Moving from a research question to a literature review

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Katie Day, Library Assistant (Sackler and Taylorian)
Plan for today

- **Part 1:** The literature review process
- **Part 2:** Searching
- **Part 3:** Search tools
- **Part 4:** Citations and bibliometrics
- **Part 5:** Alerts
- **Part 6:** Reference managers
Learning outcomes

By the end of the session, you should:

- Understand the literature review process;
- Be able to plan an effective and structured search for your dissertation or thesis;
- Know where to look for different types of information;
- Have evaluated different methods of searching;
- Have developed search skills that can be applied across different resources;
- Know where to come for future help.
Part 1: The literature review process
Developing your literature search

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 area

Pottery in Neolithic China

Image source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ef/China_100.78713E_35.63718N.jpg
**Introductory reading**

**Oxford Bibliographies** are comprehensive subject bibliographies, which provide an up-to-date overview of the most recent and authoritative scholarship in a given field.

**Neolithic Cultures in China**

*Tracey L-D Lu*

LAST REVIEWED: 06 JUNE 2017
LAST MODIFIED: 22 APRIL 2013
DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780195028382-0004

**Introduction**

Defined by John Lubbock in 1865, Neolithic initially referred to the period when polished stone tools were used. Later the Australian British archaeologist Gordon Childe defined Neolithic as a period when people began to settle down, cultivate plants and herd animals, and make pottery. But this definition is based on archaeological discoveries in Europe and the Middle East and does not fit well into the prehistoric cultural developments in the landmass now called China. On the basis of archaeological discoveries since the late 19th century, it is now generally agreed that the Neolithic cultures in China are dated to between approximately twelve thousand and four thousand years ago, but the characteristics of these Neolithic cultures vary significantly. Some of the Neolithic cultures were created by sedentary farmers and were characterized by labor division, social segmentation, and fortified settlements, while other Neolithic cultures were created by mobile hunters and gatherers with an egalitarian social structure. Consequently, how to define Neolithic remains an issue under debate in China’s archaeology. While some scholars have argued that sedentism and agriculture should be key elements to distinguish Neolithic from Mesolithic or Paleolithic, others have pointed out the uniqueness of cultural changes in prehistoric China and have proposed to use pottery as an indicator of the Neolithic cultures in China’s context. The majority of Chinese archaeologists follow the latter definition, which is different from that in Europe and western Asia. The discussion on defining Neolithic is not just about how to construct the prehistoric chronology in China but also about whether prehistoric cultural diversity in the world should be recognized and whether the archaeological framework that originated and developed in the West can provide a universal explanation for the development of human cultures in prehistoric eras in other regions.
**Introductory reading**

**Encyclopedia of Global Archaeology**

Editors: Claire Smith

ISBN: 978-1-4419-0426-3 (Print) 978-1-4419-0485-2 (Online)

**Table of contents** (1,626 entries)

**Reference Work Metrics**

- Citations: 327
- Mentions: 157
- Readers: 1K
- Reviews: 2
- Downloads: 273K

**Reference Work Entry**

*Banpocun, Archaeology of*

Li Lu

**Introduction**

Banpocun (P'an-p'o-ch'un) or Banpo is a site of the Neolithic Yangshao culture, located near Banpo village on the eastern bank of the Chan River, east of Xi'an, Shaanxi province, China. The entire site is estimated to be c. 5 ha in size, of which an area of 1 ha was uncovered during five seasons of excavation carried out from 1954 to 1957, led by Shi Yixiang of the Institute of Archaeology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Fig. 1). Archaeological deposits were divided into two phases. The early phase contained very rich material remains and was named the Banpo variant (leaving), dating to c. 4900–4300 BCE. Fewer remains were found from the later phase, named the Linyuanzhu variant or Late Banpo variant, generally dating to c. 3500–3000 BCE. The Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (1963). The entire excavated area of the Banpo site has been preserved as China's first on-site museum, the Xi'an Banpo Museum, which was first constructed in 1956 and rebuilt in 2006. Banpo has been further excavated in recent years, but a new excavation report has not yet been published.

