



Research Toolkit for Economics UG students

NUS AY20/21, 28 AUG 20

LYNDIA CHEN

What will be covered

- Use NUS Libraries resources and Google to find economics scholarly literature and datasets
 - Databases and general citation indexes
 - Data and statistics
 - Theses
 - Hot papers and seminal papers
 - Review articles
- Method to develop a good literature review
 - Seminal papers
 - Review articles
- Search for online resources effectively
 - Grey literature
- Other useful research topics
 - Research methods
 - Academic integrity

Why use Library Databases when you have Google?

Google



- ☐ Anyone can put up a webpage – no quality control
- ☐ Difficult to limit search to find what you want
- ☐ Higher “information cost” – “due diligence” needed when selecting information

Databases



- ☐ Articles and books are fact checked, reviewed by editors, or peer reviewed for accuracy
- ☐ Allow you to filter and sort your search results
- ☐ Subscribed, scholarly materials not freely available on Google (behind paywalls)

Economics scholarly literature and datasets

RECOMMENDED STARTING POINTS

Scholarly literature

Are written by researchers who are experts in their field

Most prestigious journal articles undergo a peer-reviewed process

- Several experts review the article, suggest changes, and recommend to the editor if the article is to be published

Includes books and journals

Which can be open access or subscribed

Databases and general citation indexes

Difference between databases with full-texts and general citation indexes

NUSNET

Recommended platforms

Library's search engine: [FindMore](#)

Index of economic literature, produced by AEA: [EconLit](#)

Open access social science database: [SSRN](#)

Data and statistics

Look at the reuse licenses to make sure you comply with how the data is to be used, as well as ReadMe file and file format compatibilities



Data

Numbers recorded/collected

Raw formats

May have many variables



Statistics

Results of data analysis

Interprets and presents the data with useful information

Usually in the form of tables or graphs

Recommended platforms

Government/socioeconomic indicators: [CEIC](#)

Market/industry/ commercial stats: [Statista](#),
[Passport](#)

Registry of Research Data Repositories: [Re3data](#)

RU

Theses

UG Honours Theses for Economics

- Go to [FindMore@NUSL](#), key in **HD30 Singapore**

Search results

Limit results to
thesis only

Other platforms

[ScholarBank](#) > Collections > Bachelor theses

[Proquest Dissertations and Theses](#) (Post-grad)

The screenshot shows the NUS Libraries FindMore@NUSL search results page for the query 'hd30 singapore'. The page displays 2,707 results sorted by relevance. The left sidebar contains filters for 'REFINE YOUR SEARCH' (Any, Full Text Online, Peer-Review, Library Catalog), 'CONTENT TYPE' (Any, Dissertation/Thesis, Book / eBook, Book Review, Journal Article, Magazine Article, More...), and 'DISCIPLINE' (Any, education, economics, religion, statistics, agriculture, More...). The main results area shows four entries, each with a document icon, title, author, year, and a link to the full text. The entries are: 1. 'Singapore: coping with an international economic depression' by Tian, Hoi Leung, 1988. 2. 'Income inequality in Singapore: do housing prices play a role? /by Wong Yan Hao' by Wong, Yan Hao; Abeysinghe, Tilak, 2014. 3. 'Declining fertility in Singapore: is house price to be blamed?' by Toh, Zheng Hui; Abeysinghe, Tilak, 2011. 4. 'Investigating haze in Singapore: a contingent valuation application' by Ng, Xiang Ning; Chander, Parkash, 2010. Each entry is followed by a link to the full text: 'Dissertation/Thesis: REQUEST ITEM, HD30 *1989 53, CL Closed Stacks (Loans Desk 3)'. The entire results area is highlighted with a green border.

Theses search by supervisor

From previous
step...

(1) Click
Advanced
Search

(2) Search your
supervisor's
name

(3) Results

The screenshot shows the NUS Libraries search interface. The search bar at the top contains the query "hd30 singapore AND wong wei kang" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there's a link "What do you think of the NEW FindMore@NUSL?". The results are sorted by "relevance" and show 20 results. On the left, there's a sidebar with filters: "REFINE YOUR SEARCH" (Any, Full Text Online, Peer-Review, Library Catalog), "CONTENT TYPE" (Any, Dissertation/Thesis, Book / eBook), "DISCIPLINE" (Any, education, business), "PUBLICATION DATE" (with a date range slider), and "LIBRARY LOCATION". The main results area displays five items, each with a document icon, title, author, year, and a link to the full text. The items are: 1. "Categorical thinking: a case study in Singapore's property market" by Low, Weijian; Wong, Wei Kang, 2014. 2. "The impact of Singapore permanent resident and ethnic integration policy quotas on the HDB resale market" by Tan, Hsien Wei; Wong, Wei Kang, 2012. 3. "Does investment depend on cash flow?: evidence from listed Singapore firms" by Ngoh, Siyuan; Wong, Wei Kang, 2014. 4. "Loss aversion in the Singapore housing market" by Seah, Shawn Li Song; Wong, Wei Kang, 2009. 5. "The impact of Singapore permanent resident and ethnic integration policy quotas on the HDB resale market" by Tan, Hsien Wei; Wong, Wei Kang, 2012.

NUS Libraries

hd30 singapore AND wong wei kang Search

What do you think of the NEW FindMore@NUSL?

20 results sorted by [relevance](#) ☐ Add results beyond your library's collection

Clear Filters

REFINE YOUR SEARCH

Any

Full Text Online

Peer-Review

Library Catalog

CONTENT TYPE

Any

Dissertation/Thesis

Book / eBook

DISCIPLINE

Any

education

business

PUBLICATION DATE

LIBRARY LOCATION

Categorical thinking: a case study in **Singapore's** property market

by [Low, Weijian](#); [Wong, Wei Kang](#)

2014

Dissertation/Thesis: [ON HOLDSHELF, HD30 *2014 6, CL Closed Stacks \(Loans Desk 3\)](#)

The impact of **Singapore** permanent resident and ethnic integration policy quotas on the HDB resale market

by [Tan, Hsien Wei](#); [Wong, Wei Kang](#)

2012

Dissertation/Thesis: [REQUEST ITEM, HD30 *2013 30, CL Closed Stacks \(Loans Desk 3\)](#)

Does investment depend on cash flow?: evidence from listed **Singapore** firms

by [Ngoh, Siyuan](#); [Wong, Wei Kang](#)

2014

Dissertation/Thesis: [REQUEST ITEM, HD30 *2014 35, CL Closed Stacks \(Loans Desk 3\)](#)

Loss aversion in the **Singapore** housing market

by [Seah, Shawn Li Song](#); [Wong, Wei Kang](#)

2009

Dissertation/Thesis: [REQUEST ITEM, HD30 *2010 24, CL Closed Stacks \(Loans Desk 3\)](#)

Developing a literature review efficiently

WITH THE USE OF SEMINAL PAPERS AND REVIEW ARTICLES

Literature Review

What is literature review

- **NOT** an annotated bibliography of papers you read
- **NOT** a repetition of what has been said in the papers you read
- **Is** a synthesis of ideas
- **Is** the place to ask questions
- **Is** the place to sell your research – “significance”, “value”

