PSY 828
Computer Applications in Psychology
Online Databases

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Types of Academic Literature

- **Popular Literature:** Presents ideas and evidence to the general public. Little or no empirical analysis.
- **Theoretical/position papers**: Presents a theory or defends a particular position on a topic. Should be (but not always) based on empirical research
- **Empirical Studies**: Describes an original research study, including methods, analytical results, and conclusions
- **Review or Meta-Analysis**: A summary of the existing research studies within a topic area.

Characteristics of Empirical Research

- Typically published in refereed research journals
  - **Refereed:** Peer reviewed by established scholars to ensure quality of the research methods, analysis, and report
- May also be published in books, monographs, conference proceedings, original research reports (typically written for a government agency), or other periodicals

Finding Empirical Research:
Browse titles in well-respected journals

- Organization Science
- Personnel Psychology
- Journal of Human Resources
- Journal of Organizational Behavior
- Organizational behavior and Human Decision Processes
- Human Resource Management
- Journal of Vocational Behavior
- Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology
- Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology
- European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology
- → Organizational Psychology Review
- http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=1407

General Search Tips

- Identify the key variables in your study.
- List synonyms for the key variables.
- Spend time outlining the major points to be made in the literature review.
  - This helps narrow the focus of the topics to be searched for AND helps you avoid plagiarism
- Use the resources you have to find additional resources by following up references

General Search Tips

- One good resource can multiply into many other sources
  - If you read: "According to Murdock and Anderman (2006), students consider three questions when determining whether to cheat…"
    - Go to the References and find Murdock & Anderman.
    - Murdock, T. B. & Anderman, E. M. (2006). Motivational perspectives on student cheating: Toward an integrated model of academic dishonesty. *Educational Psychologist, 41,* 129-145.
  - Now try to access the original article.

Tips in Finding Resources

- Keep a notebook that is entirely dedicated to notes from resources about your project.
  - Always write the reference using APA Format at the top of the page
  - Start a new page with a new reference
- Keep a table with the key pieces of information of each reference to help you as you start to write

Sample Search Table

Author, Year, Title	Page in Notebook	Topic	Key Points	Key Pages	Relation to your Topic
Pittinsky, Rosenthal, & Montoya. (2011). *Measuring positive attitudes toward outgroups*	2-4	Development and validation of instrument that measures positive attitudes toward the out-group	Measures affection, comfort, kinship, engagement, and enthusiasm toward out-group	47	Can be used on the questionnaire

Internet Search Tips

- Put key phrases in "quotation marks"
  - "Examination Malpractice" vs examination malpractice
- Use the limit function to decrease searches that have too many results.
  - Full text only
  - "Scholarly"
  - Age group
  - Date of publication
- Do not use google
- Do not cite wikipedia as a source

Searching for Empirical Articles

- **Google Scholar**
  - http://scholar.google.com
- **JSTOR**: Good for humanities articles
  - www.jstor.org
- **HINARI**: Full text of recent journals
  - http://www.who.int/hinari/en/
- **APA PsycNet**: Searches APA journals only
  - http://psycnet.apa.org/index.cfm?fa=search.advancedSearchForm
- **African Journals OnLine**: The world's largest collection of peer-reviewed African scholarly journals
  - http://www.ajol.info/
- **Professional Organizations**. Professional organizations oftentimes publish empirical/informative literature

Locating Full Text of Empirical Articles

- Databases do not provide full-text articles
- First read the abstract to determine if the article will be relevant to your study
  - Searching for the title in Google Scholar within quotation marks ("___").
  - Email the author to ask for the article to be emailed to you.

