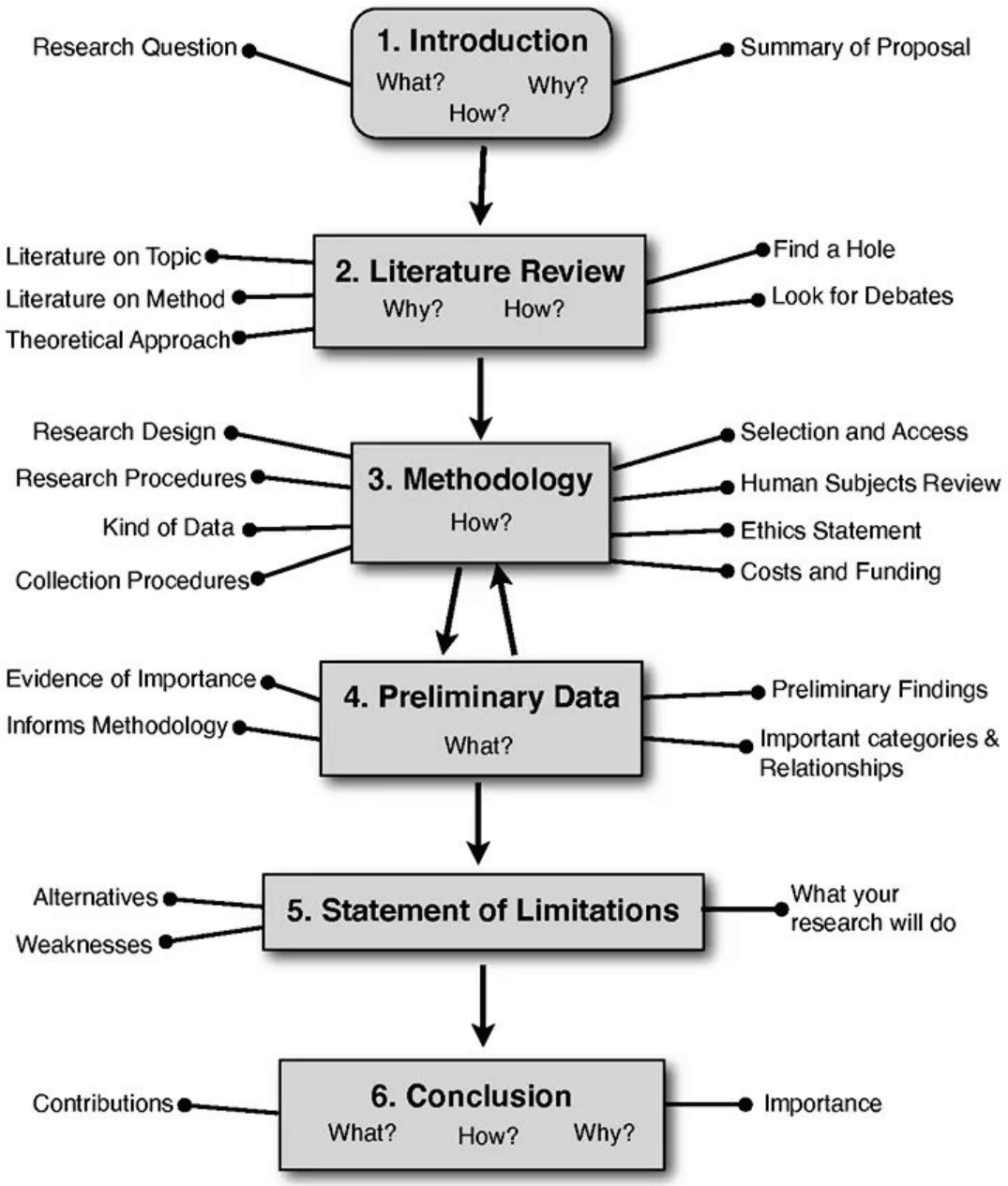
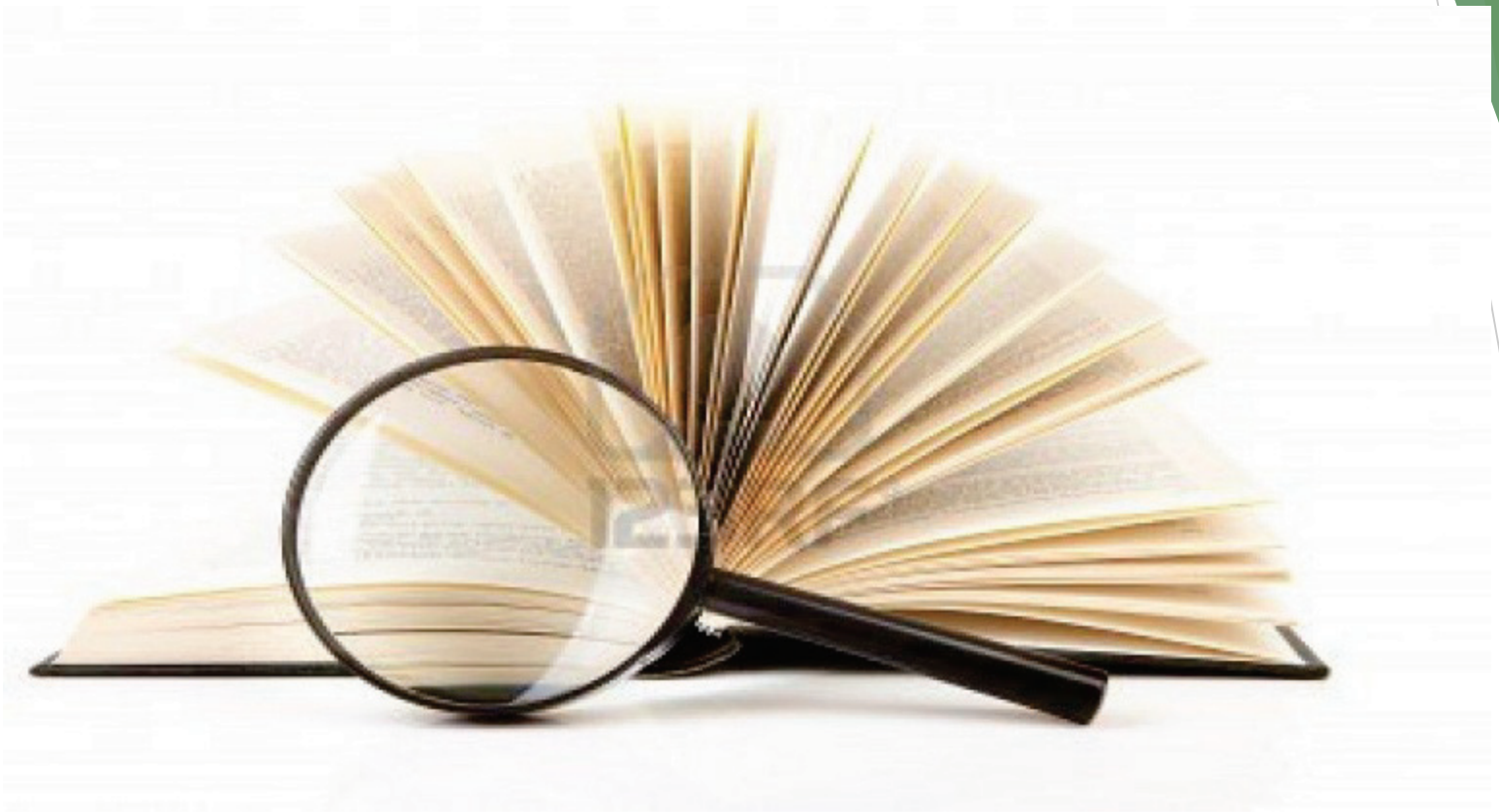
THE LITERATURE REVIEW

KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH PROCESS

RESEARCH

Research Proposal Flow Chart





Literature Review

Purpose of a Review of the Related Literature

- You have begun with a general research question
- The literature is a gold mine
- Have other researchers already addressed and answered your research problem or major subproblems?
- The related literature can give you a multitude of insights into the problem you seek to study
- You may find scholars with whom to communicate and learn from
- You may discover controversies about your topic you did not know about

More Reasons to Review the Related Literature

- You may discover a variety of methods and research design issues that could help you determine your own approach
- You may find out about data sources you did not know before
- You may find measurement tools that are relatively new and learn how useful they were
- The literature will help you interpret and make sense of your findings as you tie your work to prior scholars
- It may reassure you to know that others have spent time and energy on this topic, so it is probably worth pursuing yourself

Stages of review

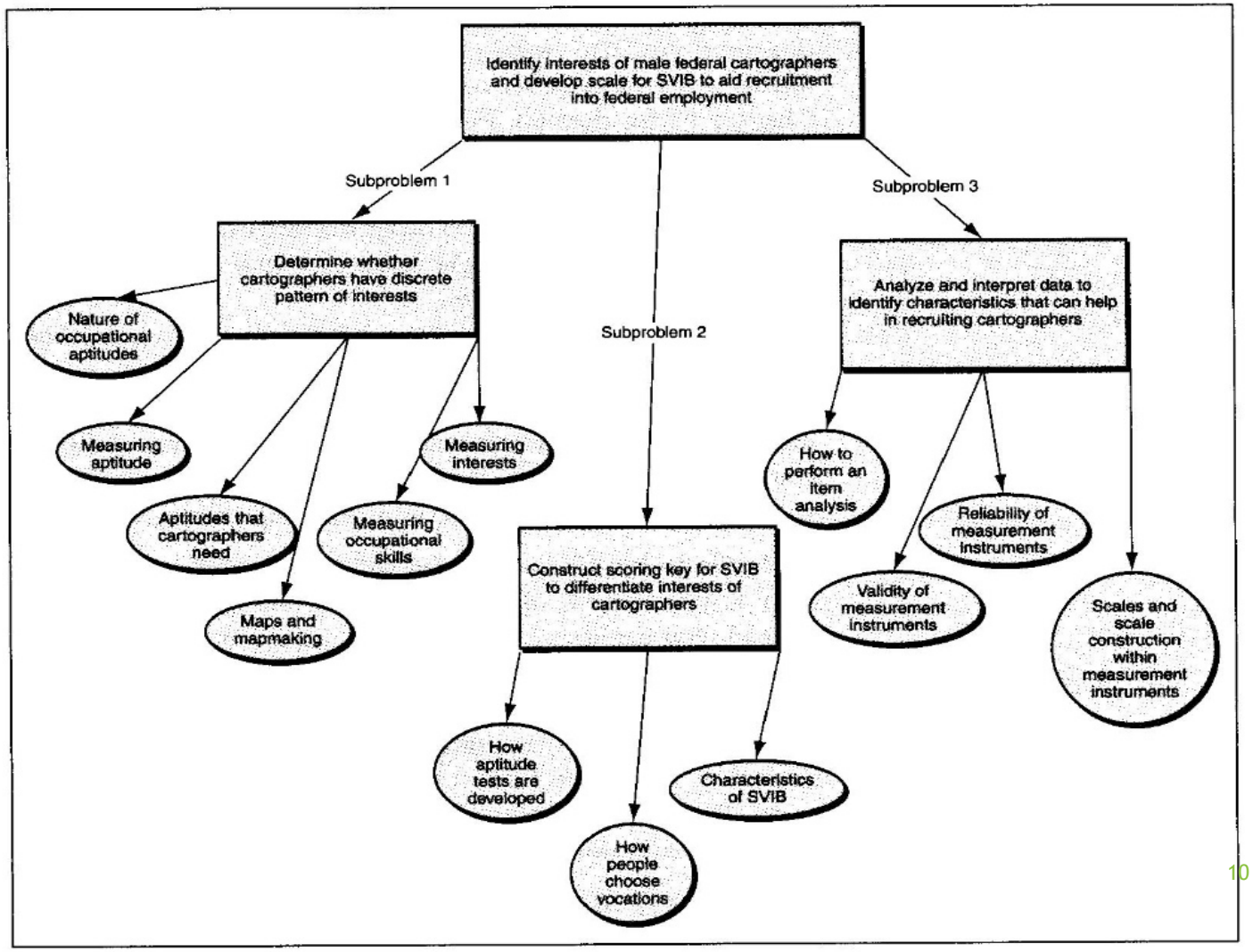
- Dialectical relationship between the research problem and the literature
- You may have a general area of interest, perhaps “gentrification” or “mass incarceration”
- You may formulate a preliminary research question
- You then undertake an exploration of the literature to help you determine a more precise question
- This is the browsing phase of the literature review, and will not be what appears in that famous Chapter 2 of your dissertation

The Search Begins!

Browsing the Related Literature to Make the Research Problem More Precise

- Most of us turn to **online databases**, but not necessarily the first place to go in the early stages of considering the related literature
- Sometimes **in-depth investigative journalism** can provide some pointers to get started (e.g., Washington Post expose on police brutality)
- **Advanced textbooks** often are a good starting point to give you context and references to key studies
- **Reference librarians** are eager to assist you
- **Library catalogs** also have list a diverse set of sources, including seminal books that might not appear in online databases
- **Browsing library shelves** near key books can lead to serendipitous discoveries.

Give a structure to what you will need to learı



Key Words to Drive the Search

- You have now read a bit about your topic
- You have also specified a preliminary research problem to investigate and made it more precise through “browsing” the literature
- You are therefore in a good position to create a list of key words and a list of leading writers in the area

Searching Online Databases for Related Literature

- Many databases to work with—23 are listed in Leedy & Ormond, 2016
- Many universities have subscriptions
- PsycINFO, Medline, JSTOR, National Criminal Justice Reference Service Abstracts, PAIS International, Web of Science, ERIC, ICPSR
- Research Librarians can help
- Public databases can also be helpful—Google Scholar, PubMed, Googlebooks
- Googlebooks especially useful for older seminal writings

Searching Online Databases for Related Literature

- Government websites
  - Specific agencies (e.g., Bureau of the Census, National Institute of Justice)
  - Federal Digital System (FDsys) catalogs government reports of all kinds (gpo.gov/fdsys)
- WorldCat combines library catalogues of thousands of institutions
- Web of Science
  - Unique
  - Lists works that have cited a given work
  - Helps identify key authors and seminal works that are frequently cited

Other Authors' Literature Reviews and Reference Lists

- Most scholarly books and refereed journal articles have literature reviews and reference lists
- As you read, identify additional writings that appear three times or more in the literature reviews and/or reference lists, and add these to your list to investigate
- This process is especially useful for recent journals
- Remember that even the most recent article and book is at least one to two years old due to the gap between completion and publication
- Be aware of ongoing research in your field that has not yet been completed by corresponding with recent authors

How to Proceed?

