



CONDUCTING A LITERATURE REVIEW

Jennifer Rempel

**Information Literacy and Resource Access
Librarian**

Athabasca University Library

**Focused on the future of
learning.**



Agenda

- What is a Literature Review?
- Understanding your Research Topic
- Keeping Organized
- Searching
- Critical Reading
- Organizing Your Literature Review
- Writing



Workshop Objectives

- Provide an overview of the literature review process
- Provide strategies for managing elements of the literature review
- Facilitate student engagement in the process



Learning Outcomes

- Raised awareness of entire literature review process
- Developed a ‘toolkit’ of strategies for use at various stages of the literature review
- Encouraged thoughtful engagement with the process



Introductions

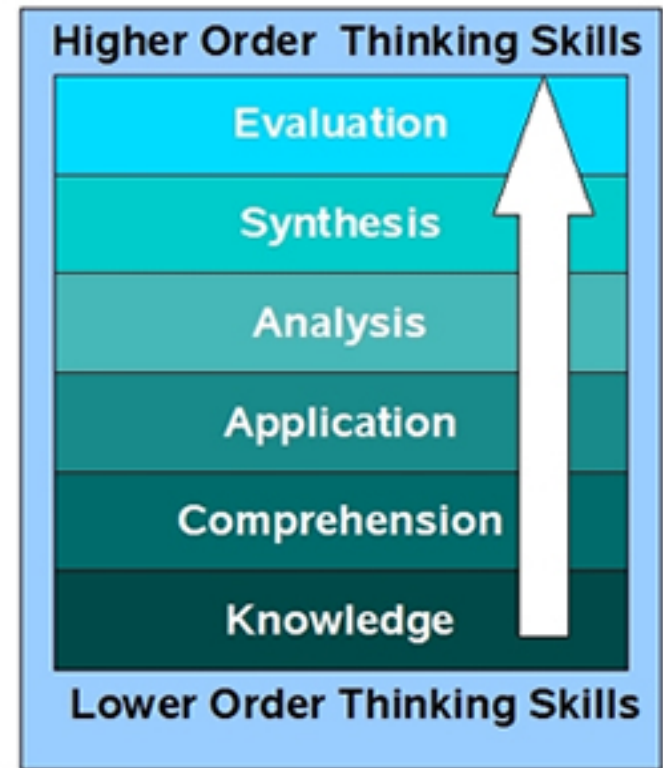
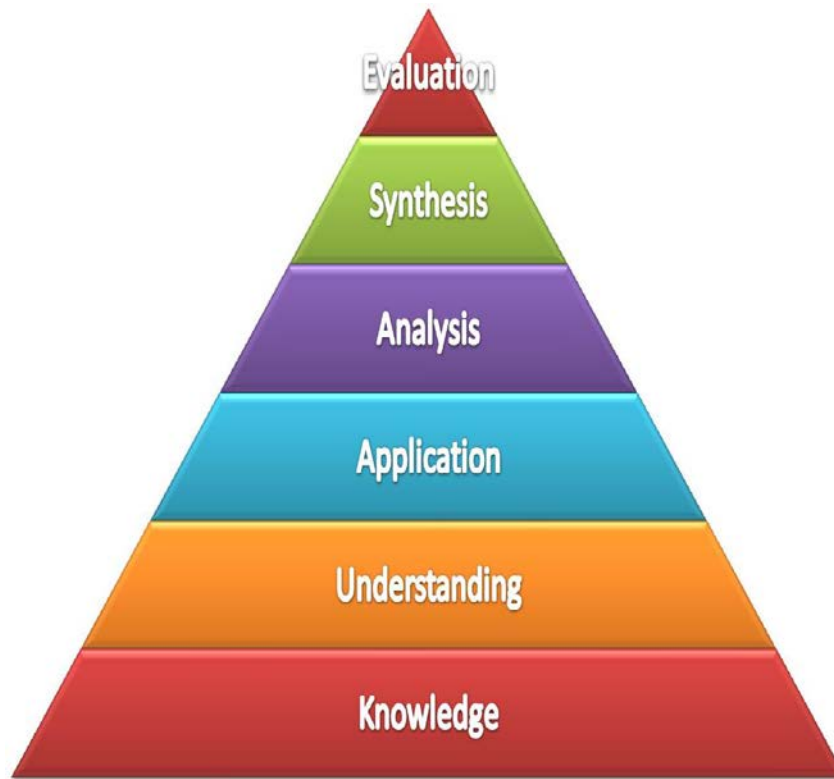
- Your program and research topic



What is a Literature Review?