Searching for Books

- **Amazon**: "Look Inside" function
  - www.amazon.com
- **Google Books**
  - http://books.google.com
- **National Academies Press**: Full text of all books when searching with a Nigerian IP address
  - http://www.nap.edu/
- **Gutenburg**: Full texts of books, but the copyright has to have been expired (typically over 100 years old)
  - http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page
- For both Amazon and Google Books, be selective in how much you read.
  - The number of pages to be viewed is typically limited, so view the most important portions first

Evaluating the Source

- Not all sources are helpful or even accurate
  - The source must be critically evaluated.
- In general, print sources are more reputable than internet websites
  - Note the distinction between websites and journals published online

Evaluating the Source
Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/3/

- Briefly skim the article to determine if it is well-written
  - Determine if the content is fact, opinion, or propaganda.
    - If the source is offering facts, are the sources for those facts clearly indicated?
  - Are there broad generalizations that overstate or oversimplify the matter?
  - If the source is opinion, does the author offer sound reasons for adopting that stance?
  - Are arguments one-sided with no acknowledgement of other viewpoints?
  - Check other sources for accuracy of the key points
  - How credible is the author?
    - If no author is given, it is likely not reputable

Evaluating the Source
http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review

- When you have fully read the article, critique the article using the following questions:
  - Has the author formulated a problem/issue?
  - Could the problem have been approached more effectively from another perspective?
  - What is the author's theoretical framework?
  - In a research study, how good are the basic components of the study design (e.g., population, instrument, procedure, analysis)?
    - How accurate and valid are the measurements?
    - Is the analysis of the data accurate and relevant to the research question?
    - Are the conclusions validly based upon the data and analysis?

Evaluating the Source
http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/specific-types-of-writing/literature-review

- ...Critique the article using the following questions (Continued):
  - In material written for a popular readership, does the author use appeals to emotion, one-sided examples, or rhetorically-charged language and tone?
    - Is there an objective basis to the reasoning, or is the author merely "proving" what he or she already believes?
  - How does the author structure the argument?
  - In what ways does this source contribute to our understanding of the problem under study, and in what ways is it useful for practice?
    - What are the strengths and limitations?

Identifying Questionable Empirical Articles

- **Predatory Journals:** An exploitive open-access journal that charges authors for publishing without providing editorial and publishing services associated with legitimate journals
- "Unlike legitimate journals, they bombard academics with spam emails, accept almost all submissions and overstate the rigour of their peer-review processes. They also often conveniently neglect to mention publication fees until late in the process."
  - http://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/beware-academics-getting-reeled-scam-journals/

Identifying a Predatory Journal

- Check the journal on http://beallslist.weebly.com
- Obvious spelling or grammar mistakes in the article are a sign of a predatory journal.
- The publisher's website should:
  - Be easy to navigate
  - Be transparent in contact names and methods of publication
  - Be transparent and clear about the peer-review process and reviewer fees
- A short peer-review process and sudden request for fees are signs of a predatory journal

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- "German Defence Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has stepped down after he was found to have copied large parts of his 2006 university doctorate thesis. Mr Guttenberg, considered until recently a possible candidate for chancellor, has already been stripped of his PhD" (BBC News, 1 March 2011)
  - http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-12608083
- "Hungary's President Pal Schmitt says he is resigning, after being stripped of his doctorate over plagiarism…Last week, Budapest's Semmelweis University revoked his 1992 award after finding that much of his thesis had been copied…The university said whole passages of his thesis about the modern Olympic Games had been copied from the work of two other academics" (BBC News, 2 April 2012)
  - http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17586128

- Gilles Bernheim, the Chief Rabbi of France, quit his post on Thursday after admitting to plagiarism in two books and to deception about his academic credentials (Reuters, 11 April 2013)
  - http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/11/us-france-rabbi-idUSBRE93A0HS20130411
- Teachers and academics in the UK and the US have taken to Twitter to thank Donald Trump's wife for providing the perfect material to teach their students what plagiarism is and why it is wrong. Melania Trump's speech at the Republican National Convention has notable similarities with a speech given by current first lady Michelle Obama in 2008 (BBC News, 19 July 2016)
  - http://www.bbc.com/news/world-36836599

- Top South African politician and anti-apartheid activist Pallo Jordan has resigned as an MP after it was revealed his academic qualifications were fake (BBC News, 12 August 2014)
  - http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28745435
- Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo came under fire on Sunday when it emerged that his inaugural address plagiarized quotes from speeches by U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush (Reuters, 8 January 2017)
  - http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ghana-politics-idUSKBN14S0VD?ct=t(January_13_20171_13_2017)&mc_cid=fd62837411&mc_eid=0112716b77