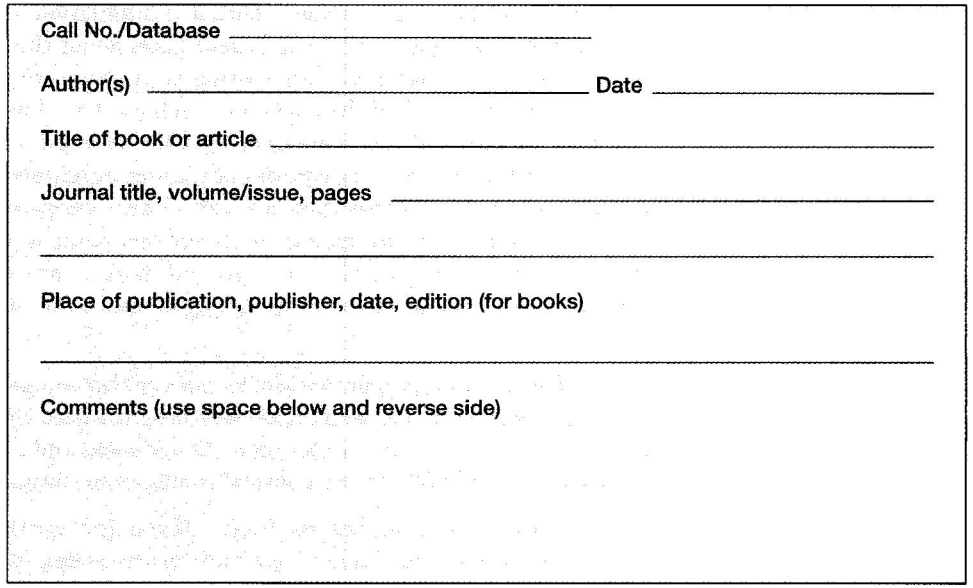
- Create your own database of references
- Paper and pen
- Excel Spreadsheet
- RefWorks
- Prepare to Begin the Review

Note card: Outline Number, Short Title, Reference Card Number, and Page Numbers

III.A Misselden crit. 4: 38-41

England's loss of specie is due to unwise policies on trade, especially those pursued by the East India Company which ignores our rules about export of bullion and thereby impoverishes the country.

Reference Card: Paper and Pen


Call No./Database _____

Author(s) _____ Date _____

Title of book or article _____

Journal title, volume/issue, pages _____

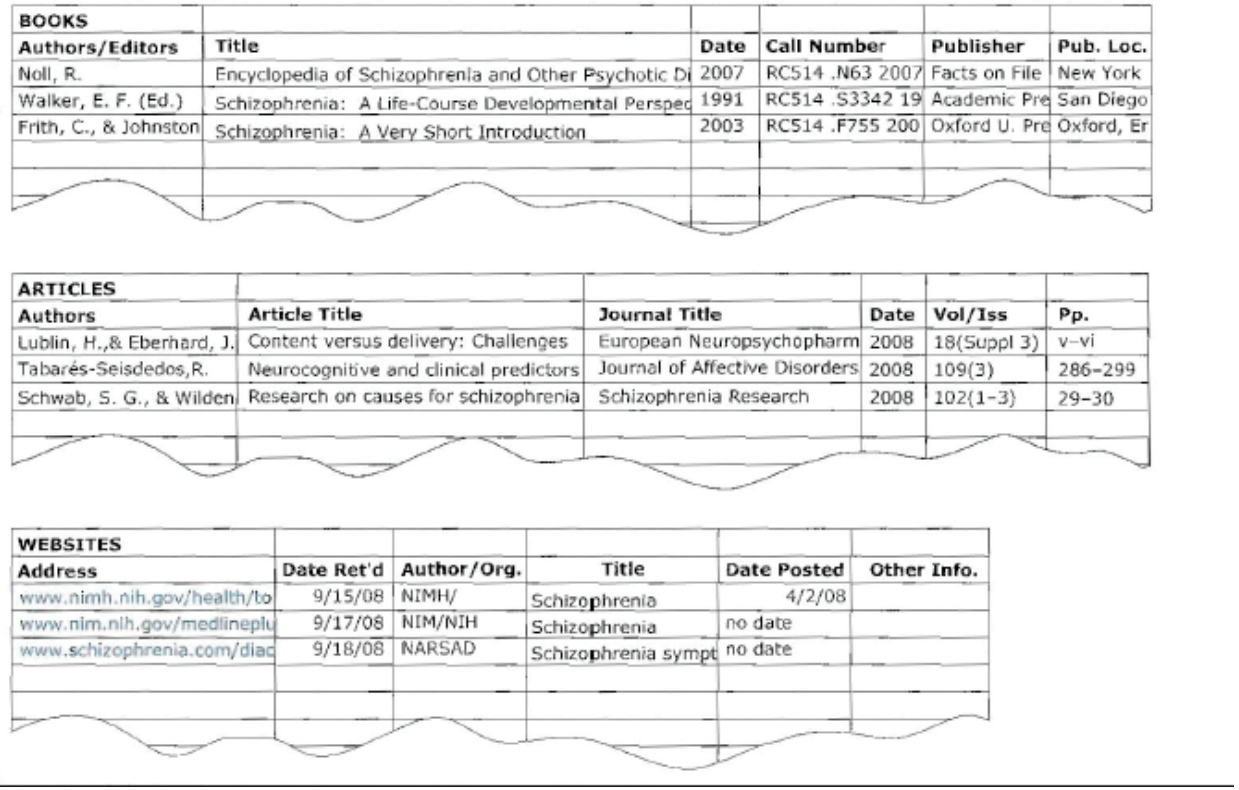
_____

Place of publication, publisher, date, edition (for books)

_____

Comments (use space below and reverse side)

Simple Excel Spreadsheet for tracking references



BOOKS					
Authors/Editors	**Title**	**Date**	**Call Number**	**Publisher**	**Pub. Loc.**
Noll, R.	Encyclopedia of Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Di	2007	RC514 .N63 2007	Facts on File	New York
Walker, E. F. (Ed.)	Schizophrenia: A Life-Course Developmental Perspec	1991	RC514 .S3342 19	Academic Pre	San Diego
Frith, C., & Johnston	Schizophrenia: A Very Short Introduction	2003	RC514 .F755 200	Oxford U. Pre	Oxford, Er

