



LITERATURE REVIEW

EDU702

LITERATURE REVIEW

- What is it?
 - Discussion of published information in a particular area
 - Sometimes, information in a particular subject area within a certain time period

WHAT IS LITERATURE?

- Scholarly Journals (Applied Geography, Journal of Theoretical Biology)
 - Academic, peer-reviewed or refereed journals
 - Articles submitted to other scholars, experts or academics in the field to review
- Professional Journals (Early Childhood Research Quarterly)
- Monographs (a single document)
- Books; research reports, dissertations
- Media
- Newspaper

IMPORTANT

- Read all critically
- Question what you read

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Can be a simple summary of the sources
- Has organizational pattern and combines both summary and synthesis

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Summary
 - Recap of the important information of the source
- Synthesis
 - A re-organization, or a reshuffling of that information
 - Gives a new interpretation of old material
 - Combine new with old interpretations
 - Trace the intellectual progression of the field including major debates
 - Evaluate the source and advise the reader on the most pertinent or relevant points

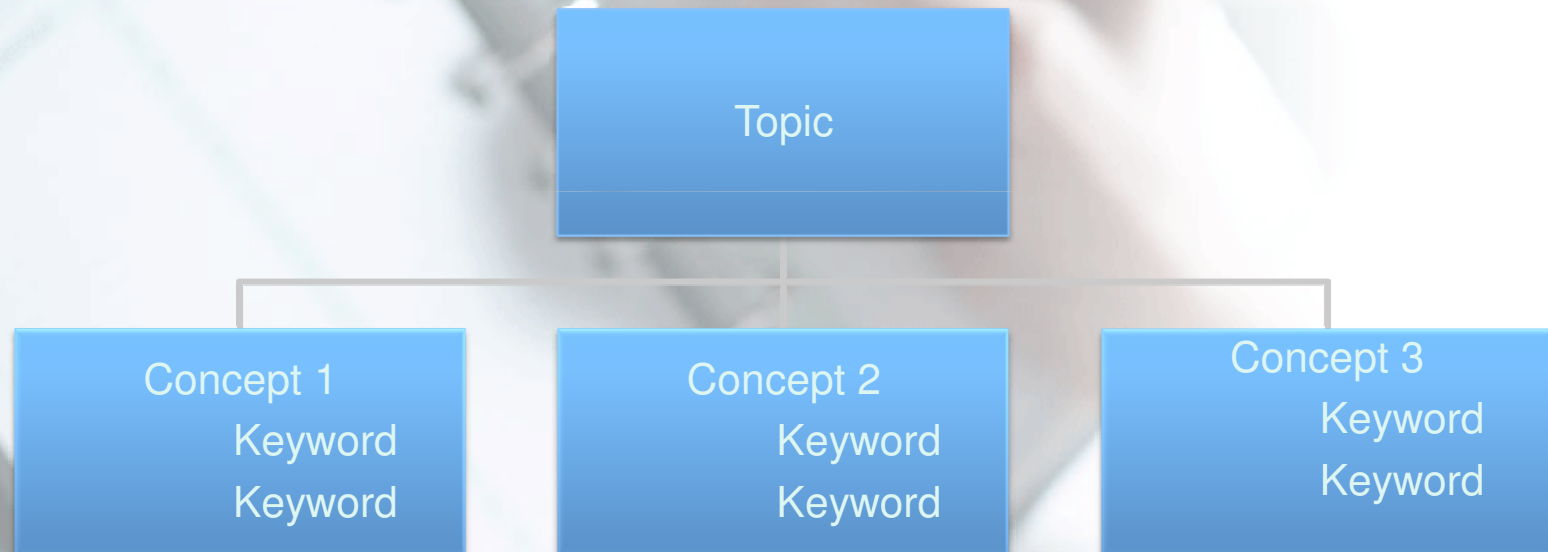
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO...

- Identify key terms
- Locate literature
- Critically evaluate and select the literature
- Organize the literature
- Write a review

PREPARATION

- Clarify your topic
- Conceptual analysis
- Identify keywords

PREPARATION



TOPIC

- An evaluation of the usability of UiTM University's website for students with special needs

CONCEPTS

- Evaluation
- Usability
- Web sites
- Students with special needs
- UiTM

CONCEPTS

- What combination of concepts will other authors have researched & published?
- Should you ignore any concepts for the literature review?

