

Conducting A Literature Search: Becoming Familiar With Your Research Area

A common question for many people who first enter the realm of research is, "How do I initiate the journey of becoming an expert in a particular area?" My answer to this is: By spending a lot of time reading! Since time is precious, and I wholeheartedly believe in efficiency, I want to provide you all with some tips that I have learned along the way that can **assist you with streamlining the process of conducting a literature search**, as this is one of the primary skillsets that you will need to become an expert in your research area. A literature search generates a list of all publications that are relevant to your research area of interest. The search is typically achieved by entering several keywords into a search engine. [The Faculty Librarians at Liverpool Hope University](#) define a literature search as, "*a systematic and thorough search of all types of published literature in order to identify a breadth of good quality references relevant to a specific topic.*"

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