Example of a good LR

Key points of literature review – example

Introduction	<p>“The objective of this paper is to survey the literature insofar as it relates to this issue of debt capacity.”</p>
Definition of terms and scope	<p>“It is not intended that the survey will be exhaustive. Rather, it will attempt to outline some of the principal strands in the literature...”</p> <p>“The first task, therefore, is to identify what we mean by the term “debt capacity.” ...”</p>
Key points of literature	<p>“The first attempts... used the Harrod-Domar model. ... Models such as these have been widely used to cast light on the debt servicing capacity (e.g. Avramoric (1964), King (1968), ...).”</p>
Issues or difficulties	<p>“The present situation of limited international risk diversification would appear to be unsatisfactory.”</p>
Research gap and questions*	<p>“It is hoped that future research will lead to progress by breaking down the barriers to improved international financial linkages.”</p>

McDonald, D.C. (1982). Debt capacity and developing country borrowing: a survey of the literature. *IMF Staff Papers*, 29: 603-646.
<http://libproxy1.nus.edu.sg/login?url=http://www.palgrave-journals.com/imfsp/journal/v29/n4/full/imfsp198222a.html>

* This style applies to survey paper but not litt. review section of your paper. This is usually done in the Limitations section in a dissertation.

Seminal and hot papers

Seminal works initially presented an idea of great importance or influence within a particular discipline, are referred to time and time again in the research, so you are likely to see these sources frequently cited in other journal articles, books, dissertations, etc. ([Google Scholar](#))

Hot papers are published in the past two years that are in the top one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for their field and publication period ([Web of Science](#))

Review Articles

What are review articles

- Article which reviews literature on a topic
- Author already does the homework
- Useful for your literature review!

Interesting seminal paper on what review articles can be like:

Grant, M. J., & Booth, A. (2009). A typology of reviews: An analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 26(2), 91–108.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x>

What if there is no review article on your topic?

Create one!

Citation chaining

OR

Pearl-growing technique

Find one very relevant article



```
graph TD; A[Find one very relevant article] --> B[Look for relevant articles in forward and backward citations]; B --> C[Wash, rinse and repeat];
```

Look for relevant articles in forward and backward citations

Wash, rinse and repeat

Search strategies

1. Good search habits – why take the trouble though?

- Saves time overall
- Make sure your searches are thorough – your supervisors may ask you to show proof of your searches
- Can you reproduce the searches when asked?

3. Search statements

4. Boolean operators

2. Key word formulation:

Look for synonyms and related terms

Article titles

Article abstract

Concepts

Check out reference sources

Encyclopedic articles

Review articles

Thesauri

Look up the author's information

Articles published

CV/biodata page – esp. sections like Research Interest

Use the right search statement

Search for review articles by

Searching databases using **jargon** in the field as keywords

Specifying that it should be review articles. Hint: Review articles usually have titles such as...

The Economics of Movies: A Literature Survey

Direct and Indirect Effects of FDI in Emerging European Markets: A Survey and Meta-analysis

Survey Protocol and Income Effects in the Contingent Valuation of Public Goods: A Meta-analysis

A Literature Review on the Application of Evolutionary Computing to Credit Scoring

A Systematic Review of Key Issues in Public Health

The Updating of Input-Output Matrices: A Systematic Survey

Search strategy using Boolean

Boolean search strategy on Google

Exercise 1

What is the right search statement?

<https://h5p.org/node/107450>



Use the right search statement

Search for review articles by

Searching databases using **jargon** in the field as keywords

Specifying that it should be review articles. Hint: Review articles usually have titles such as...

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Direct and Indirect Effects of FDI in Emerging European Markets: A Survey and Meta-analysis

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A Literature Review on the Application of Evolutionary Computing to Credit Scoring

A Systematic Review of Key Issues in Public Health

The Updating of Input-Output Matrices: A Systematic Survey

What are the keywords?

