The Literature Review - finding your voice
Literature Reviews

Roadmap

Purpose
Define your research query
Develop your search strategy
Find the literature
Evaluate the literature
Analyse & Synthesize
Writing & Critique
Purpose
● Place each work in the context of its contribution to the research

● **Identify areas of prior scholarship** to prevent duplication of effort

● Describe the relationship of each work to the others

● **Identify new ways to interpret** prior research

● Reveal any gaps that exist

● **Resolve conflicts** amongst seemingly contradictory studies

● **Locate your own research** within the context of the existing literature
Defining Points

Extensive reference to related research

Connections made between sources

Position of your research within context of existing ___
Define your research query
1. Write out your research question

2. Underline keywords, concepts or phrases

3. Identify questions that flow from keywords and research question as a whole

4. Look for follow up questions and links

5. Think sequencing or ordering of these ideas/questions

Use mind-mapping to help organise your questions and ideas
Search strategy
Concept tables

Search tactics

Search log
Concept tables

Community response
OR
Engagement
OR
Influence

AND

Public art
OR
Community sculpture
OR
Art Installation

AND

Auckland
OR
New Zealand
OR
Aotearoa

Join different CONCEPTS with AND
Join different SYNONYMS with OR
Search tactics

Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT Use to combine search terms

Brackets or Quotation marks: Use to keep keywords and phrases intact

Truncation symbol: *, $ or ? Use to find all versions of a word
postmodern* = postmodern/ism/ist

Wildcard search: ? or # Use to find all spellings of a word
Colo?r = color, colour
## Search log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource (database or collection etc.)</th>
<th>Time period - Years</th>
<th>Search terms &amp; strategies</th>
<th>Where specified (abstract, keywords, title etc.)</th>
<th># of results</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UoA Library Search #1</td>
<td>Anytime</td>
<td>Public art AND Auckland</td>
<td>Theses</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Sort by relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UoA Library Search #2</td>
<td>Anytime</td>
<td>“Public art” AND Auckland</td>
<td>Theses</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Sort by relevance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding information
The subject guide...

- Each discipline has one
- Compilation of resources specific to your discipline
- Databases, books, journals, links to other resources
- First place to find resources from which to start your searching

https://www.library.auckland.ac.nz/guides/creative
Beyond the subject guide:

**Special Collections:**
- Architecture Archive
- Fine Arts Archive
- Archive of Maori & Pacific Sound

**Theses:**
- Theses & dissertations domestic & international

**Public Collections:**
- Public Libraries
- Public Art Galleries
- Archives NZ
- National Library of NZ
- Trove- Nat.Library of Aust

**Interloans:**
- Not held by University of Auckland? Once back on campus we can borrow from other Universities...
Getting there...

- Use dropdown on library search “More”
- Link to Subject guides
- Theses & Dissertations
- Special Collections
- Digital collections
- Exhibitions
- Interloans
Evaluate resources
## CRAAP checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>The timeliness of the information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>The importance of the information to your needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>The source of the information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>The reliability of content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>The reason the information exists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title/resource</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author/creator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year published</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full citation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodological approach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Works? Why? Why not?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource strengths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource weaknesses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1 Useful quote/appraisal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Useful quote/appraisal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Useful quote/appraisal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analyse & Synthesize
Analysis

- Familiarize yourself with your data so you can describe & explain it
- Look for patterns/themes
- Define key findings & themes
Synthesis

- Accurately reports information from sources
- Organized in such a way that audience can immediately see where information overlaps
- Allows your research argument and critique to be understood within context of research area
Writing & critique
Key elements of writing

Descriptive/Reporting
- What happened
- What is discussed

Interpretive/Critical
- Ask & answer questions
- Analyse, explain & interpret information
- Synthesize information to deliver point of view

Interpretive writing highlights IMPORTANCE
- This shows that...
- This calls attention to...
- This is important because...
- This can be illustrated by...
Critique

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**Deficit critique**
Highlights weaknesses and limitations

**Positive critique**
Highlights research strengths:
important/pivotal research

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**The layered approach:**
description > critique > solution

Allows you to use and develop your own voice.
Example theses

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Fine Arts PhD – Nuala Gregory (2015) *The Afterlife of Painting*
http://hdl.handle.net/2292/26077

Music PhD – Samuel Girling, (2018) *Curious virtuosity: the emergence and decline of unconventional repertory for timpani and percussion in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries*
http://hdl.handle.net/2292/37562

Fine Arts Masters - Joshua Lotz Keegan (2018) *Seeing myself watching myself*
http://hdl.handle.net/2292/37141 - written from different perspectives “voice” is relative to each identity

Dance Studies PhD – Katy Van-Reigle (2018) *The effects of International Poi on physical, cognitive, and emotional health in healthy older adults*
http://hdl.handle.net/2292/37338
Example theses

http://hdl.handle.net/2292/46487

Planning PhD - Elham Bahmanteymouri (2016) *An Ontological Investigation of Urban Growth Management Policies under Neoliberalism*  
http://hdl.handle.net/2292/31353

Planning theses have different literary organisation to the body of the thesis – no separate literature review, review done within each chapter topic.
Further resources

Mind-mapping:
Overview
Coggle mind maps
Wise maps

Creative writing:
Smudge skittle
Reflection Toolkit. University of Edinburgh (models for reflective writing)

Critique:
Phrasebank - University of Manchester

Collections:
Special Collections
Theses & dissertations
Newspapers

Online library resources:
Postgraduate Resources
Postgraduate Skills
Searching for information
Postgraduate workshops

Guide:
Literature Reviews PG (Dance)
Contacts

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Request a Research consult:
Ask Us

Learning Advisers:
Te Fale Pouāwhina
Inclusive Learning
English Language Enrichment

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