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OF QUEENSLAND  
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# Building the literature review

University of Tsubuka

Summer Institute

2014



筑波大学  
*University of Tsukuba*



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
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# Overview

- Purposes
- Literature searches
- Active reading
- Annotated bibliography
- Memoing
- Research Questions
- ‘Joining the dots’
- ‘Thinking outside the box’

# Purposes

- Demonstrates scholarship
  - Knowledge and understanding
  - ‘Paying your dues’ – citing and referencing
- Situating/ positioning your research in a field
- Providing a precedent for your Research Questions
  - Are these good questions? Relevant? Timely?
  - Can you identify a ‘hot’ topic?

# Literature searches

- Manual (particularly older material)
  - Journals, books, magazines, newspapers
  - Using call numbers (eg. 613.17)
- Electronic
  - Data bases, eg. Sport Discus, Physical Education Index
  - Web resources
  - Key words, delimiting the search

# Active Reading

- How do I know if a paper is relevant to my research/ worth reading?
- The title – a ‘hot topic’?
- Abstracts
- Headers and sub-headers (what’s the storyline?)
- Introduction and conclusion (entry and exit)
- Opening and closing paragraphs of sections (entry and exit)

# Annotated Bibliography

- Full bibliographic details and date of entry
- Exposition/ Summary
  - In your own words
  - Provide enough detail
  - Include additional information in parenthesis, eg. page numbers of quotable text
- Critique/ Commentary
  - Strengths and weaknesses
  - Points of particular interest to you

# Memoing

- Notes to self
  - Include date and topic
  - Reflections, ideas, concerns
- Length?
- Making connections, seeing links, noting gaps
- Unresolved issues
- Blogging – sharing ideas under construction

# Research Questions

- Literature review provides a precedent for asking the questions
- Begin to align annotated bibliography with RQs
- Use the RQs as a means of checking back on the relevance of sections of literature



# ‘Joining the dots’

- Preparations for beginning to write
  - Identify topics, sub-topics and organise the annotated bibliography into clusters
  - Draw a conceptual map
- Writing strategies – constructing a narrative
  - List highlights/ main points
  - Write a (mini) storyline
  - Note discontinuities
- Drafting and redrafting
  - Incorporate new reading and new insights
  - Resolve discontinuities

# 'Thinking outside the box'

- Is there a place for creativity in writing a literature review?
- Uses of memoing and blogging
- Sharing drafts and the role of critical friends
- The importance of thinking aloud and conversation