Literature survey

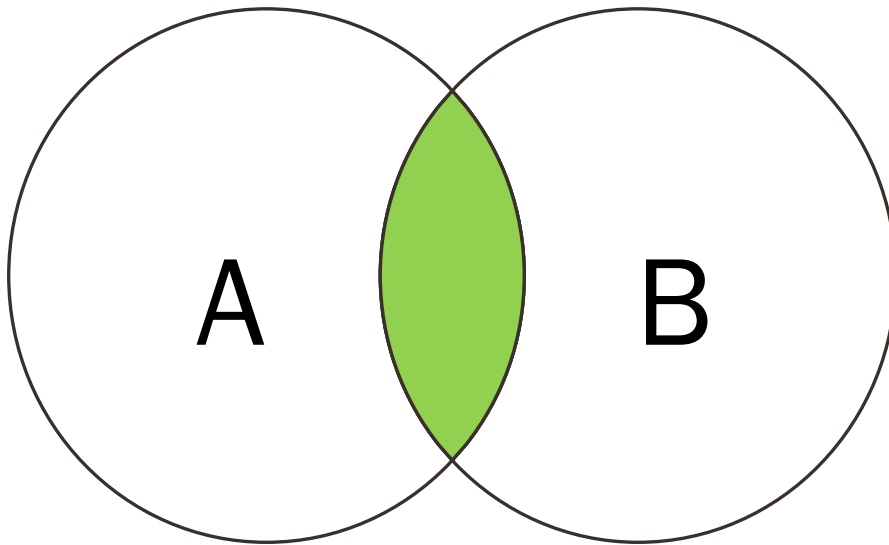
Literature review

Systematic survey

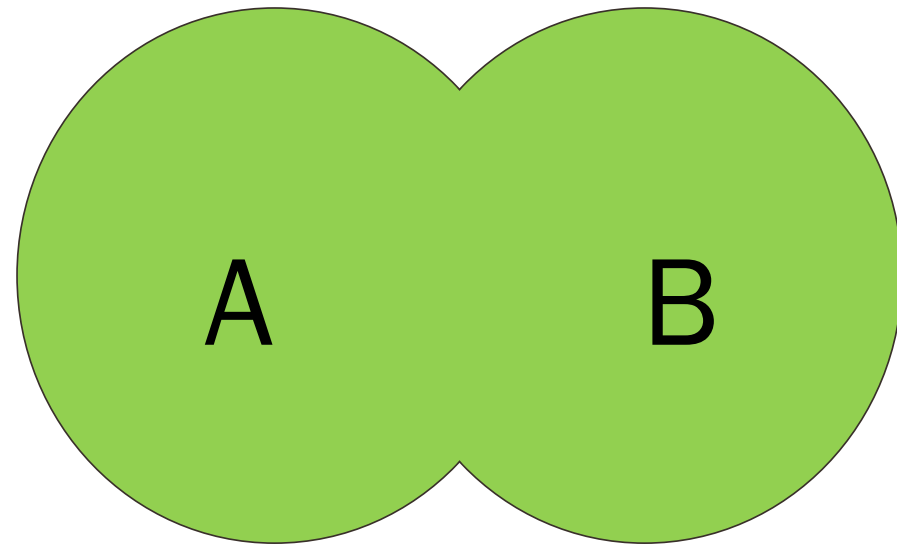
Systematic review

Meta-analysis

Put them together with Boolean Operators



A AND B



A OR B

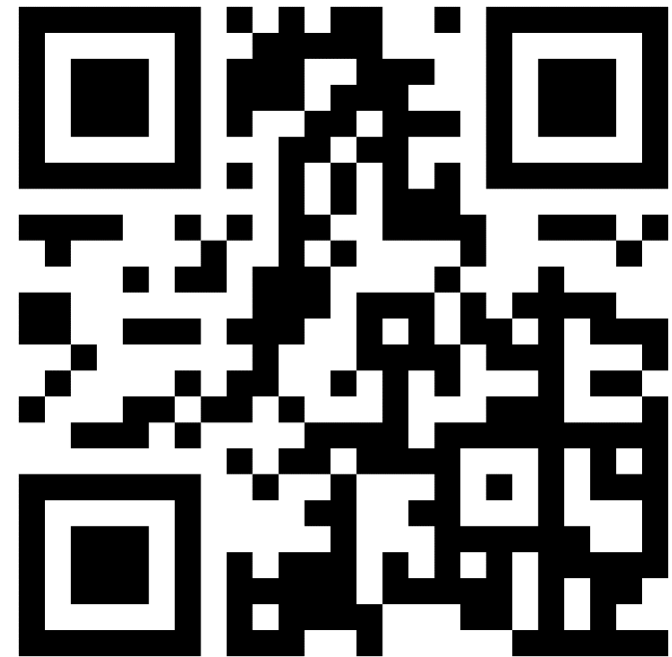
Search strategy using Boolean

Boolean search strategy on Google

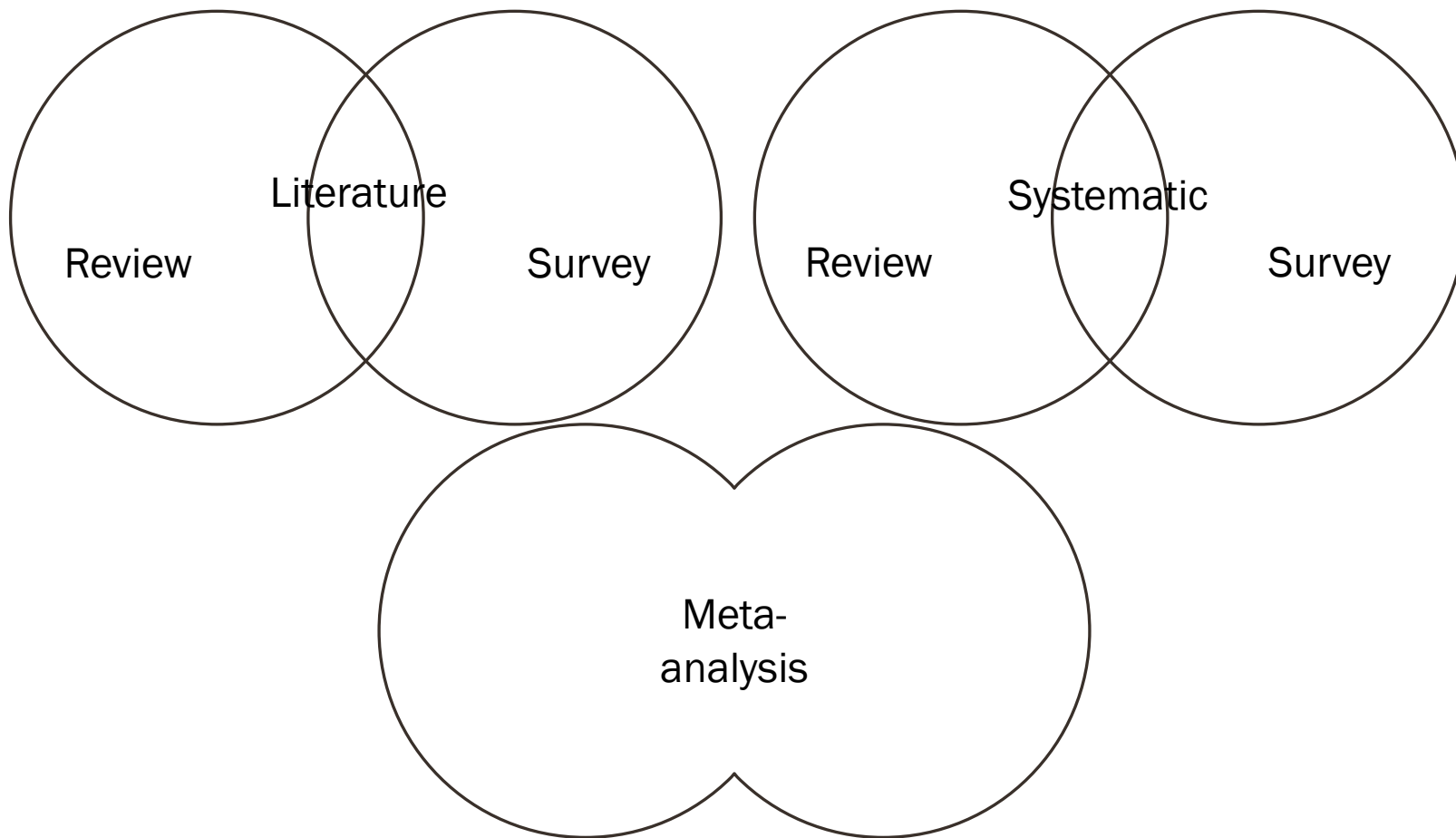
Exercise 2

How to join the keywords using Boolean operators?

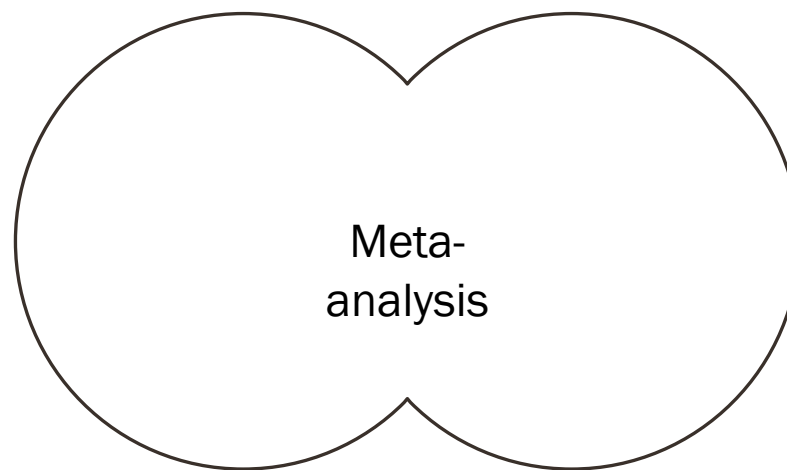
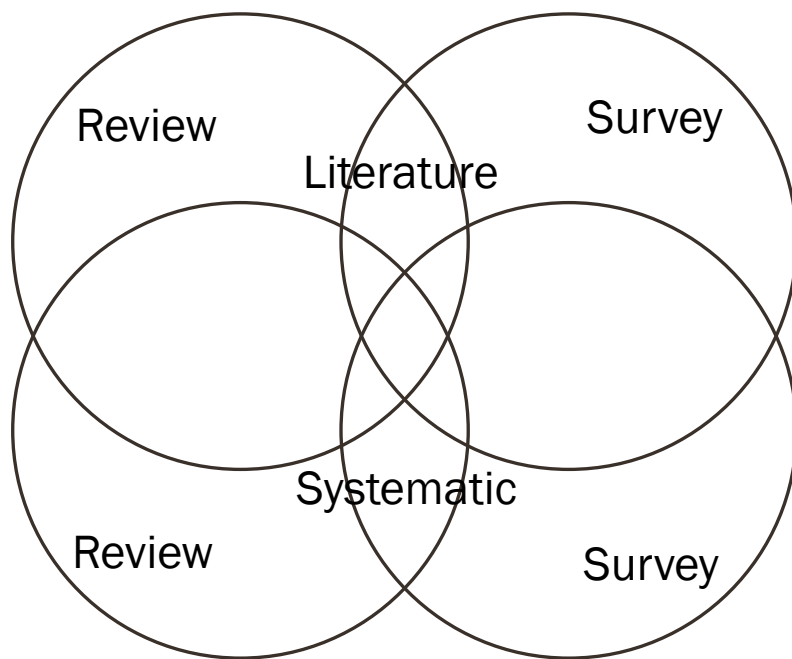
<https://h5p.org/node/107452>