CONCEPTS

- Evaluation
- Usability
- Web Sites
- Special needs
- Students – in this context
- University of Canterbury

CONCEPTS

evaluation



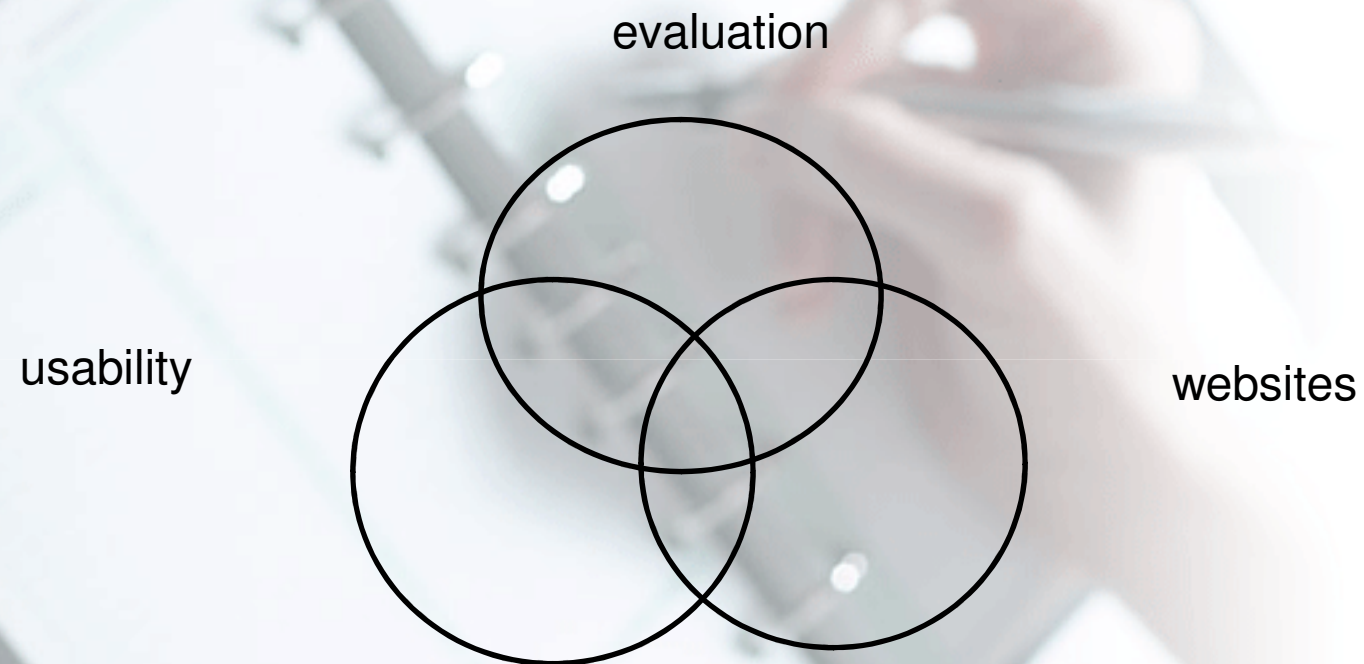
CONCEPTS

usability

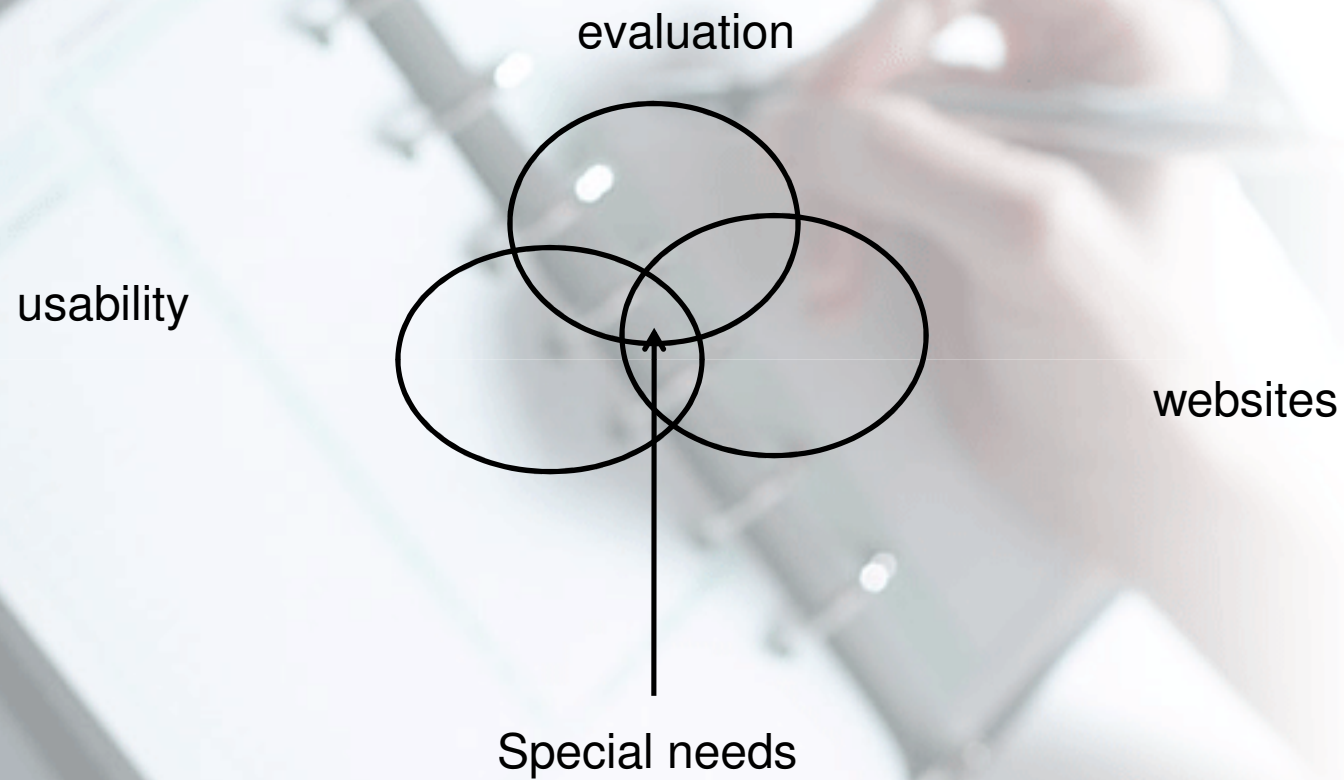
evaluation



CONCEPTS



CONCEPTS



MAPPING OUT

- Build family tree
 - Identify variables
 - Identify context/setting
 - Identify theories
- Look for research done in the area
 - Categorize
 - Defining
 - Historical
 - Justification
 - Methods
 - Scope
 - Context

CONDUCTING A LITERATURE REVIEW

- Start with a known item/variable
- Use simple “Google Search”
- Move on to annotated bibliography and dissertation abstracts
- Search databases

WHERE TO START LOOKING

- Start with your (sub) discipline first
 - Has anyone in your field studied this problem?
 - E.g. education = ERIC database
- Branch out to other discipline, esp. if the topic is interdisciplinary
 - What has been done in other (related) fields?
 - E.g. Psychology (PsycINFO); Sociology (Sociological Abstracts); Cultural Theory, etc

TRACK YOUR LITERATURE

- Keep a journal
 - Jot down notes as you read
 - Why is each item of interest to you? Where does the term “fit” in your research?
 - Provides background/definitional information?
 - Provides a good example to highlight your argument?
- Jot examples of great quotes – including page number
- Remember – paraphrases must be cited
- Make copies as you go
 - Difficult/time-consuming to go back
 - Be aware of copyright rules/restrictions
 - Itemize everything – document full citation as you find relevant information

REVIEW

- ‘Re-views’ – or look again – at what others have done in a particular area of study (may include research, opinion pieces, news article etc)
- Is analytical and comparative – not purely descriptive
- Summarizing the articles is not enough
 - What does this mean to you?
 - How does this connect with other things you have read?

REVIEW

- Use the literature
 - To support / defend your argument
 - To identify concepts/issues previously found to be significant and/or insignificant – including points of controversy (critical eye)

THE LITERATURE REVIEW BULLSEYE

- Think of the literature search as a bullseye
- Your problem is in the centre – has anyone studied this topic before?
- Chances are – no hits
- Slowly move on your search and away from the problem – to find other relevant studies

THE LITERATURE REVIEW

BULLSEYE - Example

- What do we know about the effects of playing video games on young adults day-to-day behavior?
- Start with the exact question – has anyone studied this before?
- If no – are there studies on how young adults behaviors in general?
 - Studies of video gaming?
 - Studies that look at the problem but with different age group or different location

EVALUATING THE RELEVANCE OF THE LITERATURE: QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Topic relevance:
 - Is the literature on the same topic as you proposed to study?
- Individual and site relevance:
 - Does the literature examine the same individuals and sites you want to study?

