Getting started: the Literature Review

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Where to begin?

- Topic proposal
- Google (scholar), Wikipedia
- IngentaConnect
- ACL Anthology
- Library
- Follow references lists
Who?

- Supervisors
- Seminars, visitors to your dept./institute
- Conferences, workshops, summer schools, …
- Reviewers
- Co-authors/collaborators
- Mailing lists
- Examiners
How?

• Keep your purpose in mind:
  – Gain knowledge on topic
  – Novelty: what has been done?/what are the open questions?
  – Find out about methods, tools, theories, data, …
  – Compare literature with your own research question, methodology, …
• Skim reading for selection
• Detailed reading, making notes/annotating papers
• Join/set up a reading group
• Tools:
  – delicious, zotero, …
  – endnote, jabref, …
  – cmap, compendium, …
• Keep going back to your research question/try to do something else as well (feasible small task/pilot)
How?

• Writing up the literature review. Keep in mind that you need to demonstrate that you:
  – know the area
  – have critically reviewed prior work, not just made a list (includes identifying important issues)
  – know the relationship of your work to the literature.