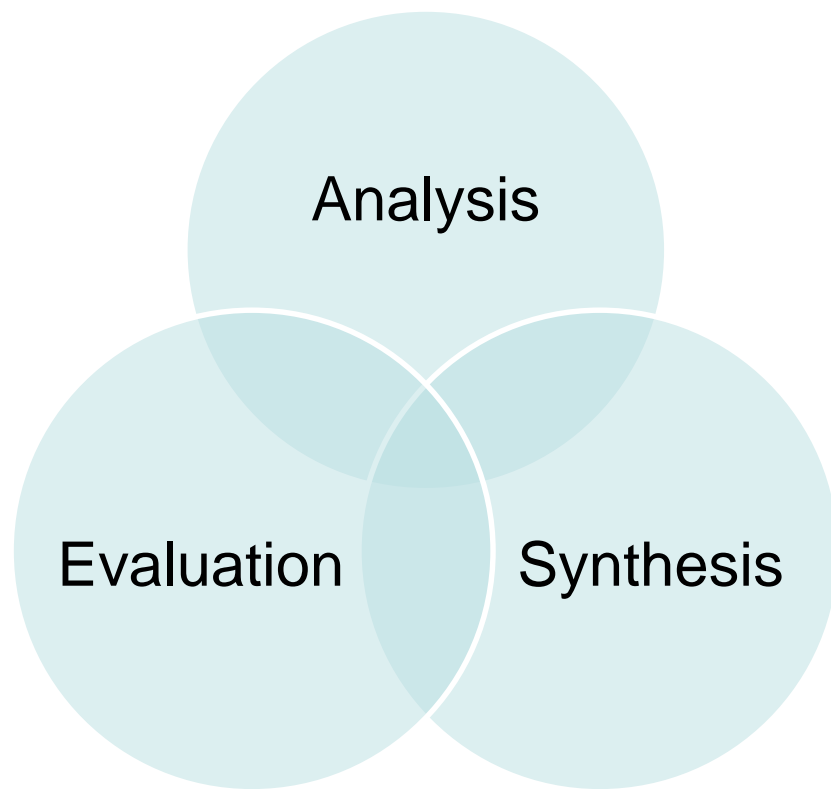


Understanding Your Research Topic: Bloom's Taxonomy



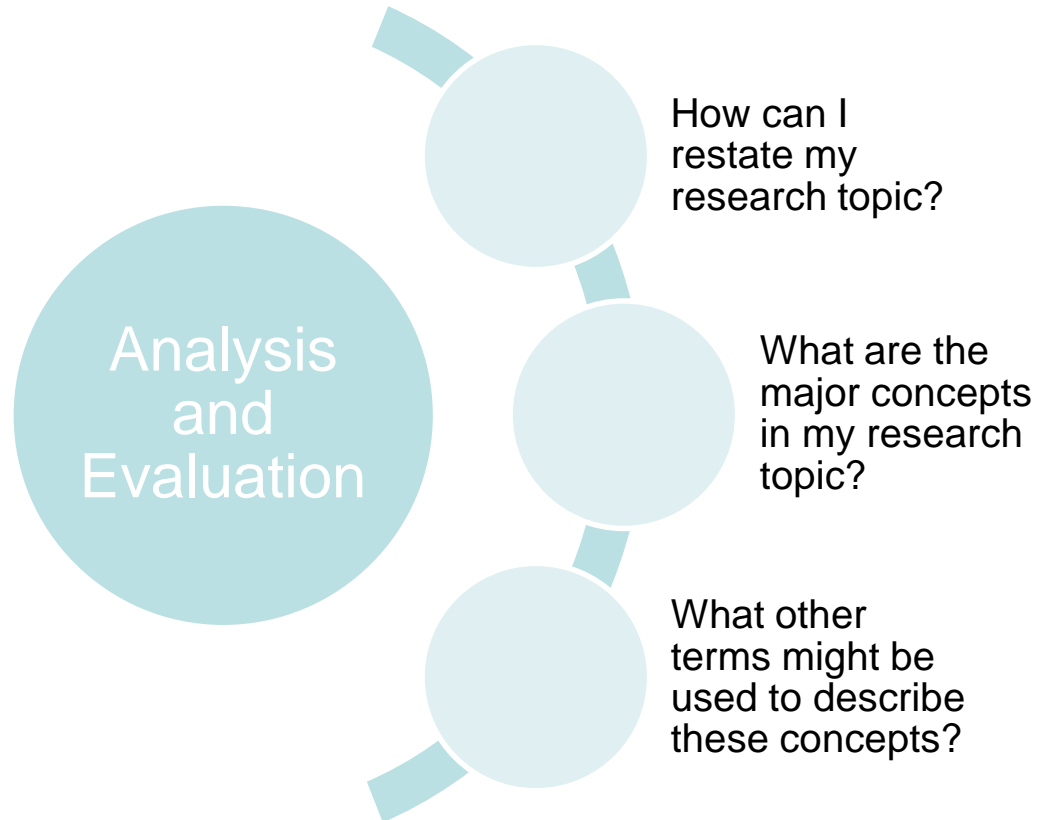


Understanding your Research Topic



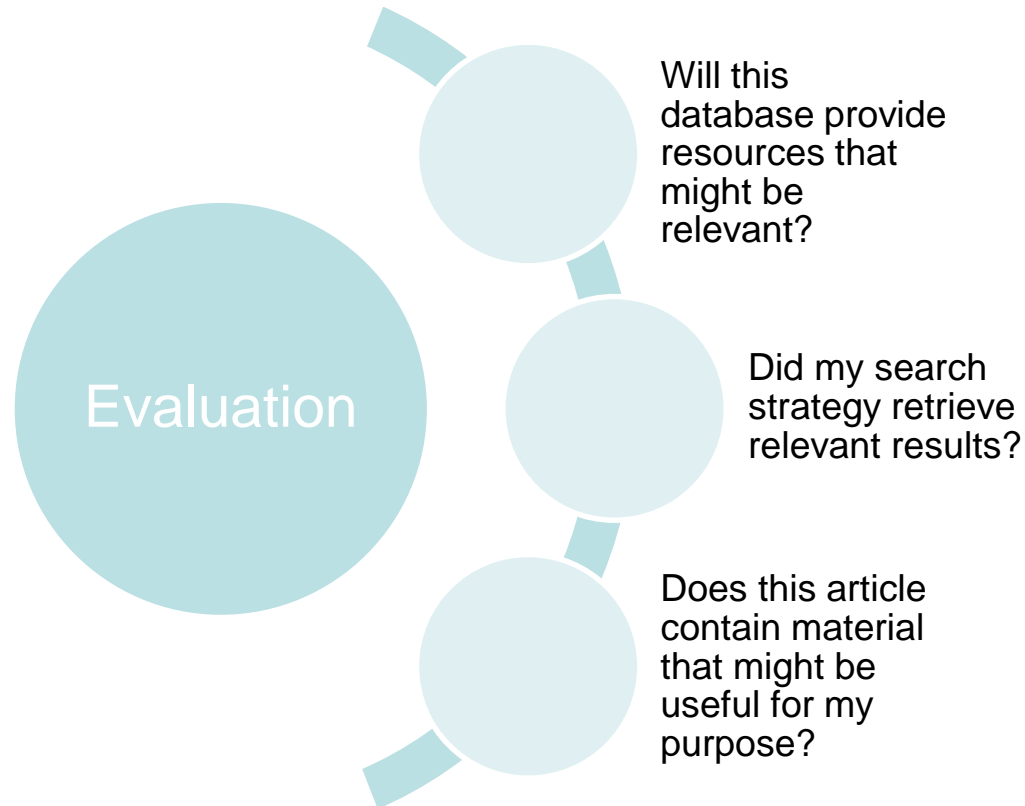


Understanding Your Research Topic



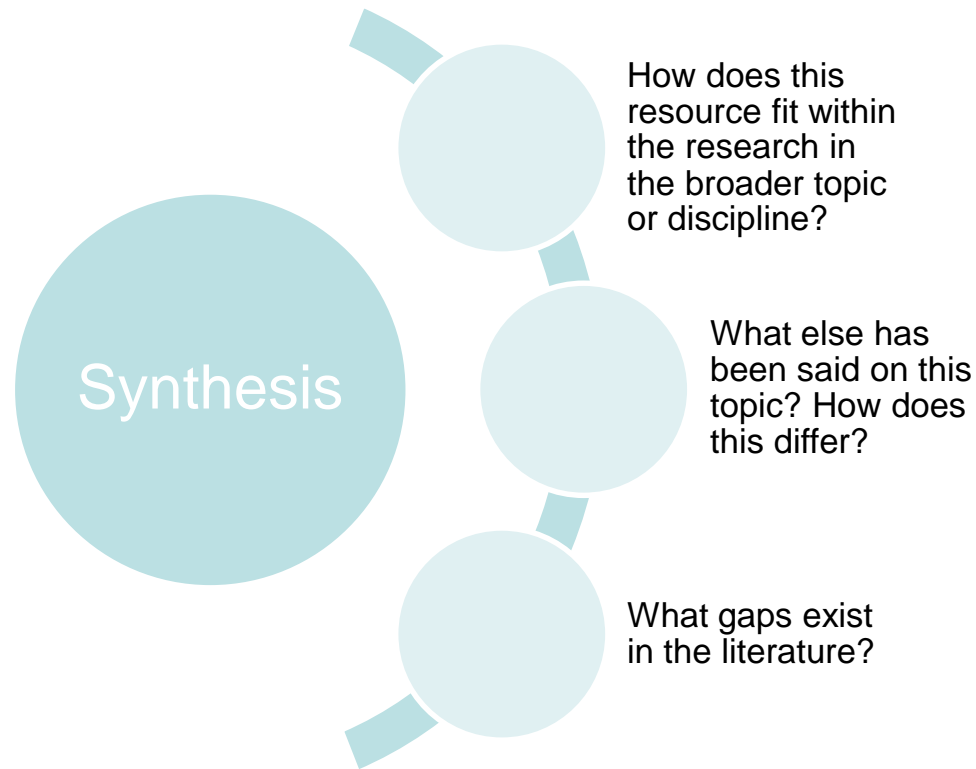


Understanding Your Research Topic





Understanding Your Research Topic



Keep in Mind...

The “3R’s” of the Research Process

Keep in Mind...

The “3R’s” of the Research Process

✓ Rethink

Keep in Mind...

The “3R’s” of the Research Process

- ✓ Rethink
- ✓ Revise



Keep in Mind...

The “3R’s” of the Research Process

- ✓ Rethink
- ✓ Revise
- ✓ Repeat



Keeping Organized

- What strategies do you use to keep yourselves organized?
- Have you tried using anything that has not worked?



Keeping Organized

- Make a plan for managing the lit review process
- Keep a research journal
- Consider using a citation management tool
- Identify a strategy for taking notes, identifying quotes, and your own thoughts



Research Journal

- What comes to mind when you think of a journal?

Research Journal

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Search Terms				
2					
3		Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	
4		Treating	Children	Autism	
5		treatment	Child	Autistic	
6		cure	youth		
7		therapy	infants		
8		rehabilitation	kids		
9					
10	Search Strategies				
11					
12	1 treating and children and autism				
13	2 (Treatment or therapy) and (children or infants) and autism				
14	3 (treatment or cure or rehabilitation) and (child* or youth or kids) and (autism or autistic)				
