

# 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](https://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 r  
euse )

= 124 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 r  
euse )

= 68 ... 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. Was updated in 2020!

<http://www.prisma-statement.org> (now available in an online form, too)



# PRISMA 2020 Checklist

Section and Topic	Item #	Checklist item	Location where item is reported
<b>TITLE</b>			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review.	
<b>ABSTRACT</b>			
Abstract	2	See the PRISMA 2020 for Abstracts checklist.	
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of existing knowledge.	
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of the objective(s) or question(s) the review addresses.	
<b>METHODS</b>			
Eligibility criteria	5	Specify the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the review and how studies were grouped for the syntheses.	
Information sources	6	Specify all databases, registers, websites, organisations, reference lists and other sources searched or consulted to identify studies. Specify the date when each source was last searched or consulted.	
Search strategy	7	Present the full search strategies for all databases, registers and websites, including any filters and limits used.	
Selection process	8	Specify the methods used to decide whether a study met the inclusion criteria of the review, including how many reviewers screened each record and each report retrieved, whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Data collection process	9	Specify the methods used to collect data from reports, including how many reviewers collected data from each report, whether they worked independently, any processes for obtaining or confirming data from study investigators, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Data items	10a	List and define all outcomes for which data were sought. Specify whether all results that were compatible with each outcome domain in each study were sought (e.g. for all measures, time points, analyses), and if not, the methods used to decide which results to collect.	
	10b	List and define all other variables for which data were sought (e.g. participant and intervention characteristics, funding sources). Describe any assumptions made about any missing or unclear information.	
Study risk of bias assessment	11	Specify the methods used to assess risk of bias in the included studies, including details of the tool(s) used, how many reviewers assessed each study and whether they worked independently, and if applicable, details of automation tools used in the process.	
Effect measures	12	Specify for each outcome the effect measure(s) (e.g. risk ratio, mean difference) used in the synthesis or presentation of results.	
Synthesis methods	13a	Describe the processes used to decide which studies were eligible for each synthesis (e.g. tabulating the study intervention characteristics and comparing against the planned groups for each synthesis (item #5)).	

# Managing references

... to Mendeley...

Other options: Zotero, end note, BibTex

# 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 26.10 @ 17h.