

# How To Write A Literature Review

CS492 - Senior Project in Computer Science 1



# What Is A Literature Review?

- An effective summary and synthesis of selected documents on a research topic. It may also include elements of evaluation
- A critical synthesis of previous research which leads logically to the research question(s) that you wish to ask/explore in your project or dissertation



# Purpose Of A Literature Review

- Provides an overview of what has been said in the field
- Summarises who the key writers in the field are
- Summarises key theories, models, hypotheses, research findings and more?
- Discusses what questions are being asked in the field



# Purpose Of A Literature Review

- To establish the context for the topic/problem
- To place the writer's research in its historical context
- To synthesise and gain new points of view
- To highlight the significance of a particular issues or problems
- To distinguish what has been done from what needs to be done.



# Features Of A Literature Review

What do you think makes a good / bad Literature Review?

## Poor Literature Reviews

Confusing and wordy

Is essentially an annotated bibliography

Uses only a minimum amount of sources

Only summarises the literature

## Good Literature Reviews

Clear and concise

Synthesises available research

Uses a wide range of relevant, up-to-date sources

Evaluates, compares, contrasts and comments on the literature where possible

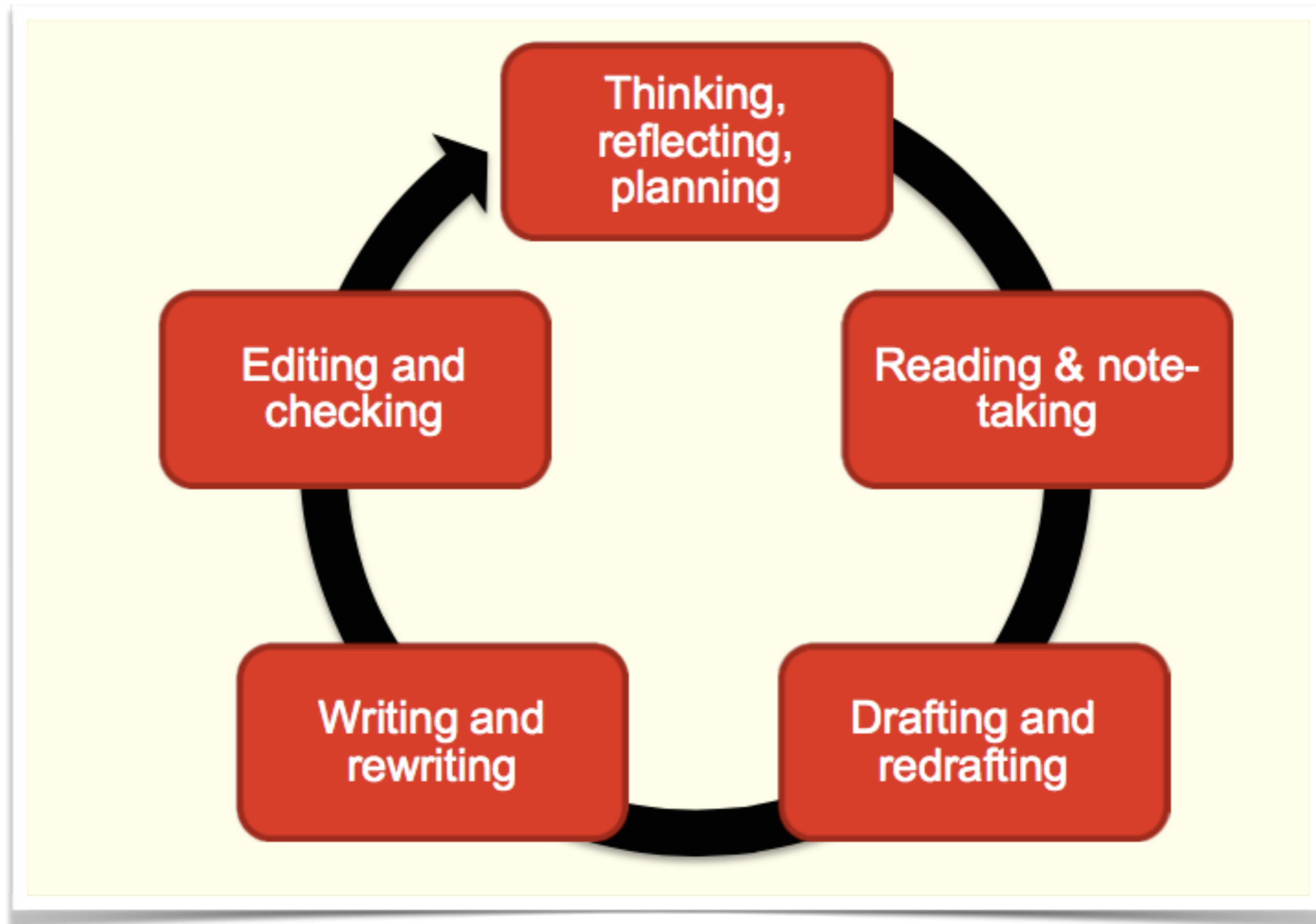


# The different stages when writing a Literature Review

1. Thinking of ideas
2. Sources
3. Narrowing
4. Notes
5. Assessment
6. Planning
7. Write, and rewrite

