

The Literature Review

a.k.a. lit review



Why talk about lit reviews?

“ ...I don't even know what to research, yet!”

“ ...I still need to do more reading before I can actually think about writing a literature review!”



My experience!



Outline

- Important questions
- What is a “Literature Review”?
- Literature review as a process
- Lit reviews help
- Tips?
- Q&A / Discussion



Important questions

- **What should I research?**
- What should I read?
- Where can I find more on ...?
- What have others done?
- Is there anything left for me to research?
- How do I know this hasn't been done before?
- When should I start to write?
- What should I write about?
- How do I do a literature review?



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- What should I write about?
- **How do I write a literature review?**



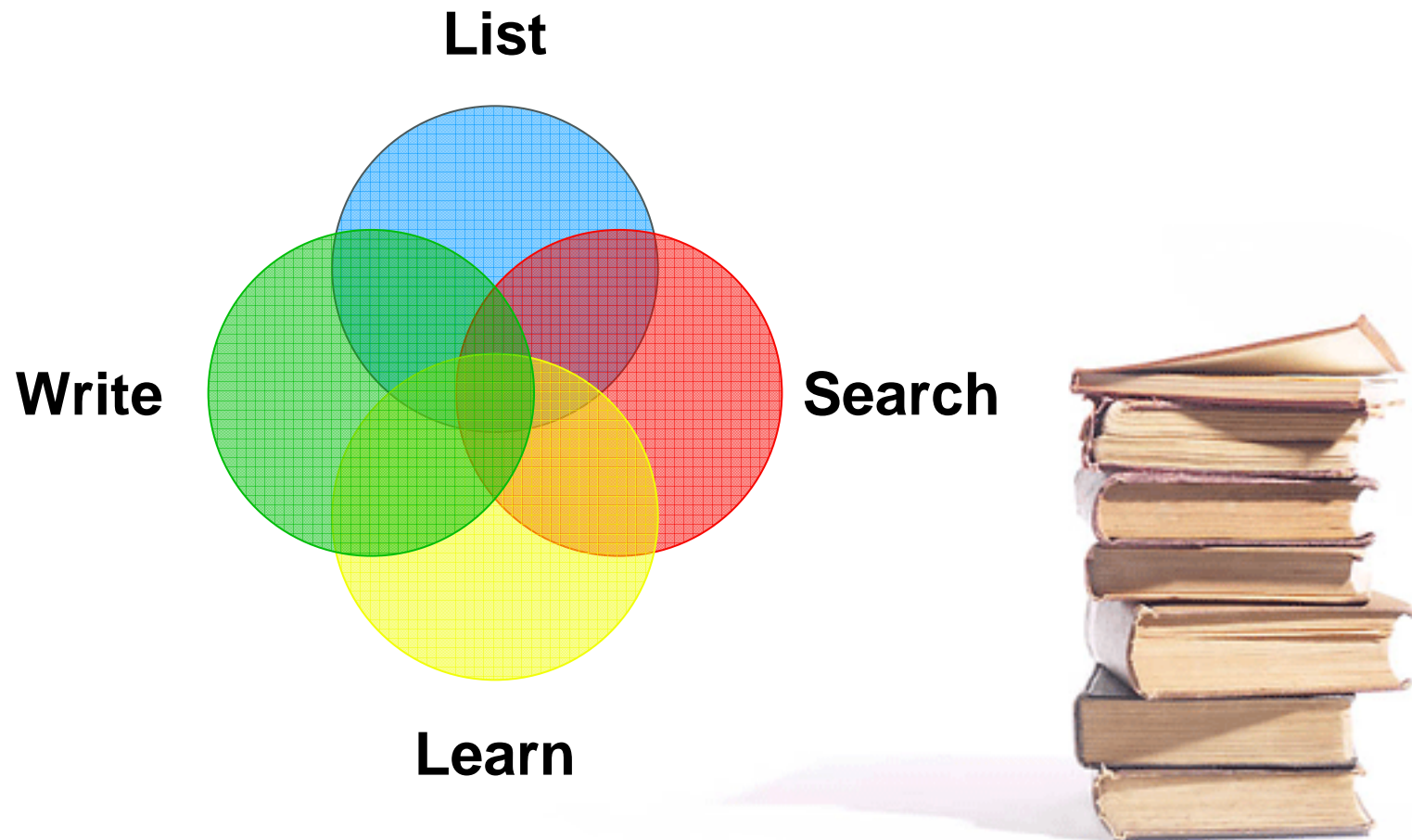
What is a "Literature Review"?

- "...a literature review surveys scholarly articles, books and other sources [...] relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, providing a description, summary, and critical evaluation of each work."



(<http://library.ucsc.edu/ref/howto/literaturereview.html>)

Literature review as a process



Lit reviews help

- Get ideas
- Find applicable literature
- Get an overview (learn)
- Get a feeling for what's doable, what's worthwhile
- Don't reinvent the wheel
- Better understand your research project
- Explain what you're doing
- ...



Tips?

A few things that worked for me...

- Learn / use effective search strategies
- Keep a research journal
- Write about **everything** you read
- Don't write a lit review (yet)
- Write a summary (today)
- Read others' lit reviews
- Ask questions! (someone's having the same problem)



Q&A / Discussion

- Where are you in your research?
- What questions are you thinking about?
- What are your strategies?
- Problems?
- Tips & Tricks?



Related areas

- Search Strategies

<http://library.csueastbay.edu/>

- Citation

http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/cite/works_cited.htm

- Writing Style

Williams, J. M. - *Style: Ten Lessons in Clarity and Grace*



References

- See ACUT Lab kwiki
<http://acc.csueastbay.edu/~lab/kwiki>

