

## Literature Review Guidelines

A literature review is the process of locating archival publications related to a particular research question(s) and evaluating the results with respect to its relevance and contribution to the research problem.

### Sources

- **General references.** The indexes or abstracts in your area that can be used to locate other sources that deal directly with the research question, e.g. the Science Citation Index.
- **Primary sources.** The publications in which individuals that conduct research report the results of their studies. The common primary sources are journals, conference proceedings, and reports.
- **Secondary sources.** The publications in which authors describe the work of others. Common secondary sources are textbooks and surveys.

### Steps

- Articulate a precise research problem and questions.
- Formulate pertinent search terms or key words.
- Use secondary sources to get an overview of previous work.
- Use appropriate general references to identify relevant primary sources.
- Record the bibliographical data of pertinent articles using the standard citation style for the research community of interest, e.g., IEEE or APA.
- Review the most recent publications and work backward. Summarize the work, including a description of its relevance and contributions to the research problem.
- Identify relevant references from the publications being reviewed to identify other sources of information.