**
- **Week 7 – 12th November 2015 Presentation Skills**
- **Week 8 – 19th November 2015 Literature Review**
- **Week 9 – 26th November 2015 Dissertation and PhD Proposal**
- **Week 10 – 3rd December 2015 Study Skills & Exam Preparation**

Why this workshop?



Overview of this Session

- **What is a Literature Review**
 - Definition
 - Aims
 - What you should cover
- **Stages in Writing a Literature Review**
 - 8-Step Approach

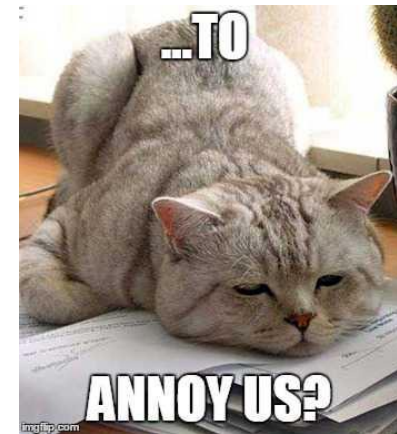
Definition

What is a literature review?

- A **critical, analytical account** of the existing research on a particular topic

Why do we write literature reviews?

- Show **knowledge** of the topic
- Keep **current**
- **Stepping stone** to research/further analysis
- Gain **credibility**



Definition

What is the aim of a literature review?

- To provide an **organised overview** of existing research on a specific topic
- To take a **critical and evaluative** perspective towards published research
- To **summarise, synthesise and analyse** the arguments of authors
- To uncover **similarities** and **differences** or **consistencies** and **inconsistencies** within existing research

The Literature Review...

IS NOT

- A descriptive summary of existing literature
- A presentation of your own argument
- Organised by source or written as an annotated bibliography
- An account of every existing piece of research related to your topic

IS

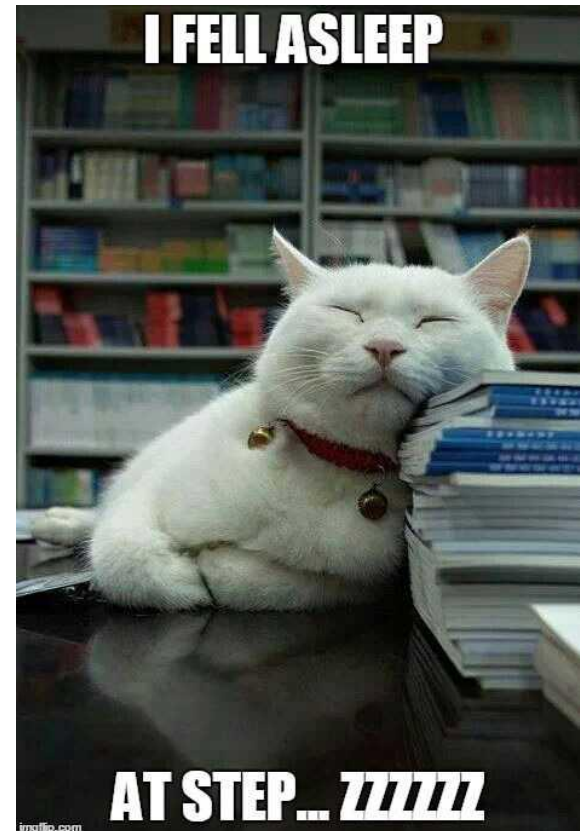
- A **critical**, analytical account
- A synthesis of the arguments of **others**
- Organised around ideas or **arguments**
- An account of a **selection** of writings relevant to your work

What Should a Literature Review Cover?

- **Background Information** (historical, political, cultural or scholarly)
- **Definitions** of Key Words or Topics
- **Theoretical Foundations**
- **Related Studies**, Experiments or Findings
- **Current practice** or issues e.g., methods
- **Various arguments and viewpoints** surrounding the issue
- **Media Representation**

Steps in Writing a Literature Review

1. **Refine** your Topic
2. **Organisational** Planning
3. **Search** for Sources
4. **Read** and Record
5. **Reflect** and Organise
6. **Outline**
7. **Write**, Revise, Write Revise
8. **Refine** your Reference List



1. Refine your Topic

- **Brainstorm**

- What do you already **know**?
- What information do you still **need**?
- What are **related** topics?
- What **angle** do you anticipate your writing will take?