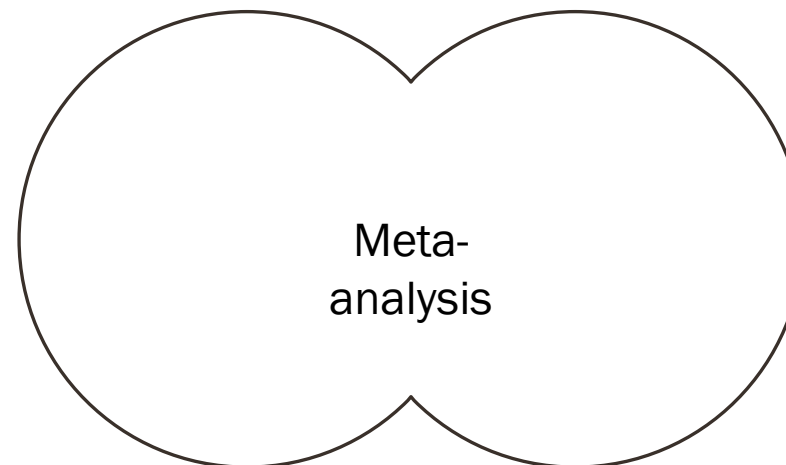
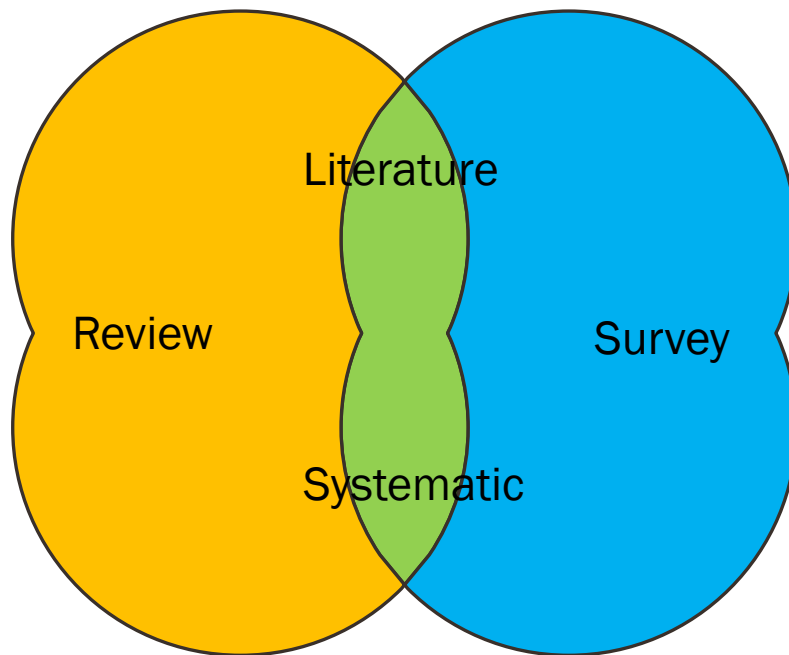
Put them together with Boolean Operators



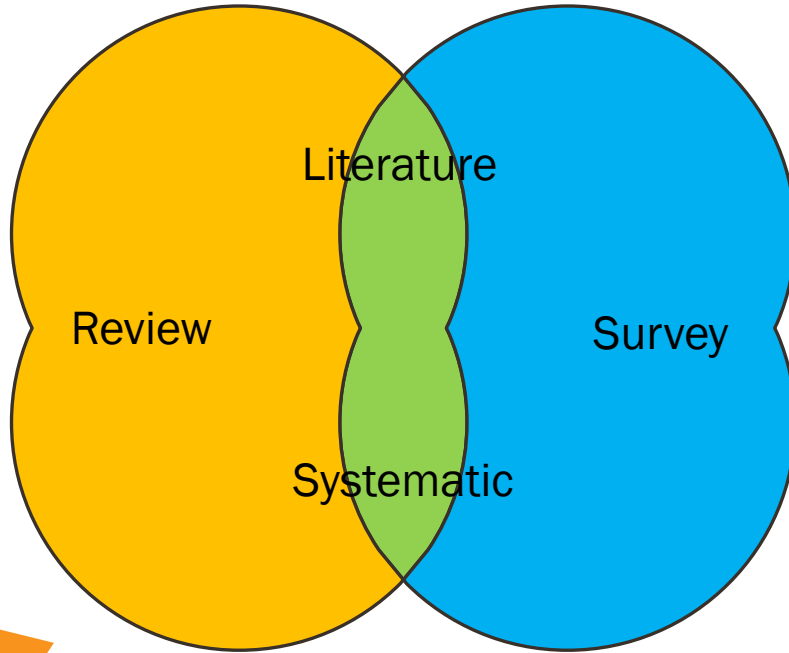
Put them together with Boolean Operators



Put them together with Boolean Operators

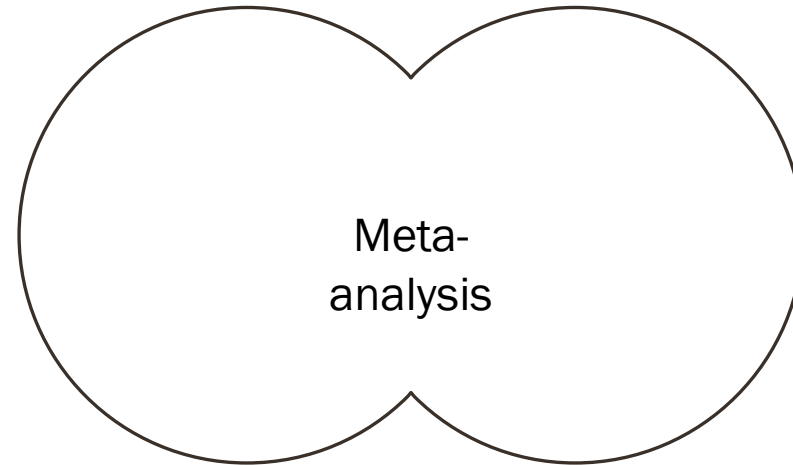


Put them together with Boolean Operators



((Literature OR Systematic)
AND (Review OR Survey))

