

Building our annotated bibliography

These notes are designed to be used in conjunction with the general notes on generating annotated bibliographies which has also been deposited in EdShare.

<http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/6041/>

The detail of the notes is designed as guidance to post-graduate research students at the beginning of their studies. It might also be useful to taught post-graduates and advanced students at the end of their undergraduate studies.

Purpose

There are many purposes to this exercise is to

- 1) build knowledge and understanding of existing work which may be relevant.
You can subsequently use this understanding to structure the literature review section of your thesis/research
- 2) learn how to read and review academic publications
You need to develop your skills of criticality; reading with an analytical filter.
- 3) understand how good academic publications are constructed.
By reading and analysing you will become familiar with the structure of the literature.

Additional benefits which may accrue

- 1) you may be able to publish your findings as a journal article
 - a. if you conduct a systematic study over the set of publications in a given field (meta analysis)
 - b. if your analysis takes into account a systematic categorisation/analysis of aspects such as
 - i. approaches/methodologies
 - ii. focus

Don't expect to do this from the start. Its more likely that your understanding of a possible structure or format for this analysis will emerge after some initial readings/analysis. It may, therefore, require that you revisit and further analyse some parts of the literature a second time (especially those papers which you read first).

Your Approach: content pragmatics

You may wish to initially approach this task in some systematic way. You could for example choose papers drawn from:

- 1) a set of publications from a conference (or series of conferences);
- 2) a set of references from a significant existing study or set of studies;
- 3) a set of papers which reflect a historic progress through a known/established field;
- 4) a set of papers identified by systematic searching using bibliographic tools

You might expect to begin your bibliography and assemble it initially as a list sorted in alphabetic order by author.

You might subsequently refine the list by clustering the entries according to:

- 1) some set of general topic headings;
- 2) sorting them by reverse date order;
(if you were tracing historic development);
- 3) providing generic commentaries on the nature of publications across your topic areas.

Systematic Analysis

You may identify features which you think are common through the literature and decide to make a further systematic analysis, possibly a quantitative analysis of the papers you have examined. For example you might enumerate research approaches.

The contents

Sub Headings	Additional actions/guidance	Notes/observations
Full reference	Add this to some kind of bibliographic database	
Web reference	Include this after your standard reference	If there is no electronic version available it may be worth approaching the author and requesting if they can put it into the public domain, or even if they will let you do that Observe if there are any particular journals or publishers for whom this is frequently the case
Keywords	Define a list of words which you feel are helpful to the reader to understand how to categorise the paper	You may wish to build a taxonomy or ontology of your keywords so you can retain consistency across your categorisation You could use something like CMAP tools to model and publish this information
Annotation	Abstract in your own words Anything special you note: - The publication - The theoretical perspective and the methodology - The methods - The contribution - Any strong points - Any weak points - Your understanding of the paper in the wider context	This is where you apply analytical and critical thinking It should include a line which identifies the type of the publication and the type of the study

Building and publishing your bibliography

Since you are planning to use (at least parts of) your bibliography as a part of your transfer report.

Therefore you should probably develop your bibliography as a text documents – I would like you to save and maintain this is the Dropbox shared folder we have set up.

It would be useful to publish your bibliography as you develop it, by using a wiki.

You may also like to publish a blog which records your reflections on your progress through the task.

We have systems in ECS which you can use to create a wiki or a blog. I suggest that we either create a new project (or use an existing project) with which we can associate these publications.

This information can then be automatically aggregated to your automatic ECS home page