- **Refine**

- Write a possible **aim** for your literature review
- List some **keywords and synonyms** that may identify the sources you will seek to review

2. Organisational Planning

- Before you begin reading, decide how you will **track bibliographic information** e.g., Refworks, Zotero
- How will you **record important** points and ideas that you are gathering e.g., digital document, notes sheets
- How will you **organise sources** e.g., printed or electronically
- How you not **lose track** of time e.g., backward mapping

Research Document Notes

(using Excel)

Author(s)	Year	Location/Key words	Title/Notes
Dwyer, Carol Anne	1998	Formative Assessment, teacher training, UK	Assessment and Classroom Learning: theory and practice -Reaction to Black and Wiliam - How you support and train teachers -UK teachers no assessment training -Assessment barriers
Anderson, Jill	2008	NCLB Critique, US	Experts Analyze NCLB at Askwith Education Forum - NCLB not working - NCLB up for reauthorization - Accountability itself is not solution to decreasing achievement gap! - statement at Boldapproach.org - Problem with NCLB accountability is looks only at one thing out of many functions of schools - suggests different accountability system - problem is poverty

3. Search for Sources

- Use your **key words**
- **Timeframe** (how recent should sources be?)
- **Types** of sources (e.g. books, peer-reviewed journals, newspapers and magazines, conference papers, government publications, artwork, publishers' websites, online discussions)
- Begin searching more **creatively** and narrow as you go
- **Library Support:** Subject librarian



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- **Recommending Material for the Library** by Dan Holden
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- **Electrical Engineering & Computer Science** by Dan Holden
- **English** by Eimear Blee
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- **History** by Eimear Blee
- **Law** by Diarmuid Kennedy
- **Management** by Norma Menabney
- **Mathematics & Physics** by Carol Dunlop
- **Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering** by Janet Drake
- **Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences** by Richard Fallis
- **Midwifery** by Patricia Watt
- **Modern Languages** by Isabel OKelly
- **Nursing (Continuing professional, academic development and research)** by Patricia Watt
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- **Pharmacy** by Paula Younger
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- **Psychology** by Carol Dunlop
- **Sociology, Social Policy & Social Work** by Norma Menabney
- **Theology** by Eimear Blee

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The @QBSU Are Ye Well team will be in the McClay Student Lounge again tonight, serving free tea and coffee from 10pm!

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My name is Janet Drake and I am the Subject Librarian for your School. My role is to provide support and training for the School on all aspects of the Library at Queen's so please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help or have any questions.


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Students' Top Tips for Using the Library

A video guide to the McClay Library produced for students by students.