**Ceramics, Southeast Asian and Chinese Trade**

Tey Shiang Lim

**Introduction**

Ceramics have been in Southeast Asia since the early Holocene. The earliest, best-dated examples in Mainland Southeast Asia are cord-marked, net-marked, burnished, applique, and incised. Hualien blackware pottery sherds found at the Shiit Cave in north-western Thailand, dated to approximately 10,500 cal BP. In comparison, the earliest known earthenware ceramic found in the...
Starting out:
Natural language searching
Google Scholar Library Links

Scholar Settings

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

[ ]

- University of Oxford - Find it @ Oxford
- Open WorldCat - Library Search

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

To retain settings, you must turn on cookies

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Creating a search string using keyword searching
Search topic: Main concepts

Pottery in Neolithic China
## Search preparation: Keywords

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Area: Pottery in Neolithic China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row 1:</strong> My Keywords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 1: Pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 2: Neolithic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 3: China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Row 2:</strong> Alternative words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New stone age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise: Search preparation

1. Write a short sentence about your research interest
2. Underline key concepts
3. Write down alternative words/phrases for each concept
4. Discuss with your neighbour.
Search syntax: Boolean logic

AND  Pottery \textit{and} China  \quad \text{NARROWS SEARCH}

OR   Pottery \textit{or} China    \quad \text{BROADENS SEARCH}

NOT  Pottery \textit{not} China   \quad \text{NARROWS SEARCH}
Further search syntax

Truncation and wildcards
  e.g. Pot*, wom?n

Search for a phrase by using quote marks
  e.g. “Stone Age”

Parentheses
  e.g. (Pottery OR ceramic) AND China

Limit to particular fields
  e.g. title, abstract, keywords

Apply search filters
  e.g. date, format
### Example: Combine 3 searches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword #1</th>
<th>Keyword #2</th>
<th>Keyword #3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>My keywords</strong></td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Neolithic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternative words</strong></td>
<td>Ceramic; pots</td>
<td>New stone age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use truncation</strong></td>
<td>Cerami*; pot*</td>
<td>Neolithi*; “new stone age”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**My structure search string:**

(#1) AND (#2) AND (#3)

(Cerami* OR pot*) AND (neolithi* OR “new stone age”) AND (Chin*)
Demo:
Exercise: Building a structured search

1. Create a structured search from your keywords
2. Apply the search in Social Science Premium Collection or Art Full Text
3. Explore the database search functionality
4. Refine your search
Stuck for keywords and synonyms?
Database subject headings

• Use database subject headings to identify new and useful search terms

• Terms are assigned by the database editors from a set of **controlled vocabulary (thesaurus)**

• **Broader terms** – brings together synonyms and related terms under one heading

• **Narrower terms** – helps refine your search
Scholarly search engines

• SOLO Articles search
  – Scholarly search engine
  – Cross-disciplinary resource
  – Some subjects are covered better than others
  – Lacks specialist search options
Part 3: Search tools

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

Abstracting and indexing services
Full-text databases
Internet search engines
Useful eResources:
Web of Science Core Collection

What: Bibliographic database / Citation Index
Focus: Covers all Humanities, Social Sciences & Sciences
How: Use your search string
Useful eResources: Scopus

What: Bibliographic database / Citation Index
Focus: Science, Medicine and some Social Sciences
How: Use your search string

Scopus
Useful eResources: Dyabola

What: Bibliographic Database
Focus: Classical Archaeology
How: Use simplified keyword searching
Useful eResources: BIAB (British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography)

What: Bibliographic Database
Focus: Britain and Ireland, every chronological period
How: Use simplified keyword searching
Useful eResources: ArtStor

What: Image database
Focus: Global. Images from archives, libraries, museums mostly in North America and Europe (including the UK).
How: keyword searching
Part 4: Citations and bibliometrics

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**
  – Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)
  – Over 3150 titles\(^1\)
  – Citations from 1956-present

• **Scopus**
  – Social Sciences & Humanities subject collection
  – Over 9,400 titles\(^2\)
  – Scopus is in progress of updating cited references going back to 1970

• **Google Scholar**
  – ??

