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

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

- Keywords
- Thesaurus
- Natural language
- Boolean
- Citation chaining
- Synonyms

Relevant scholarly research
Start with a clear research topic

e.g.

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

The extent and nature of bullying among primary and secondary schoolchildren
MG Borg - Educational research, 1999 - Taylor & Francis
Moreover, 30.9 per cent of bullies victimize older pupils, and 28.9 per cent victimized younger pupils. The present study also shows that 21.6 per cent of the victims reported being bullied by 11.9... Of the three bullying groups, mixed groups of boys and girls are the least common (11.9...)
☆ Cited by 288 Related articles All 5 versions Web of Science: 79

Bullying in schools: self reported anxiety, depression, and self esteem in secondary school children
G Salmon, A James, DM Smith - BMJ, 1998 - bmj.com
... 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...
☆ Cited by 622 Related articles All 15 versions Web of Science: 188

Bullying among primary school children in Athens, Greece
L Pateraki, A Houndoudi - Educational Psychology, 2001 - Taylor & Francis
... Around 9% of the students were identified as victims, 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 7–13) admitted that they were involved in bullying, either as...
☆ Cited by 141 Related articles All 4 versions

Brief report: types of bullying among Italian school children
AC Rudery, 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 Whitney 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...
☆ Cited by 276 Related articles All 12 versions Web of Science: 80

The experience of bullying among secondary school students
C Athanassades, G. 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 quantitative study on bullying conducted in Greek secondary education (Psaltis &...☆ Cited by 81 Related articles All 6 versions Web of Science: 17

[HTML] Brief 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 behaviour a. Been text bullied a OR (95% CI). Text bullied others...
Search method 1: Google Scholar Library Links
Google Scholar Library Links

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
Google Scholar Library Links

The extent and nature of **bullying among** primary and secondary school children
MG Borg - Educational research, 1999 - Taylor & Francis

Moreover, 30.9 per cent of **bullies** victimize older pupils; and 28.9 per cent victimized younger pupils... present study also shows that 21.6 per cent of the victims reported being **bullied** by a... Of the three **bullying** groupings, mixed groups of **boys** and girls are the least common (11.9...}

Bullying in schools: self reported anxiety, depression, and self esteem in secondary school children
G Salmon, A James, DM Smith - BMJ, 1998 - bmj.com

... 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...}

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... Around 9% of the students were identified as victims, 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 7–13) admitted that they were involved in **bullying**, either as...
Search method 2: Keyword searching
Search question: Main concepts

Bullying among boys in secondary schools
Search question: Main concepts

Bullying among boys in secondary schools
## Search preparation: Keywords

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row</th>
<th>Concept 1: Bullying</th>
<th>Concept 2: Boys</th>
<th>Concept 3: Secondary schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Row 1</td>
<td>Harassment</td>
<td>Young men</td>
<td>High schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victimisation</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Post-primary education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>Adolescents</td>
<td>Private schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>Teenagers</td>
<td>State schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fighting</td>
<td>Youths</td>
<td>Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teasing</td>
<td>Young people</td>
<td>GCSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cyber-bullying</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>A level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggressive behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td>KS3 / Key Stage Three</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Have a go later: Search preparation

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)
Search syntax: Boolean logic

AND
Bullying AND boys

OR
boys OR males

NOT
secondary NOT primary
Search syntax: Boolean logic

• **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

Search for a phrase by using quote marks

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

* e.g. “secondary schools”
Further search syntax

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
## Example: Combine 3 searches

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row 1</th>
<th>Concept 1: Bullying</th>
<th>Concept 2: Boys</th>
<th>Concept 3: Secondary schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Row 2</td>
<td>Harassment</td>
<td>Young men</td>
<td>High schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victimisation</td>
<td>Males</td>
<td>Post-primary education</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggressive behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td>KS3 / Key Stage Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row 3</td>
<td>bull* OR harass* OR</td>
<td>boy* OR “young m?n” OR</td>
<td>“secondary school*” OR “high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>victimi?ation OR “aggressive</td>
<td>adolescent* OR teen* OR youth*</td>
<td>school*” OR “post-primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>behavi?r” OR teasing OR</td>
<td>OR “young people” OR gender</td>
<td>education” OR college*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
Use Advanced Search to get more flexibility when searching
• Add search terms for one concept into each box
• Use **Add a row** to create more boxes
• Use the drop-down menus to choose where to each – abstract, 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
Use the filters on the left to restrict by type (e.g. scholarly journals) or date
Have a go later: Building a structured search

1. Create a structured search from your keywords (rows 3 and 4)
2. Apply the search to one of the following:
   Or a key database in your field
3. Explore the database search functionality
4. 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
  – Place a request at https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/interlib
  – Cost is usually £5.00

• Recommend that one of the Bodleian Libraries buy a copy / subscription
  – https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/recommendations

• Google to see if an Open Access version is available

• Buy the individual article from the publisher (last resort)
Part 3: Search tools

- Abstracting and indexing services
- Internet search engines
- Full-text databases

Diagram: Three interlinked gears representing the search tools.
Access online resources provided by the Bodleian Libraries

• SOLO
  solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk
• Databases A-Z
  libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php
• LibGuides
  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
• 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
Recording your methodology

“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.”

Have a go later: Select databases

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
   [libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php](http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php)

3. Explore the LibGuides for recommended resources
   [ox.libguides.com](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)
  - Over 3,200 titles
  - Citations from 1900-present

  - Social Sciences & Humanities subject collection
  - Over 22,000 titles; 1.4 billion citations
  - Cited references going back to 1970

- **Google Scholar**
  - “While we try to be comprehensive, it isn't possible to guarantee uninterrupted coverage of any particular source”  
Identify current research based on earlier research

Web of Science citation counts:
- Search for articles

Select a database

Select database:
- Web of Science Core Collection

Search options:
- Basic Search
- Author Search
- Cited Reference Search
- Advanced Search
- Structure Search

Search term:
- bull* AND boy* AND "secondary school**"

Search button
• 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
• 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.
Have a go later: Citation searching

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’
Search Alerts

- 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
• 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
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
• On the article page, click Create Citation Alert

• Use Searches and alerts -> Citation alerts to cancel an alert
Journal Table of Contents Alerts

JournalTocs: [www.journaltocs.ac.uk](http://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
• You will need to register for a free account
• Search for a journal
- 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

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

- Try setting up a journal alert in JournalTOCs www.journaltocs.ac.uk
Thank you!

• This presentation will be available at http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops/handouts

• For more help, try your subject consultant: https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/subjects/librarians

• Or email Kat at katherine.steiner@bodleian.ox.ac.uk