Subject Guide

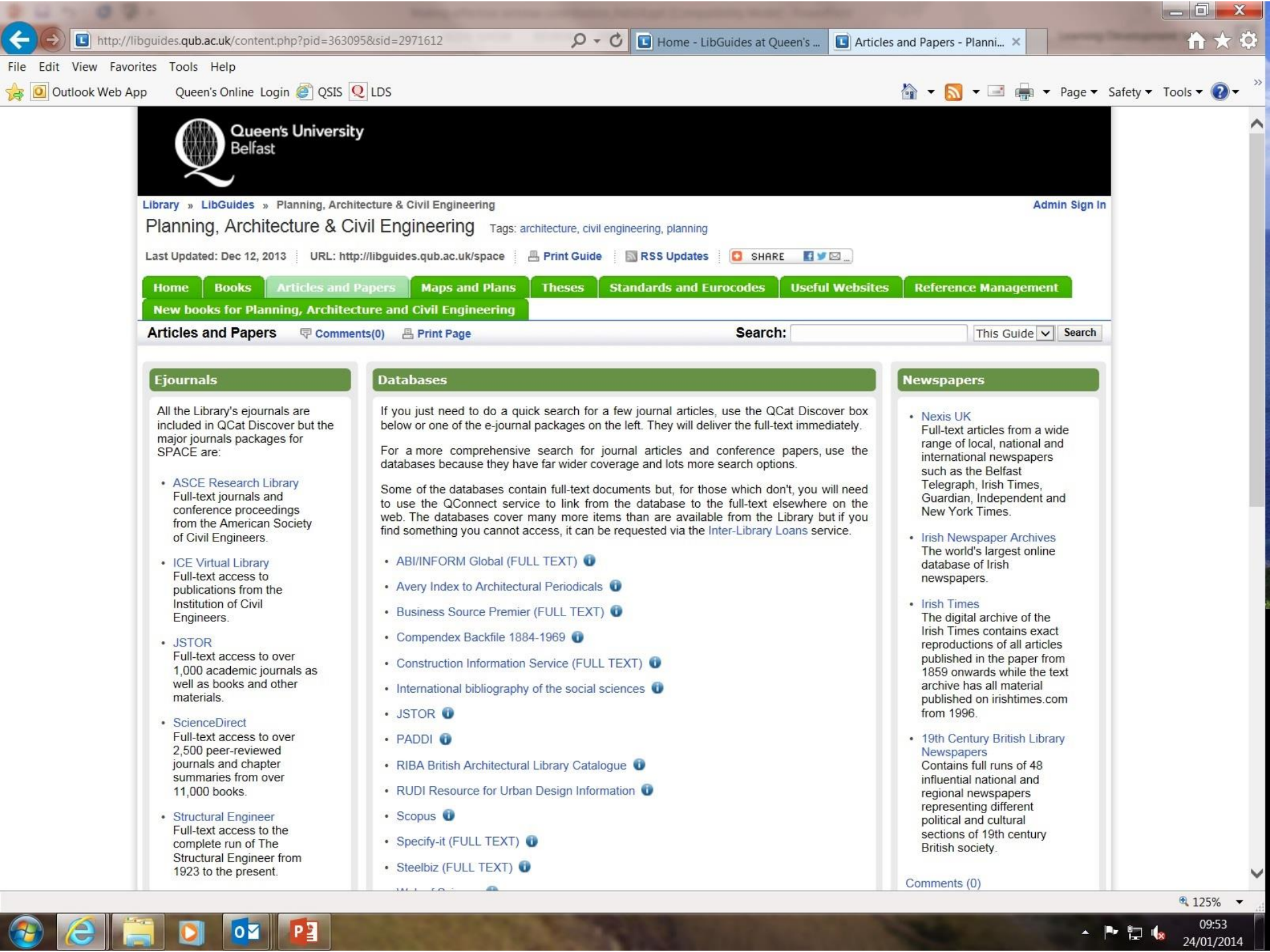


Janet Drake

Contact Info
The McClay Library (Floor 3)
Queen's University Belfast
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Ejournals

All the Library's e journals are included in QCat Discover but the major journals packages for SPACE are:

- **ASCE Research Library**
Full-text journals and conference proceedings from the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- **ICE Virtual Library**
Full-text access to publications from the Institution of Civil Engineers.
- **JSTOR**
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- **ScienceDirect**
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- **Structural Engineer**
Full-text access to the complete run of The Structural Engineer from 1923 to the present.

Databases

If you just need to do a quick search for a few journal articles, use the QCat Discover box below or one of the e-journal packages on the left. They will deliver the full-text immediately.

For a more comprehensive search for journal articles and conference papers, use the databases because they have far wider coverage and lots more search options.

Some of the databases contain full-text documents but, for those which don't, you will need to use the QConnect service to link from the database to the full-text elsewhere on the web. The databases cover many more items than are available from the Library but if you find something you cannot access, it can be requested via the Inter-Library Loans service.

- **ABI/INFORM Global (FULL TEXT)**
- **Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals**
- **Business Source Premier (FULL TEXT)**
- **Compendex Backfile 1884-1969**
- **Construction Information Service (FULL TEXT)**
- **International bibliography of the social sciences**
- **JSTOR**
- **PADDI**
- **RIBA British Architectural Library Catalogue**
- **RUDI Resource for Urban Design Information**
- **Scopus**
- **Specify-it (FULL TEXT)**
- **Steelbiz (FULL TEXT)**

