Preparing for your literature review in the Social Sciences

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Plan for today

Part 1: The literature review process

Part 2: Searching

Part 3: Search tools

Part 4: Citations

Part 5: Alerts
Learning outcomes

By the end of the session, you should:

• Understand the literature review process
• Be able to plan an effective and structured search on your dissertation or thesis topic
• Know where to look for different types of information
• Have considered different methods of searching
• Know where to come for future help
Part 1:
The literature review process
1. Preliminary searching and browsing
   – Scan abstracts and skim-read papers
   – Identify current directions of research
   – How will you contribute new knowledge?
2. **Structured searching with appropriate syntax**
   - Identify the key articles and heavily-cited papers
   - Establish key authors, organizations and sources
   - Commit to in-depth consideration and re-reading of papers
Developing your literature search (3/3)

3. **Develop search**
   - Track citations to follow research connections
   - “Cast net more widely” in terms of resources searched
   - Set up alerts for new content

Stay focused on the research question and keep a search log
Part 2: Searching

- Natural language
- Keywords
- Syntax

Relevant research
Start with a clear research topic

Bullying among boys in secondary schools
Search method 1: Natural language searching

Google Scholar search for "Bullying among boys in secondary schools"

Articles

The extent and nature of bullying among primary and secondary schoolchildren
MG Begg, E Educational Research, 1999 - Taylor & Francis
Moreover, 36.9% of bullies victimize other pupils and 28.9% of victimized younger pupils. The present study also shows that 21.6% of the victims reported being bullied by a group of three bullies. Mixed groups of boys and girls are the least common (13.6%)

Bullying in schools: self-reported anxiety, depression, and self-esteem in secondary school children
... from the study are the relation between having a high lying score and being bullied and having ... The male to female ratio of bullies (3:1) is lower than that previously reported (4:1). An impact on the direct bullying characteristic of boys and less on the indirect bullying more common ...

Bullying among primary school children in Athens, Greece
L Patanaki, A Psychosocial - Educational Psychology, 2001 - Taylor & Francis
... Around 9% of the students were identified as bullies, while 7% were identified as bullies of age. drawn from a sample of junior, middle, and secondary schools, reported having been bullied ... school children (aged 7-12) admitted that they were involved in bullying, either as ...

Brief report: types of bullying among Italian school children
AC Baldy, DP Farrington - Journal of Adolescence, 1999 - Elsevier
... The main aim of this research is to investigate the prevalence of bullies and victims and the study conducted in Sheffield by White and Smith (1993) found that most of the bullying in secondary ... Children were also bullied in corridors or in other parts of the schools such as in ...

The experience of bullying among secondary school students
O Alhanadas - in the Schools, 2010 - Wiley Online Library
... Researchers also confirmed gender differences regarding bullying incidents, because boys were bullied more often ... to do something, to say something so that the others (the bullies) will be ... In the qualitative study on bullying conducted in Greek secondary education (Papal ... ▲ 99 Cited by 81 Related articles All 8 versions Web of Science: 17

Short report: Text bullying and traditional bullying among New Zealand secondary school students
... Students who bully others through text messaging were also significantly more likely to bully through other traditional bullying behaviors. Even text bullying a GRR (35% CI). Text bullied others
Adding Google Scholar Library links (1/3)
Adding Google Scholar Library Links (2/3)

Show library access links for (choose up to five libraries):

- oxford
  - University of Oxford - Find it @ Oxford
    - Open WorldCat - Library Search
    - Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust - Find@Oxford Health FT
    - Oxford Brookes University - Find at Oxford Brookes

Online access to library subscriptions is usually restricted to patrons of that library. You may need to login with your library password, use a campus computer, or configure your browser to use a library proxy. Please visit your library's website or ask a local librarian for assistance.

Save
Cancel
bullying among boys in secondary schools
Search method 2: Keyword searching
Search preparation: Identify main concepts (1/2)

Bullying among boys in secondary schools
Search preparation: Identify main concepts (2/2)

Bullying among boys in secondary schools
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Topic: Bullying among boys in secondary schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row 2</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See Exercise 1 in your workbook (pages 9-10).

1. Write a short sentence about your research interest
2. Underline key concepts
3. Write down alternative words/phrases for each concept (rows 1 and 2 of the table)
## Search syntax: Boolean logic (1/2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Bullying <strong>AND</strong> boys</td>
<td>Narrows search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Boys <strong>OR</strong> males</td>
<td>Broadens search</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>Secondary <strong>NOT</strong> primary</td>
<td>Narrows search</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AND is used to combine different concepts
  - Finding articles about both bullying AND boys

OR is used to combine synonyms for the same concept
  - Finding articles about boys OR males (or both)

NOT is used to exclude terms (can be risky!)
  - Excluding articles about primary education
Further search syntax (1/2)

Search for a phrase by using double quotation marks “ ”

This will find the whole phrase together, rather than secondary in one place and schools in another.

