

Reading and Writing for the Literature Review

Aim

The aim of this workshop is to introduce graduate students to some strategies for making and organizing notes while reading for the literature review, and using them as a basis for developing a structured, logical review. While there will be tips for students at all stages of the writing process, it will be the most useful for those getting started with their literature reading.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this workshop, students will be able to:

- identify the differences between good and weak literature reviews,
- select the most appropriate strategies for making and organizing notes from their reading, and
- structure a conventional, thematic literature review in a logical way.

Organization

This is a 3-hour workshop. It will be in the format of some lecturing to introduce key strategies and hands-on activities to explore these strategies in a practical context.

Content

One of the most challenging tasks in writing a thesis or research article is to organize the ideas from the literature in your field and then structure it in a logical and coherent way. In this workshop we will identify the main features of a literature review and examine some good and not-so-good examples.

The workshop will include some hands-on activities to develop and practice some strategies for:

- collecting and organising your notes from your reading,
- using these notes to form a structure for your literature review, and
- writing a cohesive literature review.

Enrolment

This workshop is limited to a maximum of 50 students. While it will target the needs of non-native English speaking students, it will also be suitable for native-speaking students who would like to learn more about these strategies.

There are no pre-requisites for this workshop.

About the workshop leader

Dr. Margaret Taplin is a part-time education consultant, dividing her time between Hong Kong and Tasmania, Australia. She also provides an editing service for academic authors.

Previously Dr. Taplin specialized in mathematics education at the University of Tasmania and the University of Hong Kong, and later in research in distance and adult learning at the Open University of Hong Kong. She has numerous refereed publications in both of these areas, including several books. Dr. Taplin's current research interest is in the field of education in human values and she is a consultant to several normal universities and education bureaus in mainland China in this field.