Newspapers

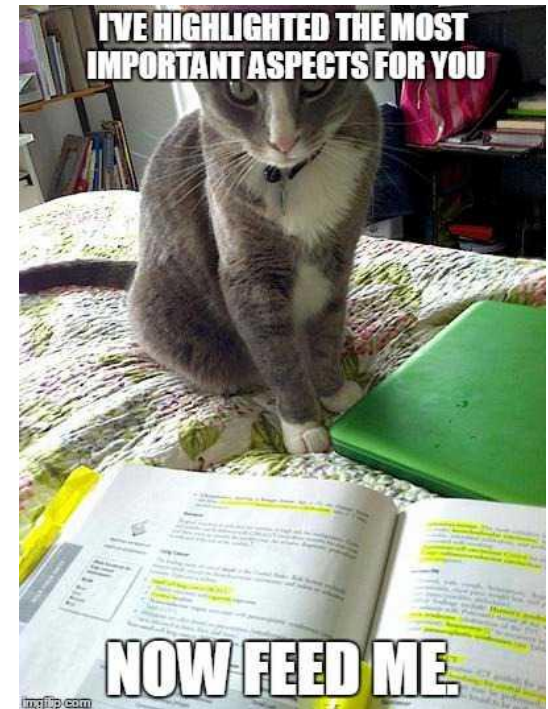
- **Nexis UK**
Full-text articles from a wide range of local, national and international newspapers such as the Belfast Telegraph, Irish Times, Guardian, Independent and New York Times.
- **Irish Newspaper Archives**
The world's largest online database of Irish newspapers.
- **Irish Times**
The digital archive of the Irish Times contains exact reproductions of all articles published in the paper from 1859 onwards while the text archive has all material published on irishtimes.com from 1996.
- **19th Century British Library Newspapers**
Contains full runs of 48 influential national and regional newspapers representing different political and cultural sections of 19th century British society.

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4. Read & Record: Strategically

For instance:

- **Highlight** i.e., notes in margins
- **Summarise** i.e., note taking sheets
- **Reflect** i.e., mind maps
- **Store** i.e., store source info



4. Read & Record: **Critically**

- **First read**
 - **Skim abstract** i.e., focus on your needs
 - Identify **essential parts** i.e., methods, findings, sample etc.
- **Dig Deeper**
 - **Evaluate** the text i.e., strengths, invalid assumptions, contradictions etc.
- **Digging Deeper**
 - **Compare and contrast** the source with previous readings i.e., agreements, disagreements, does author acknowledge or neglect the work of others

5. Reflect and Organise Your Sources

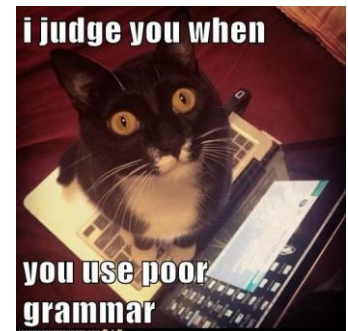
- **Review the information** (build sample overarching claims / assertions; develop storyline):
 - **Mind mapping**
 - Free writing
 - **Bullet points**
 - Organisational Charts (e.g., Microsoft Visio)
 - Notes organised by source
 - Notes organised by theme
 - Notes organised chronologically

6. Outline Possible Structure

- A literature review should have an **introduction, main body and conclusion**
- Main body organised by **headings and subheadings** informed by your readings
- Organise the structure in a **logical way** that **flows**
- Your paper begins to take shape as you organise the information under each heading and subheading
- Be as **detailed** as possible

7. Write, Revise, Write, Revise

- A detailed outline will make your writing process more **thorough and efficient**
- Use evidence: sources must be **backed up with evidence** to show that what you are saying is valid
- Summarize and synthesize your sources: select only the **most important points** in each source to highlight in the review
- Find a **buddy** with whom you can swap papers
- Follow the **style guidelines** recommended by your course



8. Refine Your Reference List

- Refer to your **student handbook/module guide**
- Follow the **guidelines** of your referencing format (MLA, Harvard, Vancouver?)
- Use your **bibliographic software** (if applicable)
- Read and reread your final draft with a specific eye for **referencing format and consistency**: your literature review is led by the sources so they need to be accurately detailed



