

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



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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.

