

# How to write a literature review

# **The three major challenges of a literature review:**

- Search for scientific original research papers relevant to a specific subject.
- Find the most important information as efficiently as possible.
- Summarize the aims, findings and conclusions in a short summary.

# My favorite search engines for research articles

- **Pubmed:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>
- **ISI Web of Knowledge :**  
[http://apps.isiknowledge.com/UA\\_GeneralSearch\\_input.do?product=UA&search\\_mode=GeneralSearch&SID=4BiDDJNjLkmJlC9HCEI&preferencesSave\\_d=](http://apps.isiknowledge.com/UA_GeneralSearch_input.do?product=UA&search_mode=GeneralSearch&SID=4BiDDJNjLkmJlC9HCEI&preferencesSave_d=)
- **Google Scholar:** <http://scholar.google.com/>

# Critical analysis of a research article

- **Summary of main aims, methods and findings:**
  - What are the specific aims of the article?
  - Which methods were used and what are the main results?
  - What are the authors' main conclusions?
- **Critical Reading:**
  - Do the methods used have any limitations?
  - Do you agree with the author's conclusions?
  - How original is the article?
  - How significant is the article?

# Other issues

- Fluent writing
- Short and clear sentences
- Plagiarism