OR



((Literature OR Systematic) AND
(Review OR Survey)) OR Meta-analysis



Keyword searching with ss

SS– *power version* to search for review articles

Keywords (jargon) of your topic

AND

((Literature OR Systematic OR Bibliographic OR Meta) AND (Survey OR Review OR Analysis)) OR Meta-analytical OR “a review” OR “a survey” OR “a mini review” OR “a brief review” OR bibliography)

- [Revising Boolean operators – YouTube videos](#)

Keyword searching with ss

Example: Debt and developing countries

Debt AND Developing

AND

((Literature OR Systematic OR Bibliographic OR Meta) AND (Survey OR Review OR Analysis)) OR Meta-analytical OR “a review” OR “a survey” OR “a mini review” OR “a brief review” OR bibliography)

Keyword searching with ss

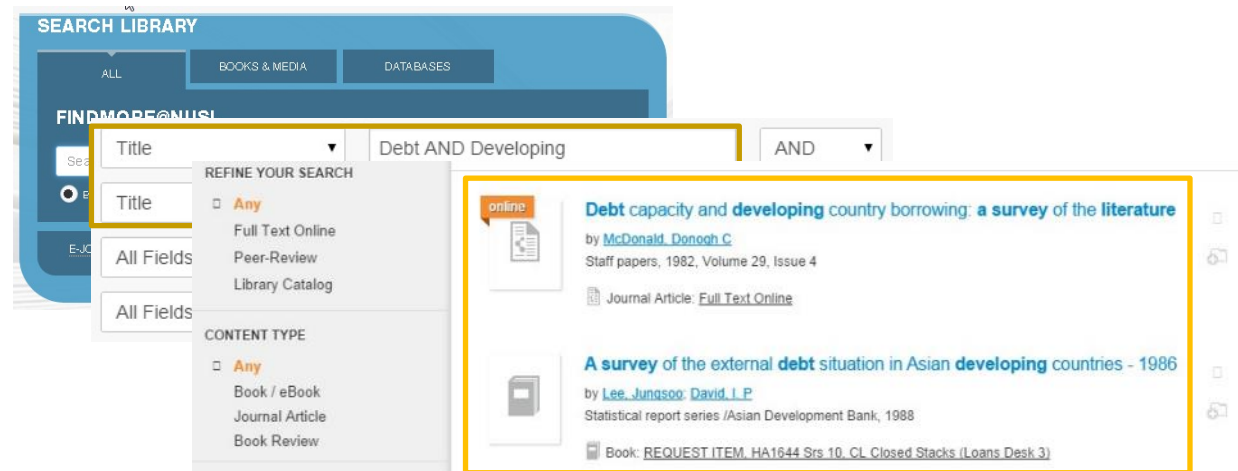
Example: Debt and developing countries

FindMore@NUSL Advanced Search

(1) Go to
Advanced Search

(2) Paste the
secret sauce and
search by title

(3) Results



- The **secret sauce** can be used in other databases under Advanced Search

Online economic resources

ON GOOGLE

Grey Literature

What is grey literature

(aka. –Fugitive Literature)

"that which is produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body"

Schöpfel, J.; Farace, D.J. (2010). "Grey Literature". In Bates, M.J.; Maack, M.N. (eds.). *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences* (3rd ed.). Boca Raton, Fla.: CRC Press. pp.2029–2039. ISBN 9780849397127

Examples of grey literature for economics

Company information and statistics

Industry reports

Trade magazines

Working papers

White papers and policy updates

Such as...

- The Economist
- World Bank publications
- RePEc (Research Papers in Economics)
- Prime Minister Speeches

Google Scholar

- journal and conference papers
- theses and dissertations
- academic books
- pre-prints
- Abstracts
- technical reports
- other scholarly literature from all broad areas of research ([source](#))



Google Scholar

Advanced search

RU

Operator	Purpose	Example
site:	Limit search results to a specific website	site:singstat.gov.sg
intitle: intext: inurl:	Terms to show up in specific fields	intext:gdp
filetype:	Limit search results to specific file types, e.g. PDF or Excel workbooks	filetype:xls
+ -	Specify terms (e.g. numbers) that must/must not show in the search results	+2015
info:	Information about the page: Cached pages, similar pages, webpages that link to it	info:singstat.gov.sg
related:	Find related websites	related:mas.gov.sg
link:	Find websites that link to the site you are searching	link:imf.org

Overcoming paywalls online

[Configure Google Scholar for NUS resources: Proxy bookmarklet and Findit@NUSL](#)



Research methods

DIY LEARNING AND RESOURCES

Sage Research Methods Platform

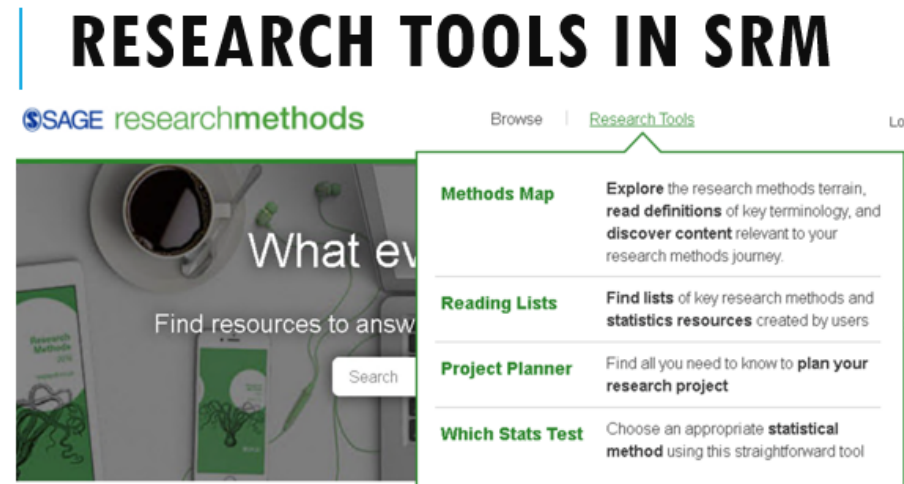
Curate lists of resources

Methods map

Stats test

Research cycle

RU x 2



Academic integrity

TO-KNOW BASICS

Plagiarism: Infographic snippets

PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & how to avoid them

AS A MEMBER OF THE NUS COMMUNITY, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO UPHOLD ACADEMIC HONESTY IN THE PURSUIT AND ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE.