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1. [http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jlresults.cgi?PC=SS](http://ip-science.thomsonreuters.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jlresults.cgi?PC=SS)
2. [http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus/content-overview#content-overview](http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus/content-overview#content-overview)
Identify current research based on earlier research

- Web of Science citation counts
Demo:

WEB OF SCIENCE™
Exercise: Exploring eResources

1. Pick an eResource that looks useful to your research.
2. Have a go at keyword searching.
3. See workbook for instructions for:
   - WEB OF SCIENCE™
   - ARTSTOR
   - DYA Home
Part 5: Alerts

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

RSS / email
Search Alerts

- Create and save sophisticated 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

- Can receive alerts via:
  - Email
  - RSS
Citation Alerts
SOLO

- Create an alert for specific searches
- Saves you having to re-visit databases and running your searches again manually
- Can receive alerts via:
  - Email
  - RSS
Citation Alerts
WoS 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

• Can receive alerts via:
  – Email
  – RSS
Journal Table of Contents Alerts

JournalTocs: http://www.journaltoacs.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
- Can receive alerts via:
  - Email
  - RSS
Part 6: Reference Managers

- RefWorks
- Mendeley
- EndNote
- colwiz
- Zotero
Guide to the different options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>RefWorks</th>
<th>EndNote</th>
<th>EndNote online</th>
<th>Zotero</th>
<th>Mendeley</th>
<th>ColWiz</th>
<th>Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This information refers to New RefWorks - click here for further information.</td>
<td>Copies well with a very large library</td>
<td>Works very well with Web of Science / Web of Knowledge</td>
<td>iPhone/Android apps</td>
<td>iPhone/Android apps</td>
<td>iPhone/Android apps</td>
<td>PDF annotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RefNote</td>
<td>iPad App</td>
<td>Large number of citation styles</td>
<td>Simple firefox plugin, web interface or desktop app</td>
<td>Social networking</td>
<td>Social networking</td>
<td>Social network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bodleian Libraries subscription provides free access for University members including alumni</td>
<td>Journal abbreviation recognition</td>
<td>Useful tools for creating references from websites</td>
<td>iPhone/Android apps</td>
<td>Collaborative pdf annotation / notes</td>
<td>Collaborative research management tools</td>
<td>iPad/Iphone apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access your library from any computer with an internet connection</td>
<td>Word Processor plug in compatible with MS Word, Apache OpenOffice and Pages</td>
<td>Extend functionality using plug-ins.</td>
<td>Mendeley papers catalogue</td>
<td>Social networking</td>
<td>Large number of citation styles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Supports MS Word and Google Docs</td>
<td>Very limited offline access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons</td>
<td>RefWorks</td>
<td>EndNote</td>
<td>EndNote online</td>
<td>Zotero</td>
<td>Mendeley</td>
<td>ColWiz</td>
<td>Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not compatible with Linux</td>
<td>Not compatible with Linux</td>
<td>Word processor plug-in not compatible with Linux</td>
<td>Limited free storage space (300 MB)</td>
<td>Synching of desktop application to web account NOT automatic</td>
<td>Desktop application required for direct export of references</td>
<td>Need to purchase the software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Need to purchase the software</td>
<td>Limited citation styles and storage</td>
<td>Limited free storage space</td>
<td>Limited free storage space</td>
<td>Limited free storage space</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not compatible with Linux</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comparison table:

http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/c.php?g=423116&p=3851803
Exercise: Exploring alerts or Reference managers

1. Pick a tool that looks useful to your research.

2. See workbook for instructions for:
   - Creating alerts in Proquest
   - Using JournalTOCs
   - Setting up Refworks
Today we have covered

- the literature review process;
- planning an effective and structured search for your dissertation or thesis;
- Knowing where to look for different types of information;
- evaluating different methods of searching;
- developing search skills that can be applied across different resources;
Thank you for your attention.

- Further questions (or feedback)
  Email Helen.Worrell@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
- Slides and handouts:
- Recommend a book:
  http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/recommendations