Welcome to the Resources of Literature Reviews presentation. My name is Theresa Calcagno and I am the IT and Engineering Librarian here at Mason.
The goals of this presentation is to introduce myself and show you some resources you can use when conducting your literature reviews.

The slide above contains my contact and office drop-in hours information. There are several different ways you can get help from me. You can

1. Email me your questions and I will try and respond within 24 hours.
2. Make an appointment to see me using the link on this page: infoguides.gmu.edu/theresa_Calcagno. If no times will work, then call or email me to set up an appointment that will work.
3. Stop by my drop-in office hours in the Nguyen on either Mondays (12:30-2:30 PM) or Thursdays (3-5 PM).
4. Most Fridays I will be on the Sci/Tech Campus in Manassas. If you would like to meet on a Friday, it is best to email me directly to set this up.
You’ve already been talking about literature reviews and what they are. One thing that is very important to remember is that lit reviews are not a “one and done” task. They need to be ongoing throughout the course of your research project, especially a master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation project. New research papers are published daily, and it is important that you continue searching for new materials as your project progresses. For a class project, of course, the time for your lit review will be shorter because of the class deadlines. There are ways to automate some of this searching so that new information is pushed to you via email. We’ll talk about this in a little bit.
There is a type of literature review called a “systematic review.” If this type of literature review, all types of publications and resources are searched including:

1. Journal articles & books;
2. Other, published literature reviews (usually in scholarly journals);
3. Conference presentations and papers, technical reports, dissertations and theses and more. These types of documents are called “grey literature;” and
4. Web resources including white papers from working papers from research groups and corporations, tech blogs, new websites, government documents and government agency websites.

For the scope of your current project, it may not be necessary to search in all these areas to put together a well researched and written literature. But if you are not finding what you need in traditional information resources (#1-3), then you definitely should do some searching on the Internet to see what may be available.
When doing your research, you need to start on either the Mason Library’s website: https://library.gmu.edu/on an infoguide (https://infoguides.gmu.edu). For today’s presentation, we will start on the IT infoguide which is here https://infoguides.gmu.edu/IST . This research guide provides easy access to resources to use to search the literature, resources for writing your paper and citing your sources and information about library services.

If you use Google Scholar to search, that is good. Have you paired it with the Mason Libraries so that you get links to Mason resources when you search? If not, there are direction on how to do this on the Find Articles page ➔ Core Databases box ➔ PDF file at the bottom of the “General” tab. Doing this will help make access to articles on Google Scholar more seamless.
The Find Articles page on the IT infoguides lists the recommended (Core) databases that you should start with. They have been divided into several tabs including:

1. General – These are multidisciplinary databases. **ScienceDirect and Web of Science** are multidisciplinary in the sciences and social sciences.

2. Technical – These are databases containing research developing and applying new technologies. **ACM, IEEE and INSPEC** are good databases to use here.

3. Business – these databases cover business, economics, management, and more. **ABI/Inform** is a good database to start with because it also includes government reports.

4. Dissertations & Theses – Searching these databases can be helpful especially if you are working on a new or emerging technology. If you find a dissertation or thesis related to your topic, there are bound to be many references cited that you should review to find relevant articles you do not have.

5. Do you need patents or standards? Contact the librarian for help.
Here are some search tips for using ScienceDirect:

1. Use the Advanced Search. There are more search options available and you can create more sophisticated searches.

2. On the Advanced Search page, select the Journals tab and then scroll to the bottom to check the Article and Review article boxes. You will now be searching only for original research papers and literature review articles.

3. Consider limiting the publication date range, especially if your research is relatively new.

4. When you get your results, they will be ranked by relevance so the articles matching your search the best will be at the top of the list.

5. The results will include newer articles that have been accepted for publication in a journal but are only posted online right now. If you see red text saying “In Press” or something like “Manuscript accepted” then these are “in-press articles.” You can use in-press articles in your paper, but make sure to cite them as “in-press.” Let me know if you have questions about doing that.

6. When you open an article to look at, make sure you use the Recommended Articles and Citing Articles to expand your research.
   
   1. The Recommended Articles are related to the original article you’ve chosen and can help you find articles you didn’t know about.
   
   2. The Citing Articles are newer articles that have cited the chosen article. The Citing articles will help you find newer research has been done on your topic.
Web of Science is another multidisciplinary database that is very helpful. The default search is good to start with and there are search options that you can consider as you set your search up. You can also add more search boxes so that one term can be searched in the topic and another can be searched in the title.

When you get your results, full text may not be available for all articles. Look for the GREEN MasonLink+ button. This app will search out other databases for a full-text copy. If one is found, you will get a link. If full-text is not found, you can request that the Library locate a copy by using our Interlibrary Loan Service. You can access the request form here https://gmu.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/VGM/logon.html

Web of Science’s strength is the citing article information it provides. When you do a search, look at the right of the results page to find the Times Cited information. Clicking on the number will bring up a list of all the articles that have cited the one you have chosen. All of these articles are newer than the original, so the citing articles will help you expand your research timeline closer to the present day.

The results are usually ranked in reverse date order (newest first). If you want to see what paper has been cited the most, then click the “Times Cited” link above the results list. Doing this will help you identify the highly cited papers that may be considered seminal papers.
You’ve been doing a lot of searching and now you want to automate it. How can you do this? There are two ways:

1. Set up a JTOCS alert ([https://library.gmu.edu/use/tech/journaltools](https://library.gmu.edu/use/tech/journaltools)). For this alert, you choose the journals that interest you the most. When a new issue is published, you will receive a linked table of contents via email. You can quickly review the TOC to see if any of the articles are relevant.

2. Set up search alerts in the databases you use. With a search alert, you can customize the search by specifying keywords, dates, etc. The databases you have chosen will run this search regularly and the search results (usually links to articles) will be pushed out to your email. The slide shows the major databases that provide this service. Frequently, search results can be delivered once a week or once a month, your choice.

These search alerts do 2 different things, but they can help you stay up-to-date without too much extra work!
Another tool you can use to help manage your research is citation management software. There are 2 free software applications for which the library provides support:

1. Zotero - [https://www.zotero.org/](https://www.zotero.org/)  
   Zotero software is an easy to use app that when open on your computer, it will help you gather and store the document information needed to create a citation. As you are typing your paper, Zotero tracks the in-text citations you are doing. When you are ready to create the reference list, Zotero will do it for you in the citation style you specified when you click “Generate Bibliography.”

   Zotero can also:
   1. store PDFs of articles or links to articles in your library.
   2. Provide a group space for members of a research team to share the information they are finding.

2. Mendeley - [https://www.zotero.org/](https://www.zotero.org/)  
   Mendely provides the same types of resources that Zotero does, but it has other resources too. Mendeley includes a “research community” of several million users who can get share their research with one anoher, or get information jobs/careers, datasets and more.
If you have questions related to library resources and research or services, please don’t hesitate to contact me. tcalcagn@gmu.edu

Good luck with your project!
For more information
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