THE MOST COMMON FORM OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism

Broadly, it is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own

With or without the consent

By incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgment

Whether intentionally or not

EXAMPLE
1

Copying a chunk of text into your assignment and changing only a few words

EXAMPLE
2

Re-using the same work for different assignments or courses

EXAMPLE
3

Presenting someone's argument as your own original work

OTHER COMMON FORMS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Hiring ghostwriters or others to do your work



Copying homework or lab results



Colluding with classmates in a test or take home exam



Cheating at exams/tests



Inappropriate use of resources e.g. copyright infringement



Fabricating information, data, sources or citations



CONSEQUENCES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

CONSEQUENCE
1

Reduced grades with no S/U option

CONSEQUENCE
2

Failure of modules/assignments

CONSEQUENCE
3

Expulsion from NUS

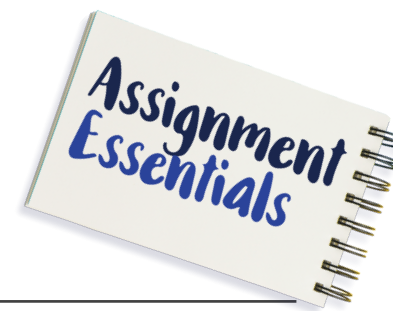


NUS uses software like Turnitin to check the similarity of students' work to other sources.
Don't try to beat the system, it's not worth it!



For more information on NUS policy on academic dishonesty:

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>



Know:

What is plagiarism

Consequences

Plagiarism: best way to avoid

Citing as a good strategy

Quote/paraphrase/summarise

Video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__HC1f5eZKw



Citations

A significant part of research and assignments to uphold academic integrity

Gives credit and acknowledgment to authors or researchers' works and ideas

Avoid plagiarism by quoting, paraphrasing and/or summarizing words and ideas of other authors

Formally reflects the background work and research that you have done

Allowing others to follow your flow of information and/or check the accuracy of your arguments and sources

Manual citation vs citation software/generators

e.g. [zoterobib](#)

Reference management software e.g. [zotero](#)

For more info

- [Citation style LibGuide](#)

- [Zotero LibGuide](#)

RU





[DS LAB WORKSTATIONS](#)



[DOCUMENT DELIVERY
SERVICE](#)



SUGGEST SHARING
TOPICS

Appreciate if you can fill in
this 1-minute feedback form!

Time: 4pm

Programme: econs



RESOURCE LIBRARIAN:
LYNDIACHEN@NUS.EDU.SG



LIBRARY GENERAL
MAILBOX:
ASKALIB@NUS.EDU.SG



https://bit.ly/HASS_2020Sem1

Need more info? Email me whenever at
lyndiachen@nus.edu.sg 😊

If there is time

Can you simplify them?

Literature Survey \cup Literature Review \cup Systematic Survey \cup Systematic Review



[Literature \cap [Survey \cup Review]] \cup [Systematic \cap [Survey \cup Review]]



[Literature \cup Systematic] \cap [Survey \cup Review]



[Literature OR Systematic] AND [Survey OR Review]