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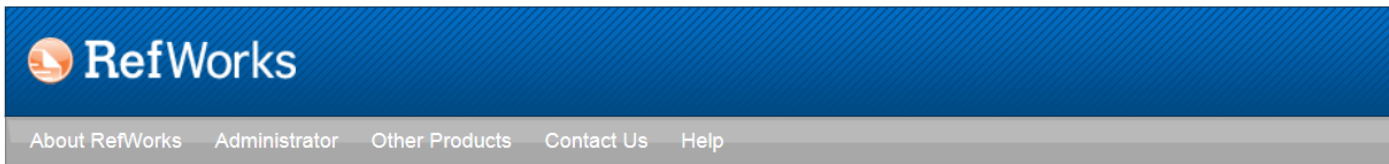
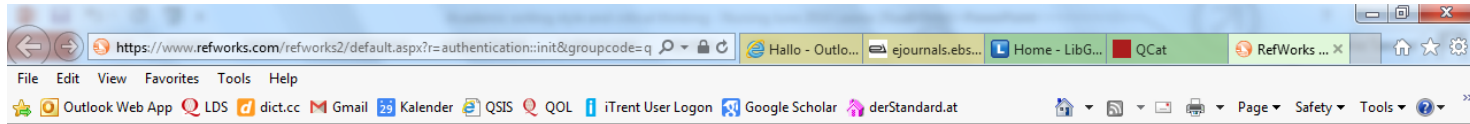
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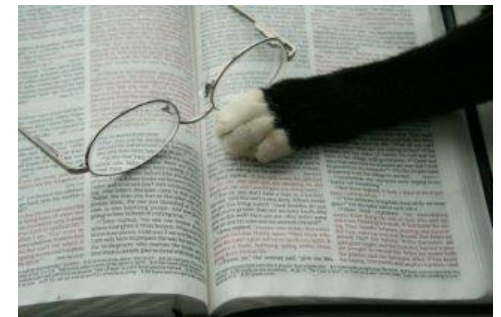
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Personal Recommendation

- Have a look at **Systematic Literature Reviews** in your field
- Cluster the literature around **themes** e.g., theory, method, focus, common findings etc.
- Ask yourself: What do you actually want to say and **achieve** with this overview?
- Have a **Word document** for all your information
- How do you **save** documents?



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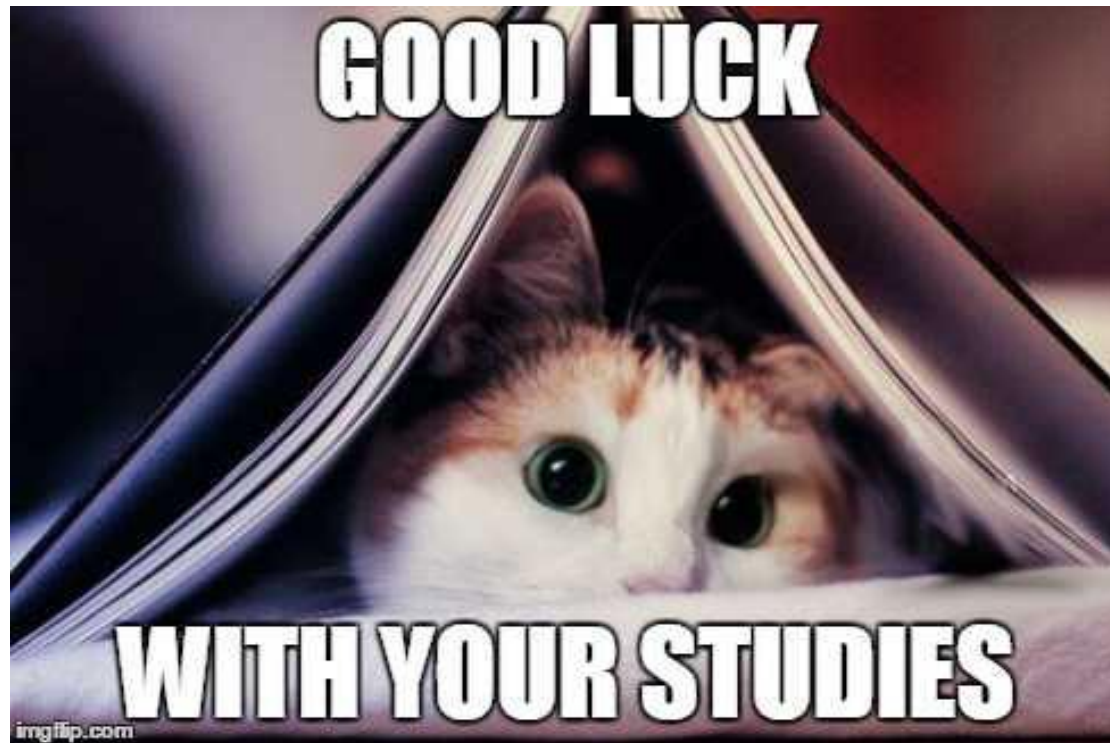


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