- President Muhammadu Buhari has ordered that prompt and appropriate disciplinary action be taken against those responsible for a wrongful insertion in his speech delivered on September 8, 2016 at the launch of the "Change Begins with Me'' campaign (Vanguard, 17 September 2016)
  - http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/09/plagiarism-buhari-to-punish-own-official-who-for-plagiarising-obama-in-his-change-begins-with-me-speech/

Plagiarism

- **Plagiarism:** Presenting another person's ideas and words as your own
  - Plagiarism comes from the Latin word *plagiarius*, kidnapper
  - "The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws" (plagiarism.org)
  - In academic work, all words – except those quoted – are expected to be your original words.
  - Copying **words** from another source without quoting **and** copying **ideas** from another source without citing is **ILLEGAL**, **UNETHICAL**, and **UNACCEPTABLE**.
  - Informed plagiarism is a sign of weak character and low intelligence

Plagiarism

- According to www.plagiarism.org, all the following are considered plagiarism:
  - Turning in someone else's work as your own
  - Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
    - **Plagiarism :** Piaget identified four stages of cognitive development.
      - *This is plagiarism because this is not my original idea. I read this statement in Woolfolk's (2007) book.*
    - **Correct:** Piaget identified four stages of cognitive development (Woolfolk, 2007).

Plagiarism

- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
  - **Plagiarism:** Kephart believed that a child's first encounter with the environment through their motor activities is the prerequisite for later learning (Kephart, 1964).
    - *This is plagiarism because I found this source in Kirk's (1972) book.*
  - **Correct:** Kephart believed that a child's first encounter with the environment through their motor activities is the prerequisite for later learning (Kephart, 1964, as cited in Kirk, 1972)
    - Kirk's reference goes in the *References* section.

Plagiarism

- Failing to put a quote in quotation marks
  - **Plagiarism:** Education in any society tends to reflect the political philosophy of that society (Kirk, 1972).
    - *This is plagiarism because I copied the sentence word-for-word.*
  - **Correct:** "Education in any society tends to reflect the political philosophy of that society" (Kirk, 1972, p. 3).

Plagiarism

- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
  - **Plagiarism:** Education in all societies often reflects the philosophy of the society (Kirk, 1972).
    - *This is plagiarized off of this sentence from a book: "Education in any society tends to reflect the political philosophy of that society."*
  - **Correct:** The political philosophy of a society influences educational practices (Kirk, 1972).

Plagiarism

- Copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.
  - To avoid this, first write an outline of your paper before finding sources.
  - Use multiple sources for each project.

Ways to Avoid Plagiarism

- Write an outline of a paper before you begin researching or writing.
- Paraphrase
- Summarize
- Quote word-for-word

Example Literature Review…

- **Topic:** Reading is not a Laughing Matter: Nigerian Teachers' Beliefs about Literacy Development
- **Purpose:** Examine teachers' knowledge of literacy development

Lit Review Outline

1. Present statistics of poor literacy rates in Nigeria
2. Most research about improving literacy focuses on adult literacy. Very little work looks at early literacy because assumed that children learn to read in primary school
3. Research [e.g., Shuman (1987)] found teachers' knowledge of discipline – literacy – influences teaching practices
4. Researchers have identified best practices in teaching early literacy
   - Importance of frequent reading
   - Positive outcomes of frequent reading
5. Nigerian education students laugh when I say to read every day. Purpose of study is to find out why – what is their knowledge of literacy development

Paraphrase
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/

- **Paraphrase:** Rephrasing a passage from a source into your own words. Paraphrases are usually shorter by slightly condensing the information (OWL, 2010).
  - **From OWL:** "**Paraphrasing** involves putting a passage from source material into your own words. A paraphrase must also be attributed to the original source. Paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage, taking a somewhat broader segment of the source and condensing it slightly."

Summarize

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/

- **Summarize:** Writing only the main ideas in your own words. Summaries are considerably shorter with only a broad overview of the source (OWL, 2010).
  - **From OWL: "Summarizing** involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s). Once again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to the original source. Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material."
- Both paraphrases and summaries must still cite the original source!