

# **Reading and Writing for the Literature Review**

## **by Dr Margaret Taplin**

### **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 plan for a structured, logical review.

### **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.

We will do 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
- writing a cohesive literature review.

The focus will be mostly on the thematic literature review, although the strategies are relevant for all types.

### **Organization**

This workshop is designed to take about 3 hours to introduce some key strategies and offer some hands-on activities to explore these strategies in a practical context. A PowerPoint and lecture will be uploaded to Moodle for participants to use in their own time. This will be available from June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Opportunities will be set up to enable participants to upload ideas to share with each other, and to get feedback from the facilitator if required.

### **Enrolment**

Each 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. It is most suitable for students who are starting their literature reviews.

There are no prerequisites for this workshop.

### **Tasks**

Optional short written tasks will be included in the workshop. It is recommended that participants take the time to do these tasks in order to come to a deeper understanding of the strategies introduced. Students may wish to consider working through the materials with a colleague, for peer support and discussion. Provision will be made for participants who wish to do so to submit these tasks for feedback between June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **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.
- structure a conventional, thematic literature review in a logical way.