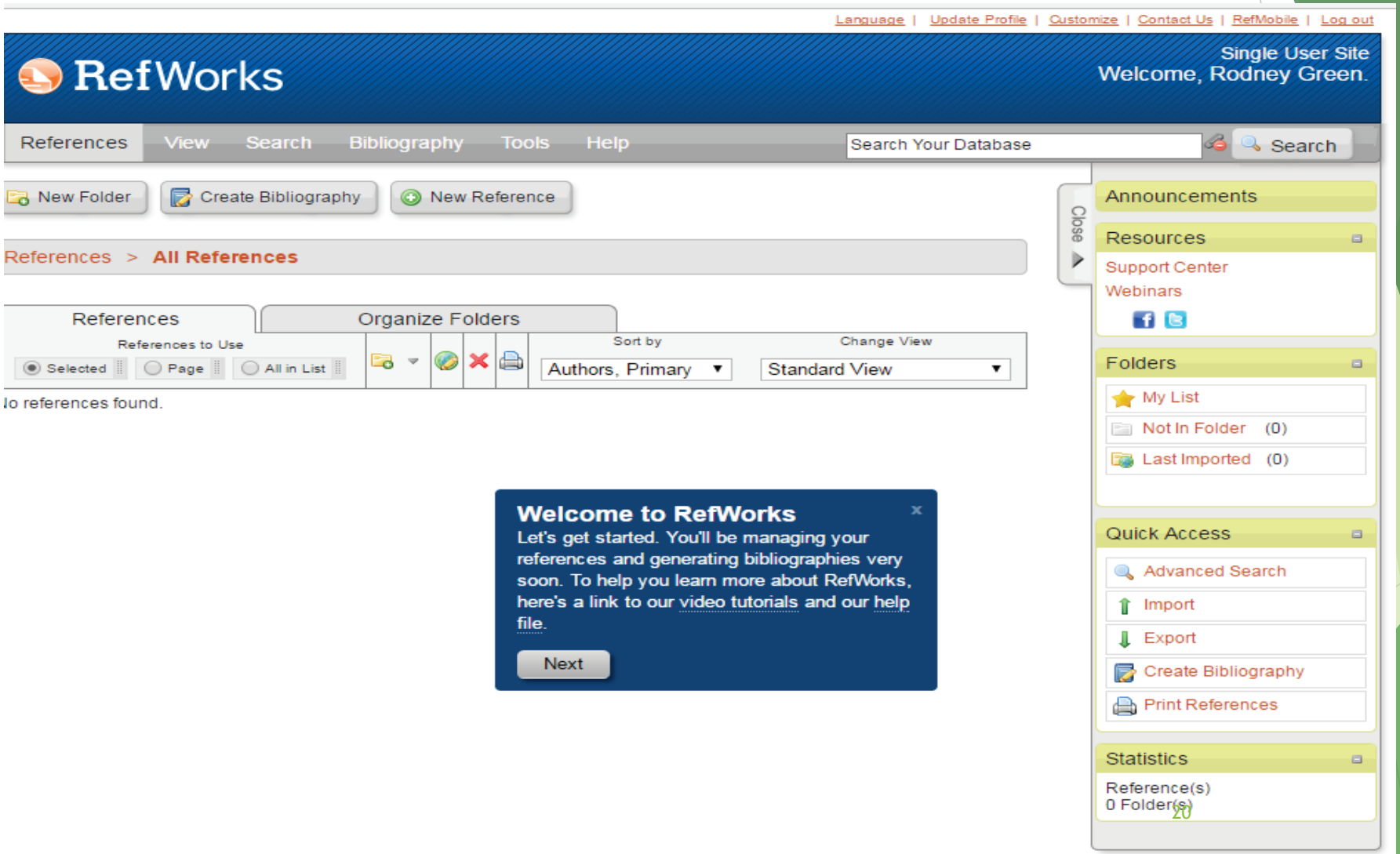
ARTICLES					
Authors	**Article Title**	**Journal Title**	**Date**	**Vol/Iss**	**Pp.**
Lublin, H.,& Eberhard, J.	Content versus delivery: Challenges	European Neuropsychopharm	2008	18(Suppl 3)	v–vi
Tabarés-Seisdedos,R.	Neurocognitive and clinical predictors	Journal of Affective Disorders	2008	109(3)	286–299
Schwab, S. G., & Wilden	Research on causes for schizophrenia	Schizophrenia Research	2008	102(1–3)	29–30

WEBSITES					
Address	**Date Ret'd**	**Author/Org.**	**Title**	**Date Posted**	**Other Info.**
www.nimh.nih.gov/health/to	9/15/08	NIMH/	Schizophrenia	4/2/08	
www.nim.nih.gov/medlineplu	9/17/08	NIM/NIH	Schizophrenia	no date	
www.schizophrenia.com/diac	9/18/08	NARSAD	Schizophrenia sympt	no date	

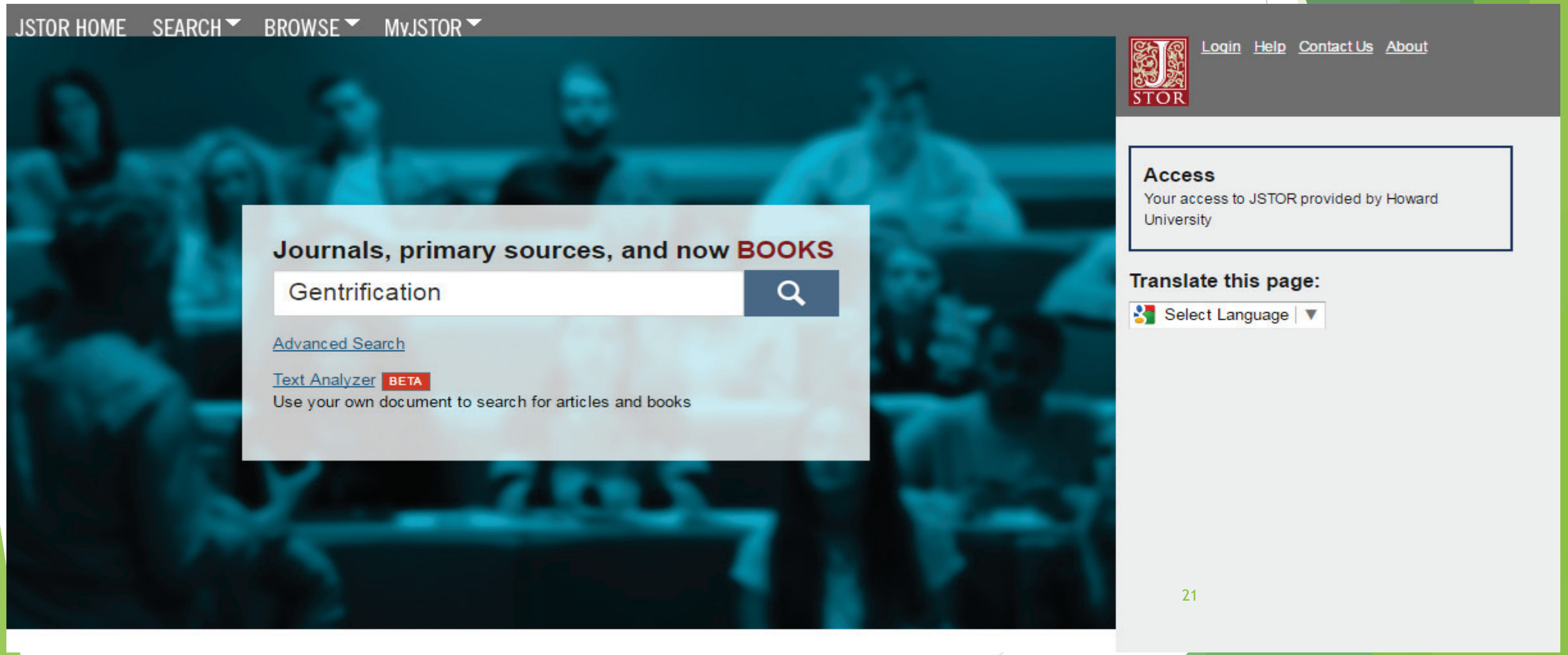
REFWORKS

- Electronically collect, organize and manage your references in a personal database
- Easily format bibliographies, footnotes and in-text citations into almost any output style
- Conveniently link references to full-text articles, eliminating unwieldy storage of paper copy
- Auto completion of references and suggestions from Summon
- Easy one click saving of individual web pages or references from research literature databases
- Automated recognition of uploaded documents
- Built-in document reading for PDF, RTF and MS Office files
- Enhanced sharing of documents with the ability to highlight and add notes.
- Automatic identification of missing style elements, e.g. doi or journal title
- Off-line access to all of your full-text attachments (documents)