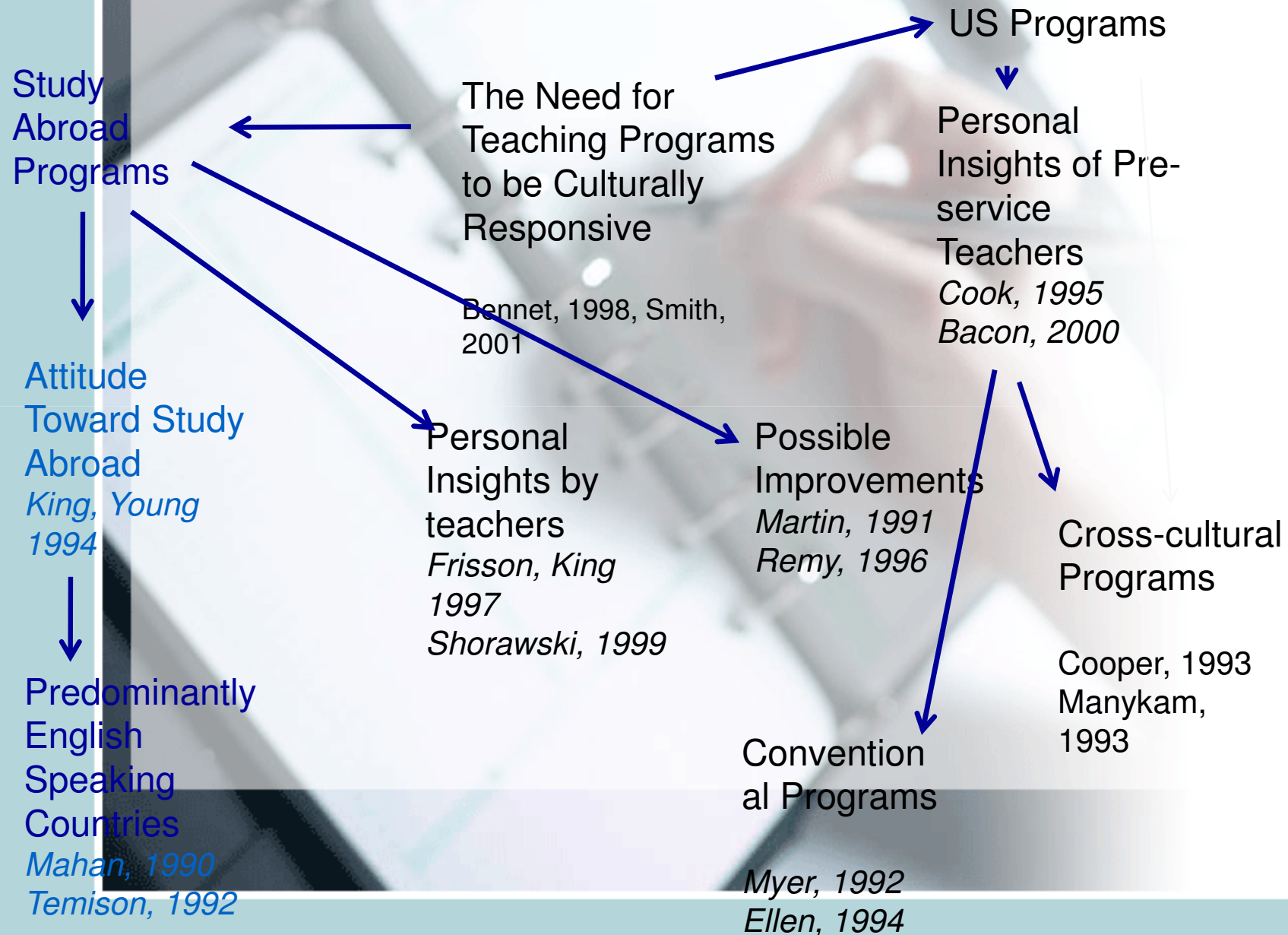
EVALUATING THE RELEVANCE OF THE LITERATURE: QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Problem relevance:
 - Does the literature examine the same research problem as you propose to study?
- Accessibility relevance:
 - Is the literature available in your library or can it be downloaded from a web site?

CONSTRUCT A LITERATURE MAP

- Identify the key terms for the topic and put them at the top of the map
- Sort out studies into topical areas or 'families of studies'
- Provide a label for each box which will become a heading for the review
- Develop the map on as many levels as possible

LITERATURE MAP



DETERMINE THE CONCEPTS

- E learning readiness in Botswana
- A case study of young Korean English learning experiences in the United States: A socio-cultural perspective
- A Qualitative Study of the Development and First Year of Implementation of the Blacksburg Electronic Village
- Role and Functions of School Psychologists in Virginia: A ten year follow up
- Determining effects of text-to-speech synthesis in a multimedia learning environment on science achievement for students with learning disabilities in reading
- A study of the relationship between involvement in decision-making and morale among Virginia public elementary school teachers

EXERCISE : WRITE A REVIEW

- Find at least 5 articles related to your topic research problem
 - Read abstract
- Map out the literature
- Summarize each study in an abstract that highlight important elements
 - Identify each article's contribution to a study on online learner's motivation
- Post your review online