



Literature Review

Effective evaluation of selected documents on a research topic

Type of the methodology: Information inquiry, knowledge enhancement

Description:

It is about the focused and elaborated search of information in printed or digital scientific literature. It contains of following steps:

1. Preparation
 - a. setting a deadline for finalizing the search
 - b. defining a clear research question that determines the search space
 - c. identifying search criteria including synonyms and translations
 - d. defining the type and scope of the search, e.g., books, journals, conferences
 - e. selecting the sources for search, e.g., library catalogues, search engines
2. (Re-)Search – executing search process in the scope as defined in previous step
3. Choice and Evaluation
 - a. selecting the relevant literature of the search research results
 - b. eventually, using this selection for further search in another step (snow-ball system)
4. Acquisition of the selected literature – depending on its type, e.g., buying or borrowing the book, downloading from the digital library
5. Documentation – documenting the literature review process and the results of the analysis, comparison, etc.

Usage:

Areas of use – in all (research) domains needed

Areas/Time of use – at the beginning of a (research) project to understand the subject chosen, to learn the backgrounds and the state of the art in that domain, to prepare the base for developing new ideas as well as to limit the scope of the research

Literature:

- Franke, Fabian; Klein, Annette; Schüller-Zwierlein, André: Schlüsselkompetenzen: Literatur recherchieren in Bibliotheken und Internet. Metzler, 2010, Stuttgart
- Ackerson, Linda G.: Literature search strategies for interdisciplinary research. A sourcebook for scientists and engineers. Scarecrow Press, 2007, Lanham
- Niedermair, Klaus: Recherchieren und Dokumentieren, der richtige Umfang mit Literatur im Studium. UVK-Verl.-Ges., 2010, Konstanz

Assignment in the course:

Undertake literature research regarding the topic according to the mentioned steps :

- Prepare, (Re-)Search, Choice and Evaluation, Acquisition of the literature, Documentation
- At least 5 scientific literature references per team-member
- 3-5 pages summary per team member
- Use each reference only once within your group
- max. 20% quotes and images
- Hand in ONE file, including all team-member's documents (.zip)