15					
16		Databases Searched	Search Strategy Used	# of Results Retrieved	Comments
17					
18		PsycARTICLES	1	1674	Large number of results, need to narrow search, results do not seem to be specific enough
19					



Citation Management Tools

- Help you to organize large numbers of resources
- Materials may often be imported directly to these resources
- Easy to organize resources into folders
- Easy creation of bibliographies



Taking Notes

- Make note of all citations!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Try to limit use of quotations, unless absolutely essential
- If you must quote it, clearly note it!
- Identify your own thoughts clearly



Identifying Resources to Search

- What types of sources are needed?
 - Books, journal articles, government documents, white papers, etc....
- Library catalogues, journal databases
- Meta-Search Tools:
 - AU Library's Discover or Google Scholar
- Subject Specific Databases
- AU Journal Title List
- Ulrich's
- WorldCat, Books in Print

Questions? Comments?



Searching for Materials

- Tutorials on:
 - Creating search strategies
 - Searching specific Library tools like the catalogue and Discover
- Are there specific questions about searching that I can answer?



Evaluating a Search

- How many results were retrieved? Many? Few? What does that mean? (Good/bad search?)
- What types of results were retrieved? Scholarly, peer reviewed, magazines?
- How recent are the results?
- Do any results appear (at first glance) to be relevant?



Evaluating Resources

- Does the resource answer your question or help you to understand it better?