**e.g. “secondary schools”**
Truncation and wildcards

e.g. boy*, behavio?r, wom?n, victimi?ation

* will match zero or more letters. It is used to find different word endings:

boy, boys, boyhood

? will match one or zero letters. It is often used for variant spellings:

behaviour or behavior
women or woman
victimization or victimisation
## Combining keywords and syntax

**Research Topic:** Bullying among boys in secondary schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
<th>Concept 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row 1</strong></td>
<td>Bullying</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Secondary schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row 3</strong></td>
<td>bull* OR harass* OR victimisation OR “aggressive behavio?r” OR teasing OR fighting</td>
<td>boy* OR “young m?n” OR adolescen* OR teen* OR youth* OR “young people” OR gender</td>
<td>“secondary school*” OR “high school*” OR “post-primary education*” OR college*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences

Accessible via
http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/permalink/f/89vilt/LGDBaz/31532465
Use Advanced Search to get more flexibility when searching
IBSS Example 2/5

- Add search terms for one concept into each box
- Use **Add a row** to create more boxes
IBSS Example 3/5

- Use the drop-down menus to choose where to search – Abstract, Document title, and Anywhere except full text (abstract, title, keywords) are good.
- If you are only interested in recent publications, use the date filter.
Use **Modify search** to change your search terms and settings.
IBSS Example 5/5

Use the filters on the left to restrict by type (e.g. scholarly journals) or date
Have a go later: Building a structured search

See Exercise 2 in your workbook (pages 9-10).

1. Create a structured search from your keywords (row 3)

2. Apply the search to one of the following:
   
   IBSS:
   
   http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/permalink/f/89vilt/LGDBaz/31532465
   
   Or a key database in your field

3. Explore the database search functionality

4. Modify and refine your search
What if it’s not available in Oxford?

• Try to obtain it on interlibrary loan
  – PDF/scanned copy of article or book chapter
  – Borrow the whole book from another library in the UK or internationally (may be unavailable during the pandemic)
  – Place a request at https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/interlib
  – Cost is usually £5.00 but currently free during the pandemic (as of May 2021)
• Recommend that one of the Bodleian Libraries buy a copy / subscription
  – https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/collections-and-resources/recommend-a-purchase
• Google to see if an Open Access version is available
• Buy the individual article from the publisher (last resort)
Part 3: Search tools

Internet search engines

Full-text databases

Abstracting and indexing services
Accessing online resources provided by the Bodleian Libraries

• SOLO
  http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk

• Databases A-Z
  https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php

• LibGuides
  http://ox.libguides.com
Databases A-Z

https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php
Use the dropdown menus or search bar to explore databases for your subject area
LibGuides (2/2)

- Explore subject guides relevant to your research written by subject librarians
- Look for database recommendations
- Learn about other useful sources of information – data, theses, grey literature
“We searched six databases (Medline, Embase, PsychINFO, CINAHL, IBSS and SSCI) systematically, along with a manual search, including key journals and subject experts. Peer-reviewed studies were included if they qualitatively explored experiences of or socio-structural contexts for injection drug use initiation. A thematic synthesis approach was used to identify descriptive and analytical themes throughout studies.”


1. Ask yourself two questions:
   - Which subjects are relevant to my topic? (sociology, health, public policy, education...)
   - Which formats might contain useful research? (journal articles, working papers, books, datasets)

2. Explore the subject menu on Databases A-Z
   https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php

3. Explore the LibGuides for recommended resources
   http://ox.libguides.com
Part 4: Citations

Researcher 3 → Cites researcher 2 → Cites researcher 1

Impact
Use citations to:

- Locate current research based on earlier research
- Find out how many times, and where, a publication is being cited
- Identify who is referencing a particular paper
- Explore how a particular research topic is being used to support other research
- Analyse the impact of a publication on other research in the field
- Track the history of a research idea
- Keep track of your own research
Where can you get citation information?