Welcome to RefWorks



Linking JSTOR to RefWorks: An Example



6,354 Search Results

Gentrification

Search

Modify Search Search Help

Search within results

Filter Results

Update Results

Content Type:

- Journals (5,030)
- Books (1,324)

Publication Date:
(yyyy or yyyy/mm or yyyy/mm/dd)

From To

Subject:

- African American Studies (90)
- African Studies (45)
- American Indian Studies (2)
- American Studies (431)
- Anthropology (395)
- Aquatic Sciences (2)

Showing **1-25** of **6,354**

Sort By Relevance | Show Snippets | Export Selected Citations

The Impact of Gentrification on Voter Turnout

H. Gibbs Knotts, Moshe Haspel

Social Science Quarterly, Vol. 87, No. 1 (MARCH 2006), pp. 110-121

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Topics: Gentrification, Voter turnout, Neighborhoods, African Americans, Housing, Voter registration, Poverty

Download PDF | Add To My Lists | Cite This Item

THE BROADENING CONCEPTION OF GENTRIFICATION: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND AVENUES FOR FUTURE INQUIRY IN THE SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF URBAN CHANGE

Chase M. Billingham

Michigan Sociological Review, Vol. 29 (Fall 2015), pp. 75-102

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Topics: Gentrification, Neighborhoods, Urban sociology, Housing, Political debate, City halls, Political sociology, Inner cities

Download PDF | Add To My Lists | Cite This Item

Home Search Browse MyJSTOR Help Contact Us About Login

Advanced Search View tutorial | Search Help

Gentrification Full-Text

AND Hyra Author

Add Field +

SELECT AN ACCESS TYPE

Read and download

Search

Access
Your access to JSTOR provided by Howard University

NARROW BY:

ITEM TYPE

- [x] Articles
- [ ] Reviews
- [ ] Books
- [ ] Research Reports
- [ ] Pamphlets
- [ ] Miscellaneous

DATE RANGE

From:
yyyy or yyyy/mm or yyyy/mm/dd
1990

To:
yyyy or yyyy/mm or yyyy/mm/dd
2017

LANGUAGE

All Languages

PUBLICATION TITLE

ISBN

Home Search Browse MyJSTOR Help Contact Us About Login

1 Search Result

((Gentrification) AND au:"Hyra") Search Modify Search Search Help

Search within results

Filter Results

Update Results

Content Type:

Journals (1)

Publication Date:
(yyyy or yyyy/mm or yyyy/mm/dd)

From 1990 To 2017

Subject:

Public Policy & Administration (1)

Urban Studies (1)

Showing **1-1** of **1**

PUBLICATION DATE: From: 1990 X To: 2017 X Clear all

Sort By Relevance | Show Snippets | Export Selected Citations

Commentary: Mixed-Income Housing: Where Have We Been and Where Do We Go From Here?

Derek Hyra

Cityscape, Vol. 15, No. 2, Mixed Messages on Mixed Incomes (2013), pp. 123-133

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Topics: Poverty, Neighborhoods, Urban studies, Public housing, Retirement communities, Suburbs, United States environmental policy, Cityscapes, Gentrification

Download PDF

Add To My Lists

Cite This Item

« Previous Page **1** of 1 Next »

Home Search Browse MyJSTOR Help Contact Us About Login

1 Search Result

((Gentrification) AND au:"Hyra") Search Modify Search Search Help

Search within results

Filter Results

Update Results

Content Type:

Journals (1)

Publication Date:
(yyyy or yyyy/mm or yyyy/mm/dd)

From 1990 To 2017

Subject:

Public Policy & Administration (1)

Urban Studies (1)

Showing **1-1** of **1**

PUBLICATION DATE: From: 1990 X To: 2017 X Clear all

Sort By Relevance Show Snippets

Export Selected Citations

Export to RefWorks

Export to EasyBib

Export a RIS file

(For EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, RefWorks, Zotero...)

Export a Text file

(For BibTex)

Commentary: Mixed-Income Housing: Where Have We Been and Where Do We Go From Here?

Derek Hyra

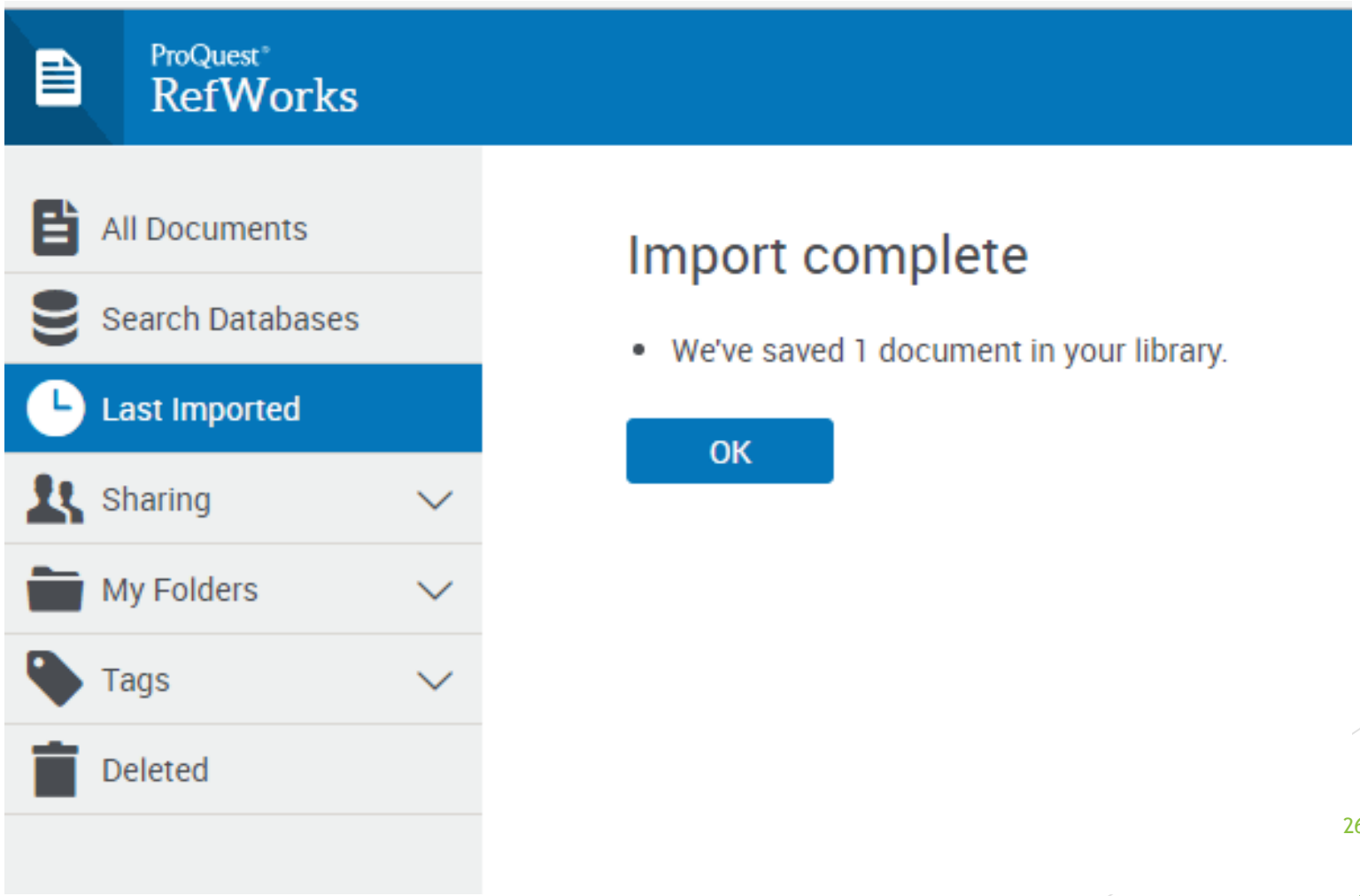
Cityscape, Vol. 15, No. 2, Mixed Messages on Mixed Incomes (2013), pp. 123-133

