Engineering Graduate Student Thesis and Dissertation Workshops

Key Topics *, **, *** show concepts or topics that overlap among the workshops.

Why am I Finding Literature?
Sometimes it does not seem like it, but finding literature saves you time. It helps you find where your research fits in the discipline. Sometimes, your idea will improve a process that already exists and you can begin where the other researchers finished. In addition, it can prevent you from making the mistakes of others. [online module]

- *Purpose of a literature review*
- **Tips to make the process easier***
- How to get help

Avoiding Plagiarism and Complying with Copyright
Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else's idea, research, etc. Copyright gives the copyright holder (e.g. publisher or author) the right to control the copying of their work. This applies to books, reports, articles and even images in articles. Learn about plagiarism and copyright to avoid problems when writing your document.

- What is the difference between copyright and plagiarism
- Why are they wrong
- Examples of plagiarism and consequences
- **Avoid plagiarism by paraphrasing and giving credit**
- What is fair use and what is a creative commons license
- Examples of copyright infringement and consequence

Writing Topics

Include Citations and Writing to Differentiate Your Ideas from Your References
Have you ever read something and you weren't sure if the author was making a point or if they were stating the idea of someone else? Do not make this mistake yourself. Learn techniques to make clear where ideas in your paper originated. APA Citation Style will be used as an example format.

- What is plagiarism
- In-text citations and the reference section
- Million dollar words
- **How to place the citations to make it clear who’s idea it was**

Comparing and Contrasting Literature
When you are writing your thesis or dissertation, you want to analyze other literature related to your topic. Learn the difference between summary and synthesis, as well as techniques to make the process easier.

- Purpose of the introduction section and what it should contain
- *The difference between a background and a literature review section*
- **The difference between analyzing (comparing and contrasting) and summarizing literature**
- ***Methods of organization that can help when analyzing literature and writing***
Writing an Abstract

An abstract is a short document that gives the reader the information they need to decide if they want to continue reading. Learn about the 5 questions all abstracts should answer and common mistakes that authors make.

- Purpose of an abstract
- Questions that are answered with an abstract
- Examples of well written and not so well written abstracts
- Practice identifying answers to the questions

Formatting for Graduate School

The Guidelines for Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation from graduate school contains accepted formatting practice. Learn some details about formatting and ask questions.

- Why is formatting important
- Where to get the documentation
- Example using Microsoft Word
- Open help session

Before Getting Literature

Getting Started with Finding Literature

You might know why you are doing a literature review and you might even have a strategy to determine if articles are relevant. However, if you don't know where to go to find articles, books and other documents, you will never achieve your goal. Learn where to go to find information. [online module]

- How to use the library guides
- How to identify relevant databases and tools

How to Choose a Reference Manager

Using a reference manager can help you organize, which is greatly important for literature reviews. Find papers quicker, take notes, and in some cases, be able to search them. Learn the criteria to consider when choosing the best reference manager for you.

- Criteria to help decide

Getting Literature

How to Choose Keywords and Construct a Search String

You might know why you are doing a literature review and you might even have a strategy to determine if articles are relevant. However, if you don't know where to go to find articles, books and other documents, you will never achieve your goal. Learn where to go to find information. [online module]

- How to choose initial keywords
- How to find information about search query syntax for databases
- How to perfect your search query

How to Find Full Text Documents

You found what you want to read, but now how do you get it? It you find 20 perfect documents, it doesn't matter if you can't get a copy of any of them. Learn to locate articles, conference papers, thesis, books, and more. [three online modules]

- How to get electronic documents off-campus that you can get on-campus
- How to locate copies of documents using databases, catalogs, and particular Web sites
- How to get a document that the university library doesn't have
How to Evaluate Information

It is good to evaluate all information critically including books, journal articles, reports, and Web materials. As an added bonus, critically evaluating what you read will help you produce a better literature review. Learn the questions to answer when evaluating information. [online module]

• **Criteria to consider to evaluate information**
• How to determine an author's expertise
• What is the peer review process
• Examples in applying the criteria