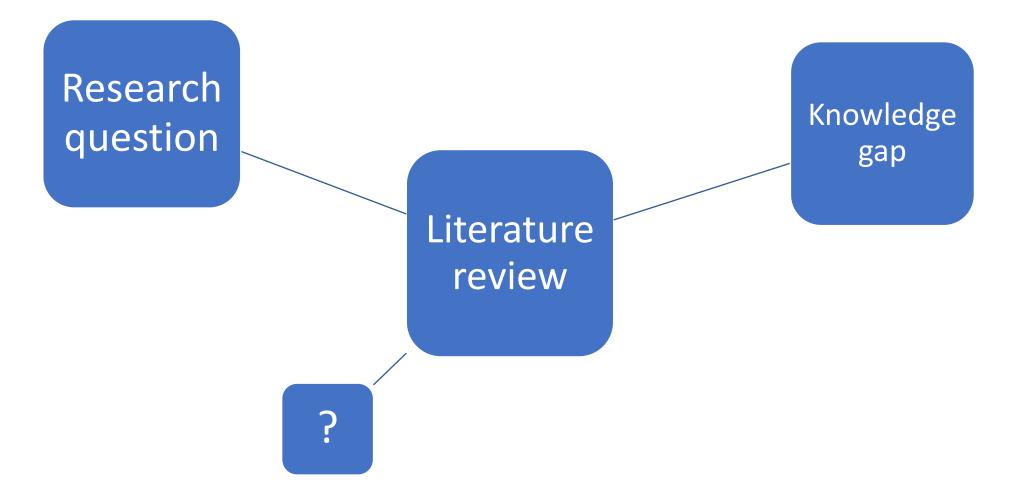# Searching for literature

Good literature reviews start with…

Starting a literature review

- Objective: create an evidence-based literature review to support our work
  - Find scope of previous work
  - Determine if there are any subsets of interest
  - Identify and analyse gaps
  - Find – and link – key concepts

- Example topic: Student housing (emphasis on refurbishment/renovation)

- Example... scholar.google.com

Refining the search

- Student -> campus, university

- Housing -> accommodation, dormitories, residence

- Refurbishment -> renovation, remodel, reuse, refit

Need to decide: should we look at other housing types? Social housing could prove insightful, other common living environments, too. *Check references in a few top articles!* Talk to your advisors; read read read…

Structured searches...

Once we have keywords for our search, we can construct a structured search.

- Search specific parts of articles such titles, abstracts, and keywords (scopus) or topics curated by the search engine (web of knowledge)

Search phrase: scopus

Advanced search:

TITLE-ABS-KEY ((student OR campus) AND ("housing" OR "accommodation" OR "residenc*"))

AND

TITLE-ABS-KEY (renovat* OR refurbish* OR refit OR retrofit OR remodel OR reuse)

= 106 documents

Advanced search: web of science

Advanced search:

TS=((student OR campus) AND ("housing" OR "accommodation" OR "residenc*"))

AND

TS=(renovat* OR refurbish* OR refit OR retrofit OR remodel OR reuse)

= 50 ... why so different?

Advanced search: web of science

Exporting the output:

Reference managers

Excel

Reports

Refining searches

Scopus: after the search

Web of knowledge: before the search

In either case, consider inclusion/exclusion for your study

• Language, source type (article, conference, book, etc.), fields

Recall that some categorization is algorithmic and can be incorrect.

For your literature review

Linking sources together…

• Common themes, common findings (can you add something new?)

• Contrasting findings (can you resolve the disagreement?)

• Supporting your research plan

https://patthomson.net/2012/12/10/a-thinking-tool-for-the-literature-review-christmas-present-two/

PRISMA

Systematic reviews (typically) require PRISMA (more next week from students).

PRISMA provides steps, structure (sections of the review), and has modifications for different types of reviews and topics.

http://www.prisma-statement.org

PRISMA 2009 Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	

Managing references

… to mendeley

Next assignment

Assignment 3: Based on your topic, do an exploratory search to identify 10 relevant articles. Use those 10 relevant articles to prepare and perform a structured search in **Web of Science or Scopus**. Export the output summary.

Due Meeting 3 (27.10).