JOURNAL ARTICLE

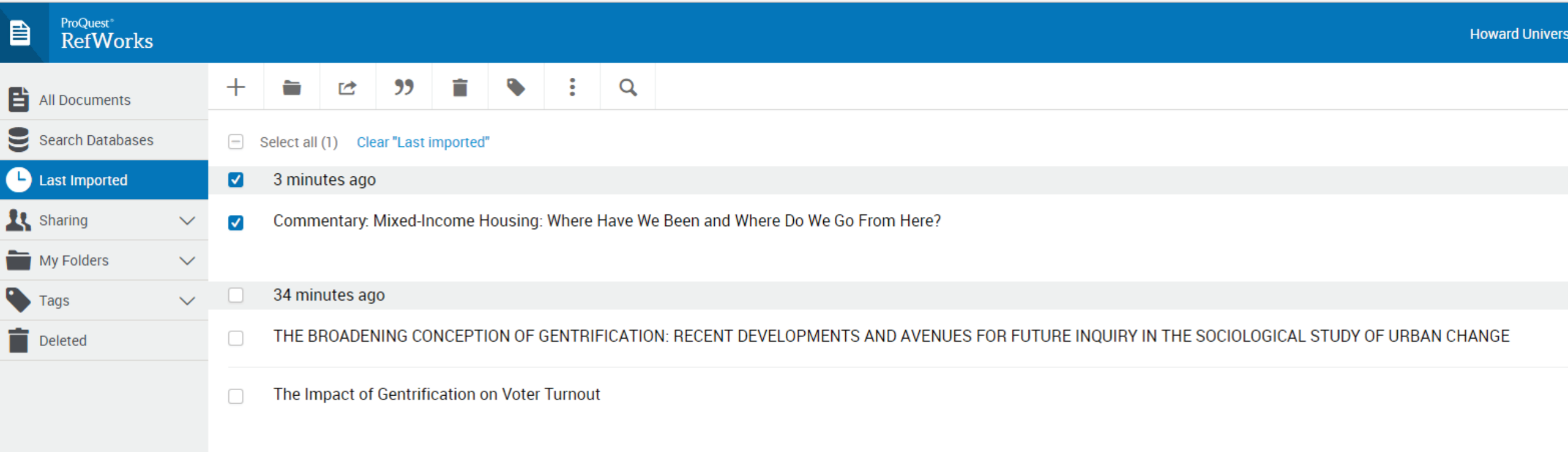
Topics: Poverty, Neighborhoods, Urban studies, Public housing, Retirement communities, Suburbs, United States environmental policy, Cityscapes, Gentrification

« Previous Page **1** of 1 Next »

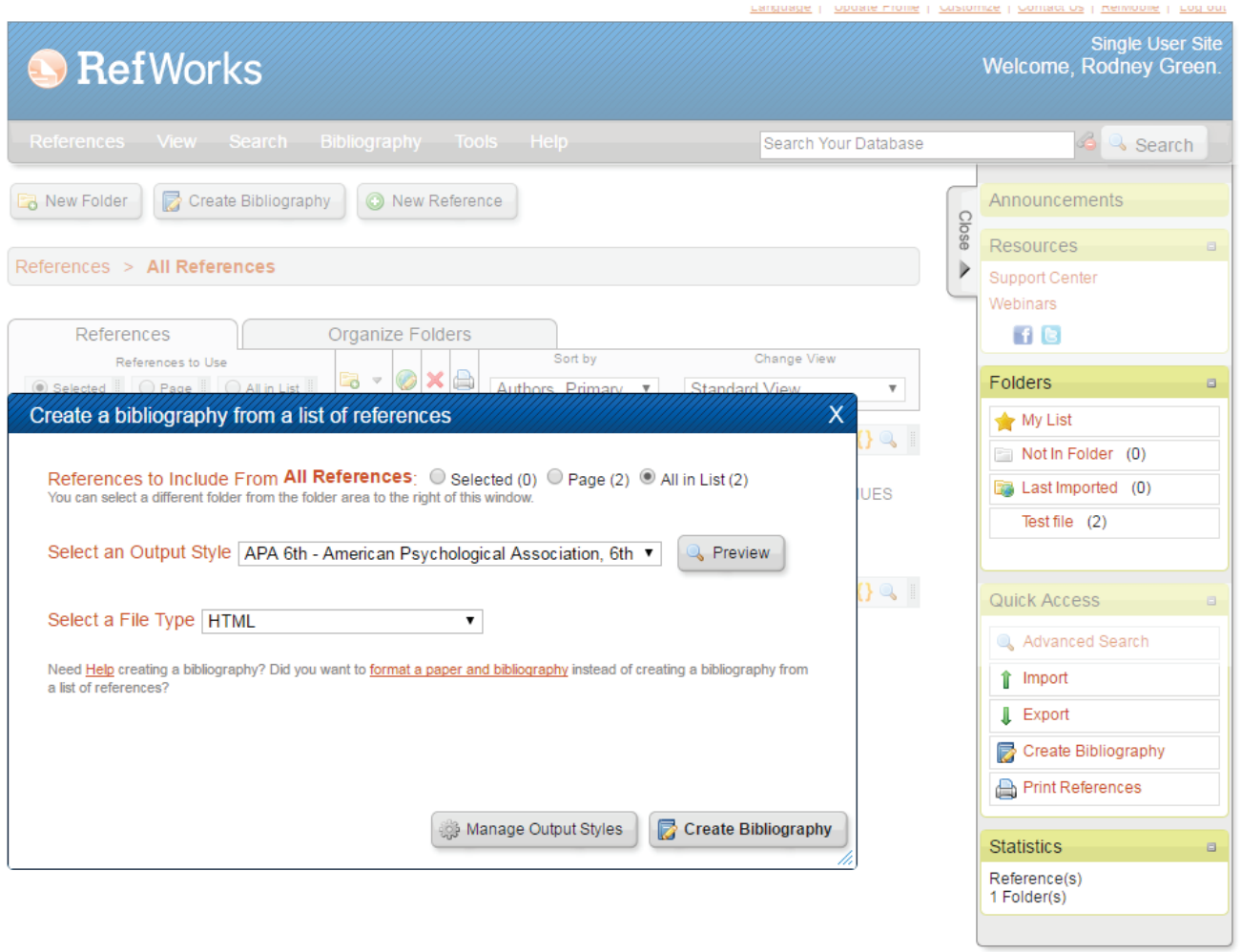
Reference from JSTOR Saved to RefWorks



What Has Been Saved



Ready to Create a Bibliography



Copyright 2017, ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved. | Contact Us

Bibliography Created Using APA 6th Ed. Style

References

Billingham, C. M. (2015). The broadening conception of gentrification: Recent developments and avenues for future inquiry in the sociological study of urban change. *Michigan Sociological Review, 29*, 75-102.