- Does the resource support your point of view?
- Does the resource cover the right time period?
- Is the resource appropriate to your level?
- Does the resource meet the publication date range if one was specified?
- Is the resource scholarly or peer reviewed or another type of source?
- Does the author of the item appear to be an authority on the topic?



Reading Critically

- What problem or issue is the author addressing?
- Is the problem or issue clearly identified?
- How does the author make their argument (e.g. by appealing to emotion, objectively etc.)
- Is their bias in the argument and what is it?
- How is the argument laid out or structured?
- What contributions does the item make to your specific information need?
- How does this document relate to other literature you have read?



Organizing the Literature Review

- Chronological
- Thematic
- Methodological



Tips on Writing

- Academic voice
- Fairness
- Support all claims with evidence
- Cite all references carefully and accurately
- Athabasca University's Write Site

Thank You!

- Questions?

Library Resources

- Library Tutorials
- Find Resources by Subject/Name
- Find Resources by Type
- AU Journal Title List

Evaluation

- What did you learn today?
- What did you like about the workshop?
- What recommendations do you have for next time?
- What other concerns do you have about teaching and learning at AU that we could address in a workshop?

Contact Information

- Library Information Desk:
 - library@athabascau.ca
 - 1-800-788-9041, ext. 6254, or 780-675-6254
 - <http://library.athabascau.ca>