NUS
National University
of Singapore

NUS
Libraries



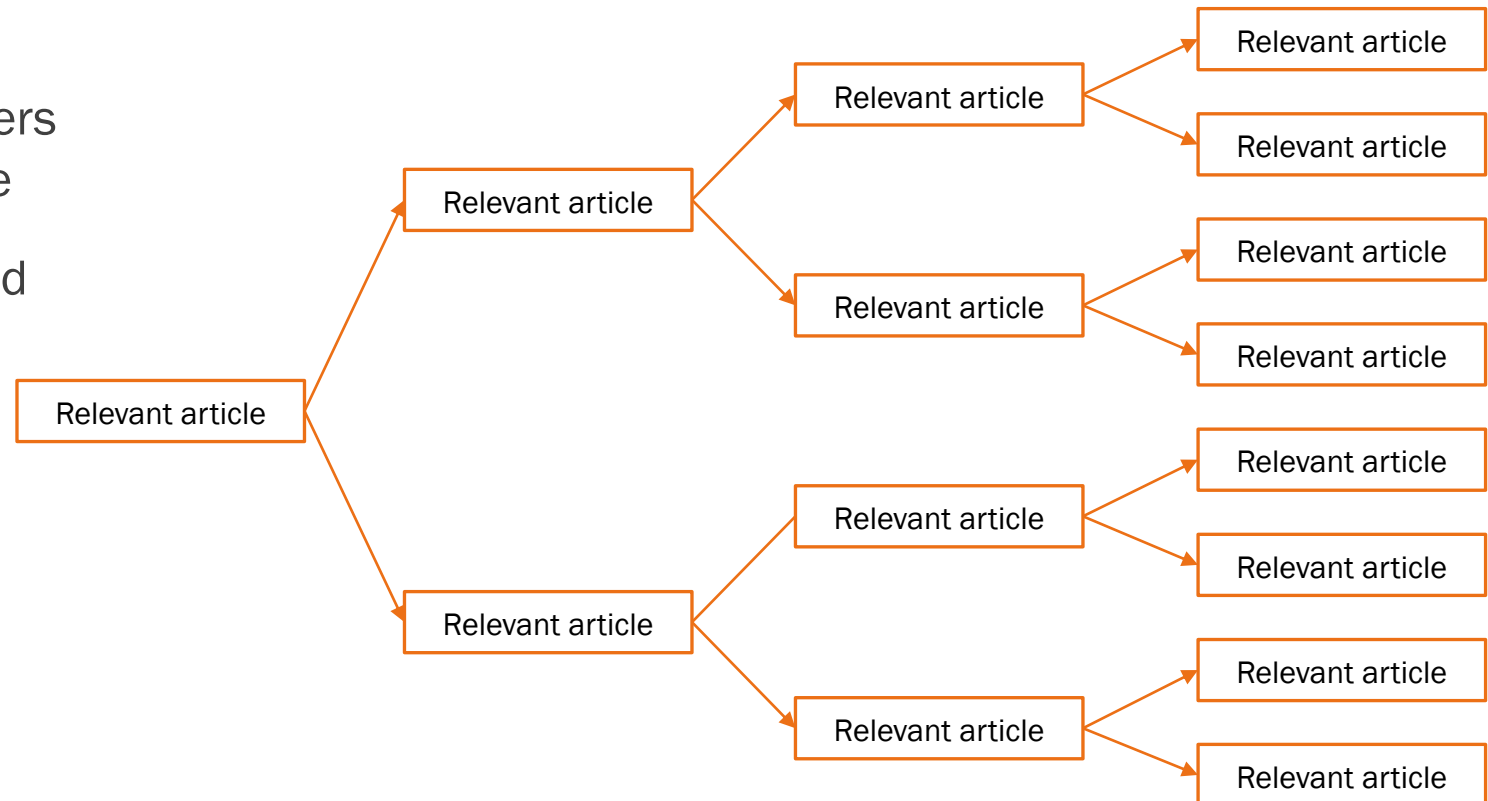
Pearl growing technique

Pearl growing is a simple idea

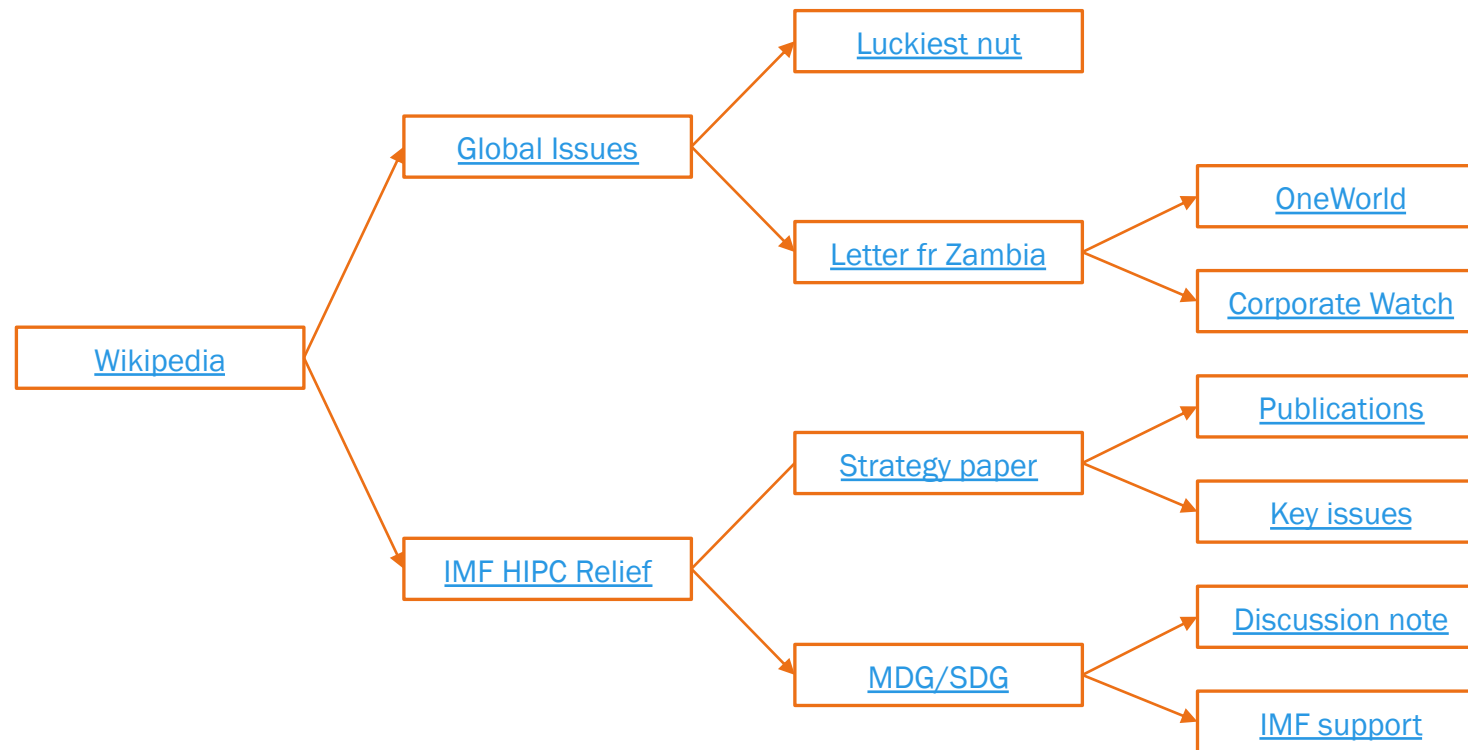
Find a very relevant
article

Look for relevant papers
cited within the article

Find those articles and
repeat the process



Example: Debt of developing countries





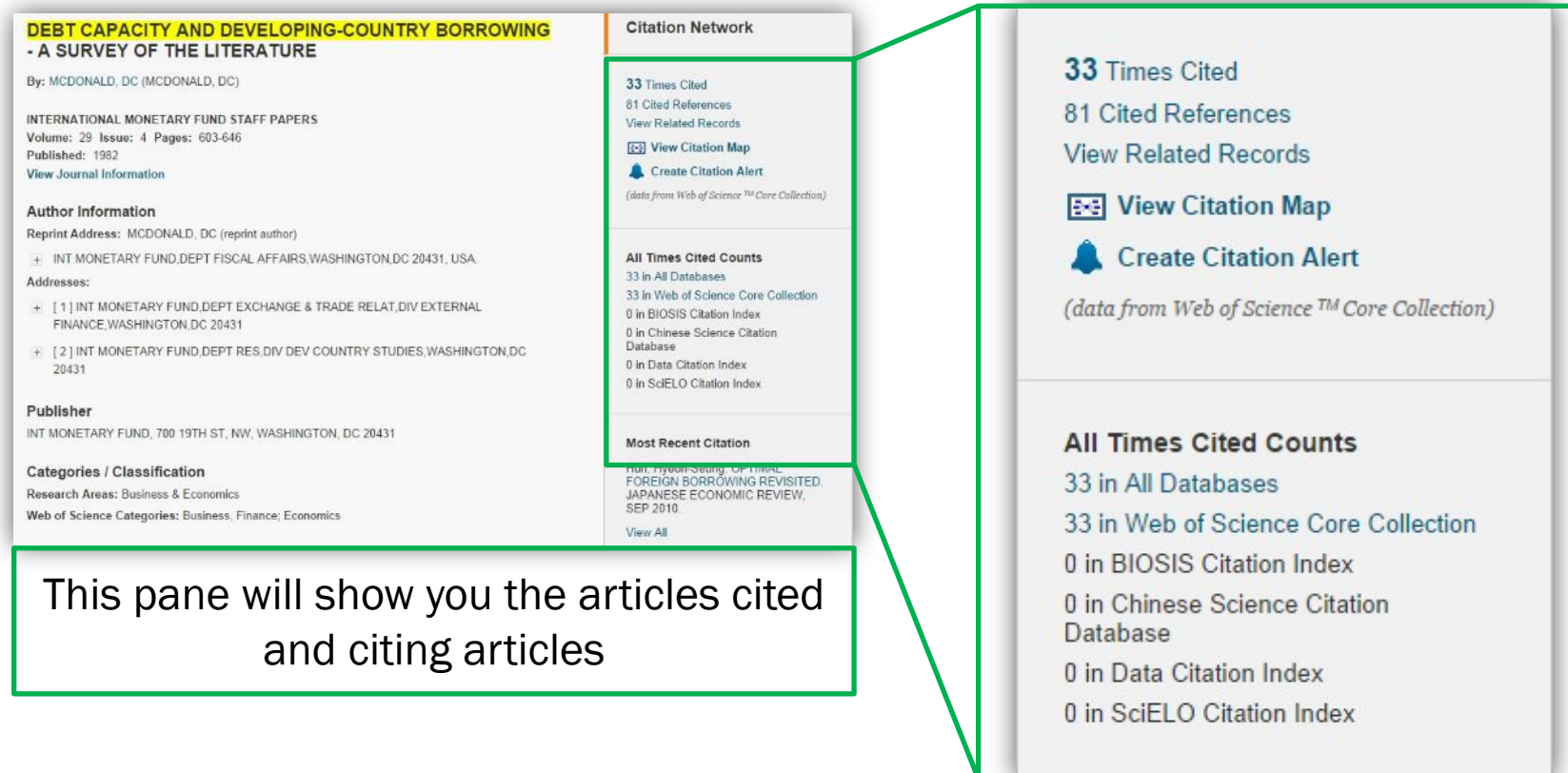
NUS
National University
of Singapore

NUS
Libraries

You can do this for academic papers
too!