Knotts, H. G., & Haspel, M. (2006). The impact of gentrification on voter turnout. *Social Science Quarterly, 87*(1), 110-121.

Exercise: JSTOR and RefWorks

Moving Forward on the Review

- With your data-gathering tools in hand, head for the library (physical or virtual)
- Keep track of your searches (which key words did you use, which online databases did you use, which references did you consult) with a notebook
- Record the content information you glean from your articles and books as you proceed, in full sentences that will be clear to you in six months
- Use all resources to find key sources: interlibrary loan, recalling books held by a professor for 6 months, use googlebooks, buy items that you simply must have from Amazon (get prime, so you can get them fast).

FIND ALL THE
SOURCES
imgflip.com

Evaluating the Research You Find

- Focus primarily on peer-reviewed studies and scholarly publishers (university presses (e.g., Oxford University Press) and well-known academic publishing houses (e.g., Sage)
- Peer review is not the final word, however.
- Methods vary in quality, reliability, and validity, and often studies can be only modestly sound—but enough to be worthwhile at some level
- You must evaluate all of the material you use
- A checklist is helpful

Checklist to Assess the Value of a Research Item: 1-4

CHECKLIST

Evaluating a Research Article

_____ 1. In what journal or other source did you find the article? Was it reviewed by experts in the field before it was published? That is, was the article in a *juried* (refereed) publication?

_____

_____

_____ 2. Does the article have a stated research question or problem? That is, can you determine the focus of the author's work?

_____

_____

_____ 3. Does the article describe the collection of new data, or does it describe and synthesize previous studies in which data were collected?

_____

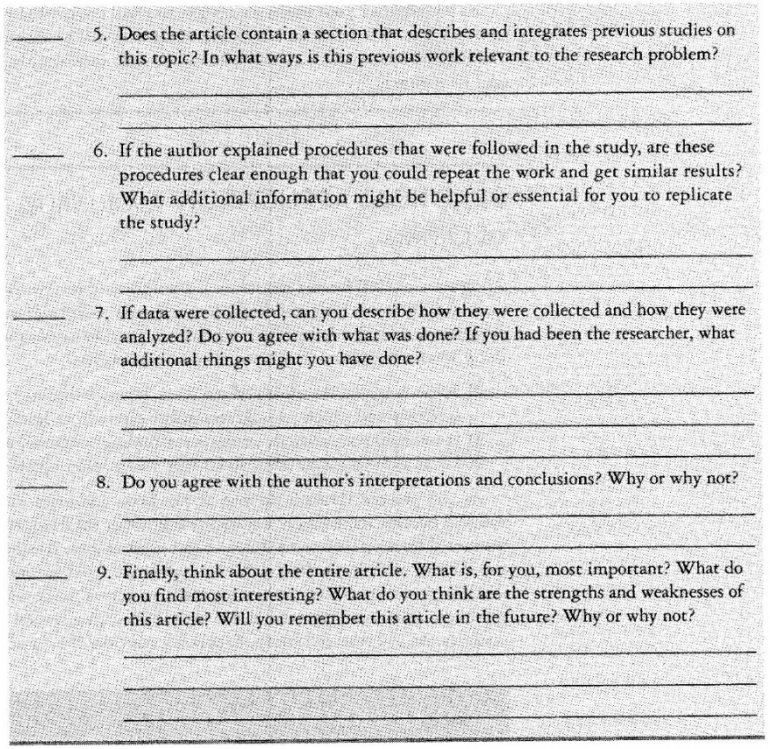
_____

_____ 4. Is the article logically organized and easy to follow? What could have been done to improve its organization and readability?

_____

_____

Checklist to Assess the Value of a Research Item: 5-9



5. Does the article contain a section that describes and integrates previous studies on this topic? In what ways is this previous work relevant to the research problem?

6. If the author explained procedures that were followed in the study, are these procedures clear enough that you could repeat the work and get similar results? What additional information might be helpful or essential for you to replicate the study?

7. If data were collected, can you describe how they were collected and how they were analyzed? Do you agree with what was done? If you had been the researcher, what additional things might you have done?

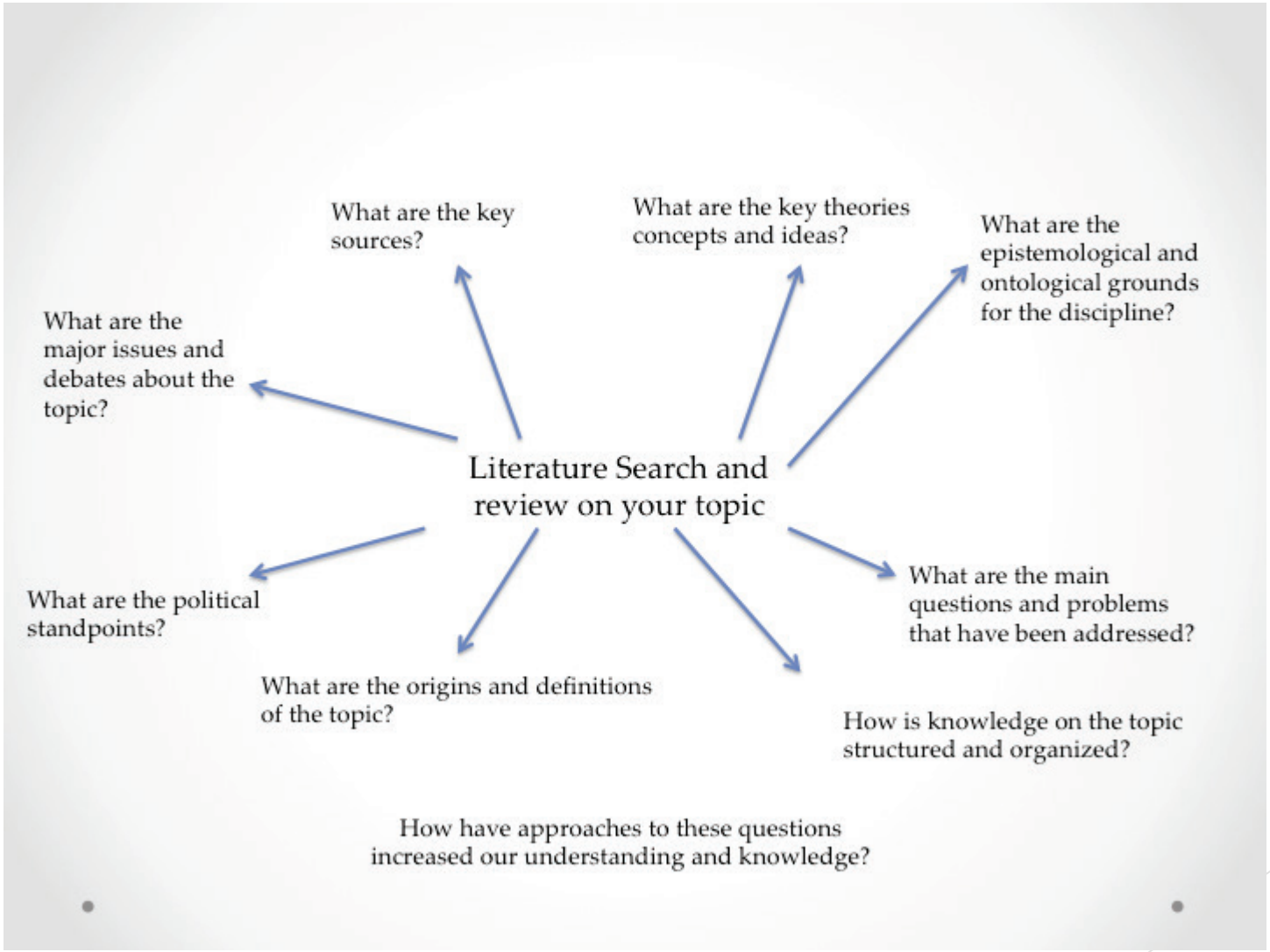
8. Do you agree with the author's interpretations and conclusions? Why or why not?

