



Honours 2016
Introduction to Research Methods
Phase 1 — Annotated Bibliography and Literature Review

Prepared by Vashti Galpin

Updated by Sigrid Ewert

February 20, 2017

1 Aim

This task is intended to give you experience

- in finding material in the libraries on campus,
- in reading and understanding research material,
- in writing a document which compares and contrasts different research, and
- in doing an annotated bibliography.

2 Instructions

1. Read this document carefully, as well as the timings in the other Honours courses, and prepare a timeplan for yourself. You do not need to hand this in.
2. You have been given a general research question and a list of three references in a research area proposed by a member of staff who will be your supervisor for the remainder of this topic and the Honours Research Report. You should speak to them about the research question and the suitability of additional references. You can also ask them questions about the material that you are reading and writing about.
3. Find the references in the appropriate libraries or online. You can approach your supervisor if the material is not available at Wits or online. You must be able to convince them that this is the case before they can help you. You must not delay in obtaining the references.
4. You need to find additional papers to add to your annotated bibliography and literature review – you must find at least another three and at most another four. The important issue here is the quality of your review as opposed to how many papers you find.

Note that you must find these papers yourself – you can't just ask for suitable papers from your supervisor, although if you find reference to a paper which we do not have in our library, you can ask your supervisor if they have a copy.

If you have questions about the suitability of the papers you find, consult your supervisor.

The following conditions apply to your additional references:

- At most one of them can be a reference that only appears on the Web. All the others must appear in print (although they may also be available on the Web).
- They should not all come from the same conference or journal.
- If you are working on a topic that is similar to another student's topic, you must find references independently. It is not acceptable to ask students who have related topics for their assigned references.

- It is not sufficient just to find papers referenced in the three papers you are given – you must do a wider search.
5. Prepare an annotated bibliography of all six or seven papers.

You have been given an example of an annotated bibliography. In this example, Vashti Galpin has written in a style that uses complete sentences and full paragraphs. You can use bullet points and a more telegraphic style, but it should not be so terse that it cannot be understood. Your literature review must be focussed around the research question you have been given.
 6. Prepare a literature review – this should be presented as a background and related research chapter of a research proposal.

It is important that you describe the research question and use it to focus your literature review. Additionally you must give your literature review the appropriate structure and sections, including chapter introduction and conclusion. Clearly your document cannot completely address the area as the time and number of papers you have is limited. You will, however, be expected to do a thorough job based on the papers you have chosen. The document should be 5 to 6 pages long using 11 point text.
 7. Your documents must be typeset and must follow a \LaTeX system for reference citation and reference listing. Ask your supervisor if they have any preferred system. Note that some of the references you are given may be incomplete or incorrect – the references in your documents must be complete and correct.

3 Submission

Please see the Topic Outline for IRM 2017 for the submission dates for the annotated bibliography and the literature review documents. Both are due by 14h00. They must be submitted as hardcopies in the appropriate wooden box on the Upper Ground of the Mathematical Science Building. You must submit a signed declaration form with each submission.

At the same time, also submit hardcopies of your reference material – these will be returned to you on completion of marking; remember to write your name on it. I suggest you submit any document that you have printed out or photocopied. I also suggest that you keep a copy of the documents for yourself, since you will need them for the next phase, the Research Proposal. If you have only referred to a document online, ensure that its URL appears in your reference list. Please write your name on each document you submit.

Please keep Postscript and PDF versions of your annotated bibliography and literature review hand-ins, and all `*.tex` and `*.bib` files until the end of the year; it is possible that you'll be asked for them.

4 Assessment

This task counts 40% of your final mark for Introduction to Research Methods with 20% allocated to each part.

Your documents will be assessed by your supervisor and by myself. Your supervisor will be asked to comment on the documents and I will decide on the final mark.