- **Web of Science:** [https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/wos](https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/wos)
  - Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) [https://ox.libguides.com/ssci](https://ox.libguides.com/ssci)
  - Over 21,000 titles; 1.6 billion citations
  - Citations from 1900-present

- **Scopus:** [https://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/login?url=https://www.scopus.com/](https://ezproxy-prd.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/login?url=https://www.scopus.com/)
  - Social Sciences & Humanities subject collection
  - Over 22,000 titles; 1.4 billion citations
  - Cited references going back to 1970

- **Google Scholar:** [https://scholar.google.com/](https://scholar.google.com/)
  - “While we try to be comprehensive, it isn't possible to guarantee uninterrupted coverage of any particular source” [https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html#coverage](https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html#coverage)
Identify current research based on earlier research (1/3)

- Web of Science citation counts:
- Search for articles

![Search interface with query: bull* AND boy* AND "secondary school"]
Identify current research based on earlier research (2/3)

- Results will be sorted by date initially – very new publications won’t have many citations yet!
- Click Times Cited to sort by highest number of citations
Identify current research based on earlier research (3/3)

- Click the Times Cited number next to an article to see the list of articles citing it.
Don’t believe the numbers!

- Web of Science, Scopus and Google Scholar will all give different numbers of citations for the same article.
- They can only count citations from articles within their databases, and there will be duplication.
- Different fields also have different rates of publication so if your research is interdisciplinary you may see very different citation rates.
See Exercise 3 in your workbook (page 15).

1. Use your structured search in Web of Science Social Science Citation Index (SSCI)
2. Sort your results by Relevance – note some titles which have been highly cited
3. Sort your results by Times Cited – note some titles which look relevant
Part 5: Alerts

- New articles matching search terms
- Tables of contents from selected journals
- New citations referencing ‘parent article’

Email
Search Alerts (1/3)

- Create and save complex searches
- Receive alerts when new publications match your search
  - Newly published material
  - Material newly added to the database
- Saves you having to re-visit databases and running your searches again manually
- Receive alerts via email
Most databases have these options – look for “alert” or “save”

Some, like Web of Science, will need you to sign up for a free account first

Results: 133
(from Web of Science Core Collection)

You searched for: TOPIC: (bull* AN D boy* AND "secondary school")

Create an alert

1. Health-related quality of life of Portuguese children and adolescence intake
   By: Silva, Ana Lucia; Teles, Julia; Fragoso, Isabel
Search Alerts (3/3)

- Go to Manage alerts or Searches and alerts to change the frequency, email address or turn off the alert.
- Don’t set up alerts until you’re happy with your search, and don’t set up too many or you will ignore the emails!
Citation Alerts (1/2)

• Available in Web of Science and Scopus
• Create an alert for specific articles
• Receive alerts when new publications cites your chosen articles
  – Newly published material
  – Material newly added to the database
• Saves you having to re-visit databases and running your searches again manually
• Receive alerts via email
Citation Alerts (2/2)

• On the article page, click Create Citation Alert

Web of Science

Does **bullying** cause emotional problems? A prospective study of young teenagers

By: Bond, L. (Bond, L); Carlin, JB (Carlin, JB); Thomas, I. (Thomas, I); Rubin, K (Rubin, K); Patton, G (Patton, G)

View Web of Science ResearcherID and ORCID

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL
Volume: 323 Issue: 7311 Pages: 480-484
DOI: 10.1136/bmj.323.7311.480
Published: SEP 1 2001
Document Type: Article

• Use Searches and alerts -> Citation alerts to cancel an alert

Bond, L. Does bullying cause emotional problems?
A prospective study of young teenagers

Email recipients: Edit

No longer want to receive alerts? Delete Alert
• JournalTocs: www.journaltocs.ac.uk

• Subscribe to journal titles relevant to you

• Receive alerts with a table of contents when a new issue is published

• Saves you having to check when new issues of relevant journal titles are released

• Receive alerts via email
Journal Table of Contents Alerts (2/4)

- You will need to register for a free account
- Search for a journal
Journal Table of Contents Alerts (3/4)

- Search results show up on the left
- Tick the box next to a title to start following
Go to Account Settings to change the frequency of emails.

Go to Followed Journals to turn off an alert.
Have a go later:
Set up an alert

See Exercises 4 & 5 in your workbook (pages 17-20).

- Try setting up a search alert in a database, e.g. Web of Science [https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/wos](https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/wos)

- Try setting up a journal alert in JournalTOCs [www.journaltocs.ac.uk](http://www.journaltocs.ac.uk)
Thank you!

• This presentation will be available at
  – [http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops/handouts](http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops/handouts)

• For more help, contact your subject librarian:
  – [https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ask/subject-librarians](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ask/subject-librarians)