9. Finally, think about the entire article. What is, for you, most important? What do you find most interesting? What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of this article? Will you remember this article in the future? Why or why not?

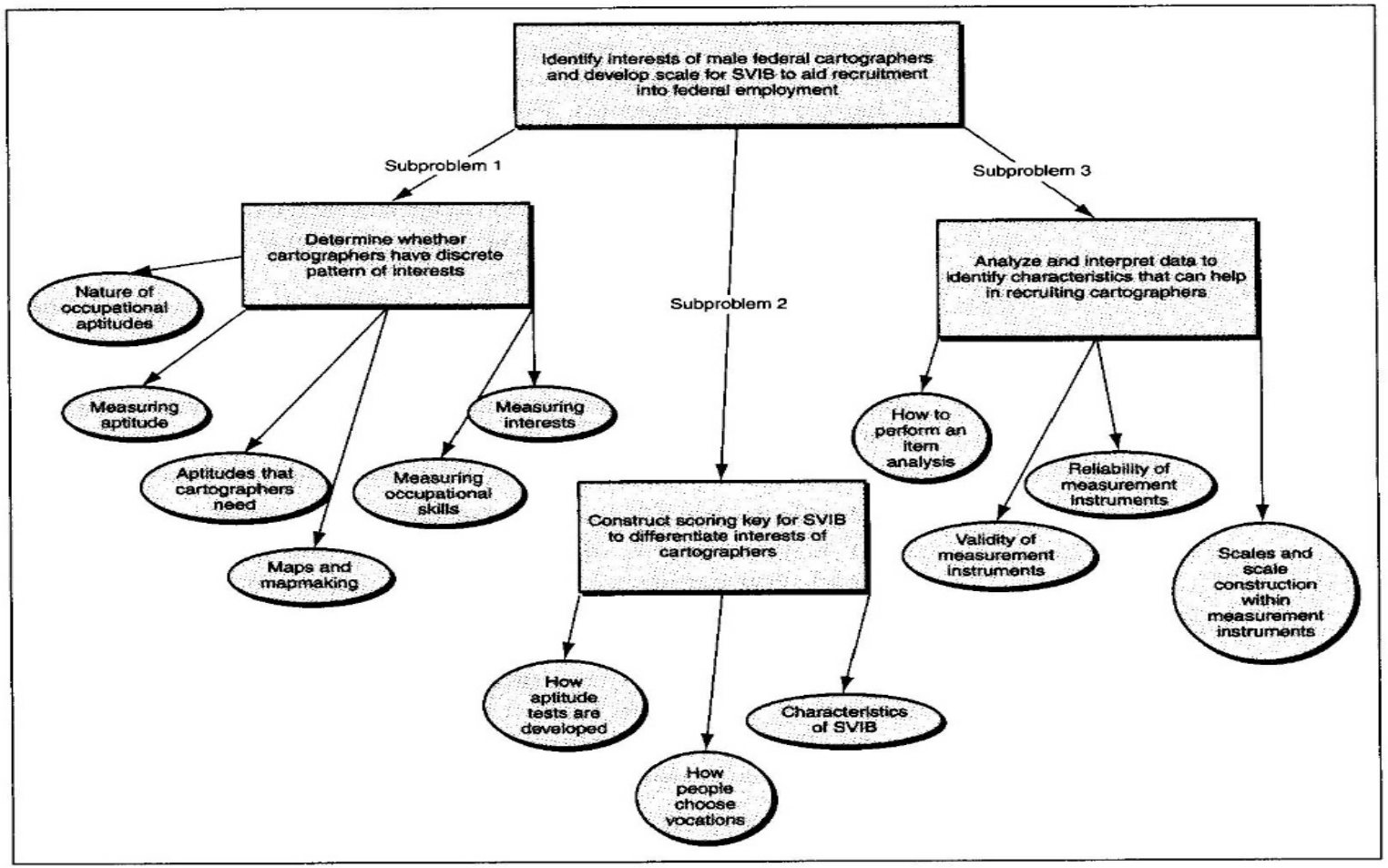
Ready to Write the First Draft

- When you find repetitive patterns in the research that seems sound, it's time to organize and synthesize the material
- You may have written a summary of the articles and books already, but do not string these together and call it a literature review
- Here is where your general organization of your problems and subproblems will give you a foundation

Many Directions to Go in a Review



Remember the "Mind Mapping" Example



Organize and Synthesize

- Use your outline (or mind mapping diagram) to organize your sources
- Now, synthesize
  - Common themes
  - Evolution of approaches over time
  - Alternative theoretical perspectives
  - General trends in the findings of previous research
  - Discrepancies, contending findings, and blank spots

The Inverted Pyramid

- Begin with “old and broad” studies, including seminal papers from the very early days of a discipline
- Move through the history of related studies, gradually narrowing the topics
- The tip of the inverted pyramid should point directly to your topic
- Your study is the next logical step in research in this topic area
- Central to the literature review is the changes in and development of methodology to study the problem
- The history of the findings in a topic are are of secondary importance (but not unimportant)

Multiple Pyramids?

- Research flows can come from different pyramids
- Sometimes different threads must be woven together, with somewhat different histories
- Use headings to indicate such cases
- Always use transitional language when moving through the literature review—avoid jarring non-sequiturs
- Periodically remind the reader how the particular part of the literature that you're recounting is related to your research problem

The Danger of Plagiarism

- Your understanding of the history of scholarship in an area may be very similar to that of another writer
- You should cite that writer, even if you came up with the understanding on your own
- You should use your own words, in any event
- You should minimize the use of exact quotations (in quotation marks or doubly-indent paragraphs) unless they are crucial or especially seminal in a field

WOW REVIEW

Exercise : Evaluating a Sample Literature Review