

Writing a Bachelor's Thesis in Cognitive and Decision Sciences

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Today

- Discuss research questions
- Literature search
- Reading and administrating

Research Questions

- Did you settle directly?
- What problems did you encounter?
 - Narrowing down?
 - Finding literature?

Your Questions

- How do field x and y differ in how they apply A and B heuristic?
- Is it adaptive to underweigh base rates.
- How does personality influence what features of food are important?

Literature Search

- www.ub.unibas.ch
- Online data bases
 - Google Scholar scholar.google.com
 - Web of Science www.webofknowledge.com
- SFX unibas linker
 - You will need unibas vpn (or search from uni)
 - <http://mobile.unibas.ch/>

Literature Search

- Define your search terms
 - Look the terms used in the papers you already found
 - www.spell-check-thesaurus.com for finding synonyms
 - Translate German to English dict.leo.org, translate.google.com
- Use advanced search to...
 - Force searching on ignored words: + ...
 - Exclude from search: - ...
 - Find exact word combinations: “... ..”
 - Search for any out of more terms: ... OR ...
 - Search in title: intitle: ...

Literature Search

- You found a good and relevant paper?
Great, ...
 - Check out the reference list
 - Ask google scholar who cited the good paper (google scholar)
 - Search in citations
 - Look for “similar articles” (google scholar)

Literature Search

- Use recent articles (if available)
- Have some bias for widely known journals
 - E.g., psychological review, science, journal of experimental psychology, Annual Review of Psychology, Psychological Bulletin, Psychological Methods
- Have some bias for relevant journals
 - E.g., Journal of judgement and decision making, cognitive science, cognition, Journal of Behavioral Decision Making
- Review chapters in books
- Textbooks only for a first idea on a topic
- Use Wikipedia only as “thesaurus”

Literature Search

- Managing your papers
 - Save pdf with a good naming scheme (e.g., author_year.pdf)
 - Use folders for several sub-subjects
 - Delete papers that were not useful
 - Don't be too sparing with printing
 - Alternatively, keep word document with references hyperlinking to online papers
- Software for managing citations
 - LaTeX (BibTeX)
 - JabRef (BibTeX) contains pdf manager
 - Endnote (commercial, addition to microsoft office)

Literature Search

JabRef - /home/alver/jabdoc/main_base.bib

File Edit View BibTeX Tools Web search Plugins Options Help

Groups: tre_entries.bib \ example_entries.bib \ main_base.bib \

#	Entry...	Author ▲	Title	Year ▼	Journal	Timesta...
73	Article	Breckling et al.	Individual-based models as tools for e...	2006	Ecologic...	2006.0...
74	Article	Brett and Müller-Navarra	The role of highly unsaturated fatty aci...	1997	Freshwa...	
75	Article	Bricaud et al.	Optical-properties of diverse phytopla...	1988	Journal ...	2011.0...
76	Article	Bricaud et al.	Natural variability of phytoplanktonic a...	2004	Journal ...	2011.0...
77	Article	Bricaud et al.	Variations of light absorption by suspe...	1998	Journal ...	2010.1...
78	Article	Bricaud et al.	Absorption by dissolved organic matte...	1981	Limnolo...	2011.0...
79	Article	Browman	Embryology, ethology and ecology of o...	1989	Brain Be...	
80	Article	Browman et al.	Perspectives on ecosystem-based app...	2004	Marine E...	
81	Inbook	Brown and N(\u{x}\~n)es	Fish Diseases and Disorders	1998		2006.0...
82	Article	Brown	Toward a metabolic theory of ecology	2004	Ecology	2008.1...
83	Article	Brown et al.	Larviculture of Atlantic cod (\textit{Gad...	2003	Aquacult...	
84	Article	Brown et al.	The use of behavioural observations in...	1997	Aquacult...	
85	Article	Brown et al.	Nutritional properties of microalgae for...	1997	Aquacult...	2005.1...

Settings

Search

Search All Fields

Clear

Incremental

Float

Filter

Show results in dialog

Global search

Settings

Article

Required fields Optional fields General Abstract Review BibTeX source

Author: Bricaud, A. and Bedhomme, A. L. and Morel, A.

Title: Optical-properties of diverse phytoplanktonic species -- Experimental results and theoretical interpretation

Journal: Journal of Plankton Research

Year: 1988

Volume: 10

Pages: 851--873

Editor:

Bibtexkey: Bricaud1988

Status: Preferences recorded.

Reading

- Ask yourself: Why do I read this article?
 - Read with this goal in mind
- First scan:
 - Title
 - Abstract
 - Figures + captions
 - Discussion
 - Introduction
- Make yourself familiar with the structure
 - Introduction
 - Method (sometimes more than 1)
 - Results (sometimes more than 1)
 - Discussion

Reading

- Introduction
 - What is the main topic and its importance
 - Relation to relevant existing literature
 - For finding references
 - hypotheses / questions
 - How are these hypotheses translated into predictions on the variable level
- Method
 - How were variables measured
 - How were manipulations implemented
 - Often: preview of analyses

Reading

- Results
 - Summary of the hypotheses tests
 - Additional exploratory findings
- Discussion
 - Links results back to the theoretical level of the introduction
 - Main conclusions
 - Literature that supports and contradicts the article's findings
 - Outlook to future research

Reading

- Keep a file with interesting literature
 - Add keywords
 - Include correct citation
 - Consider using JabRef for this
- Found a crucial claim?
 - Summarize (1/2 sentences) directly in your thesis document with the correct reference
- Mark important text and write notes
- Did the article meet your reading goals?
 - Yes: great, proceed to reading the most important references.
 - No: Does the paper refer to work that might meet your goal?

“homework”

- Create two files called
 - thesis.doc
 - possibly_relevant_references.doc
- Read around your topic
- Add eventual relevant references to possibly_relevant_references.doc
- Add relevant findings to your thesis.doc
- Add references to thesis.doc
- Continue reshaping your question