Technique – Pearl growing in practice

[Web of Science](#): Search for the article “Debt capacity and developing country borrowing”



The screenshot shows the Web of Science interface for the article "DEBT CAPACITY AND DEVELOPING-COUNTRY BORROWING - A SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE" by MCDONALD, DC. The page is divided into several sections: Article Information, Author Information, Publisher, Categories/Classification, Citation Network, and All Times Cited Counts. A green box highlights the Citation Network section, which includes links to view related records, citation map, and citation alert. Another green box highlights the All Times Cited Counts section, which shows the number of times the article has been cited in various databases. A third green box highlights the Most Recent Citation section, which shows the most recent citation of the article.

DEBT CAPACITY AND DEVELOPING-COUNTRY BORROWING - A SURVEY OF THE LITERATURE
By: MCDONALD, DC (MCDONALD, DC)
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND STAFF PAPERS
Volume: 29 Issue: 4 Pages: 603-646
Published: 1982
[View Journal Information](#)

Author Information
Reprint Address: MCDONALD, DC (reprint author)
+ INT MONETARY FUND, DEPT FISCAL AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON, DC 20431, USA.
Addresses:
+ [1] INT MONETARY FUND, DEPT EXCHANGE & TRADE RELAT, DIV EXTERNAL FINANCE, WASHINGTON, DC 20431
+ [2] INT MONETARY FUND, DEPT RES, DIV DEV COUNTRY STUDIES, WASHINGTON, DC 20431

Publisher
INT MONETARY FUND, 700 19TH ST, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20431

Categories / Classification
Research Areas: Business & Economics
Web of Science Categories: Business, Finance, Economics

Citation Network
33 Times Cited
81 Cited References
[View Related Records](#)
[View Citation Map](#)
[Create Citation Alert](#)
(data from Web of Science™ Core Collection)

All Times Cited Counts
33 in All Databases
33 in Web of Science Core Collection
0 in BIOSIS Citation Index
0 in Chinese Science Citation Database
0 in Data Citation Index
0 in SciELO Citation Index

Most Recent Citation
Huh, Hyun-Seung. OP-THINK FOREIGN BORROWING REVISITED. JAPANESE ECONOMIC REVIEW, SEP 2010.
[View All](#)

This pane will show you the articles cited and citing articles

Citation Network

33 Times Cited

81 Cited References

View Related Records

 View Citation Map

 Create Citation Alert

(data from Web of Science™ Core Collection)

All Times Cited Counts

33 in All Databases

33 in Web of Science Core Collection

0 in BIOSIS Citation Index

0 in Chinese Science Citation
Database

0 in Data Citation Index

0 in SciELO Citation Index

Most Recent Citation

Huh, Hyeon-Seung. OPTIMAL
FOREIGN BORROWING REVISITED.
JAPANESE ECONOMIC REVIEW,
SEP 2010.

[View All](#)

Citing Articles a.k.a. Forward Citations

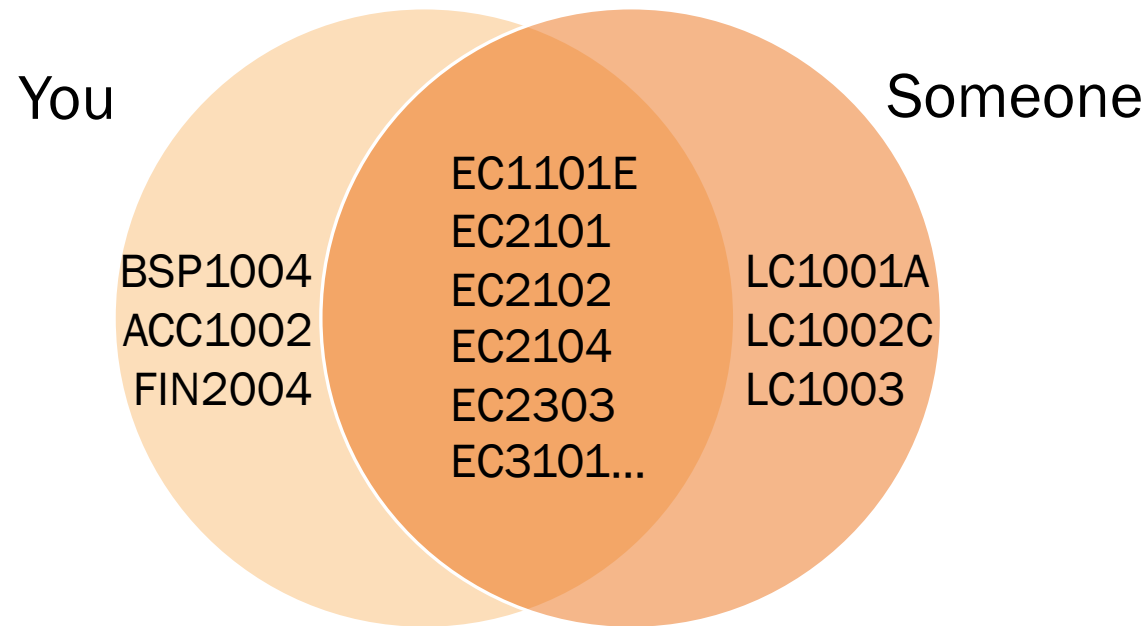
Articles Cited a.k.a. Backward Citations
(Known as Cited References under Web of Science)

Related Records a.k.a. Sideways Citations
What is that?

Technique – Pearl growing in practice

Related article: Articles sharing all or many of the references

- Example: You are taking core modules for Economics and noticed that someone is doing the same. Are chances good that he will major in Economics as well?

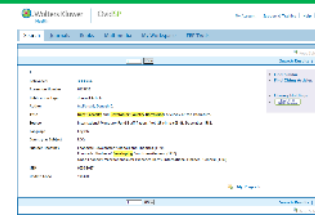


Technique – Pearl growing in practice

Pearl growing in other databases

Citing Articles
“Forward”

EconLit



- Find Similar
- Find Citing Articles
- Library Holdings
- Find It @ NUS Libraries

Articles Cited
“Backward”

Scopus



Cited by since 1996

This article has been cited 14 times in Scopus:
(Showing the 2 most recent)

Sara, H.
Financial crises, 1929 to the Present
(2013) *Financial Crises, 1929 to the Present*

Huh, H.-S., Inoue, T., Lee, H.-H.
Optimal foreign borrowing revisited
(2010) *Japanese Economic Review*

[View details of all 14 citations](#)

Inform me when this document is cited in Scopus:

[Set alert](#) | [Set feed](#)

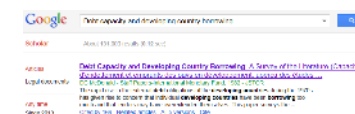
Other citing sources

Web: 4 times

Related documents

Related Records
“Sideways”

Google Scholar



DC McDonald - Staff Papers-Int

The rapid rise in the external debt has given rise to concern that in much and that lenders may have

Cited by 166

Related articles

Note: Not all features are available across databases.