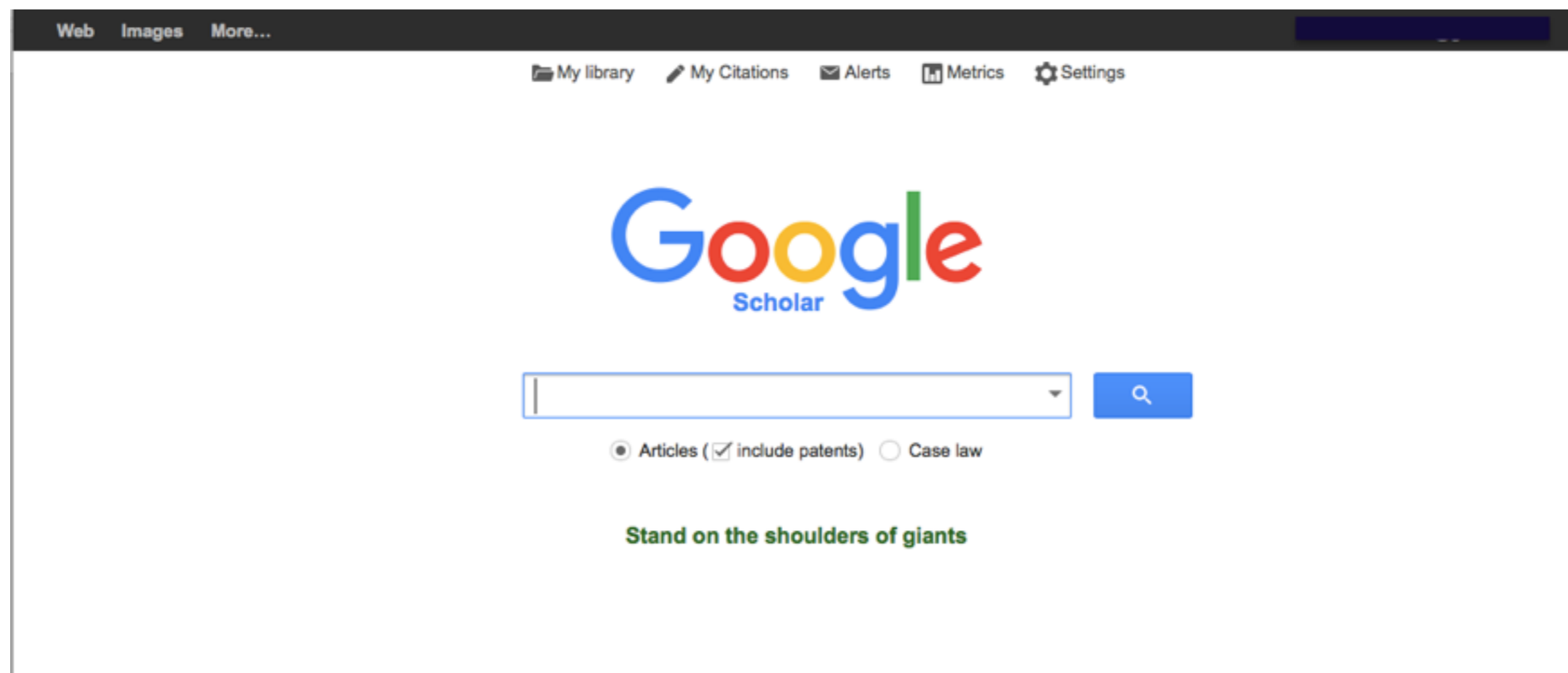


# What do you think are the different stages when writing a Literature Review?



# Where to find a scientific reference

[scholar.google.com](https://scholar.google.com)





# Where to find a scientific reference

[sdl.edu.sa](http://sdl.edu.sa)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Saudi Digital Library (SDL). The header includes a dark bar with navigation links: 'اتصل بنا' (Contact Us), social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, a user profile icon with the name 'fawaz.alarfaj', and a language selector set to 'English'. Below the header is the SDL logo. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- الرئيسية** (Home): العودة للصفحة الأولى (Return to the first page)
- من نحن** (About Us): تعريف بالمكتبة الرقمية (Digital library definition)
- التدريب** (Training): التدريبات المقامة (Organized trainings)
- إيداع الرسائل العلمية** (Deposit of scientific messages): إدارة الرسائل العلمية (Management of scientific messages)
- المركز الإعلامي** (Media Center): الصور والمعلومات العلمية (Scientific images and information)
- سياسة وأدلة الاستخدام** (Policy and usage guide): أدلة استخدام البوابة (Portal usage guide)

Below these sections is a large search bar with the text 'البحث الموحد...' (Unified search...) and a search icon. To the left of the search bar is a green button labeled 'بحث' (Search). Below the search bar is a link for 'بحث متقدم' (Advanced search). At the bottom of the main content area, there is a row of seven icons representing different services:

- قواعد المعلومات التجريبية (Experimental information rules)
- التصنيف الموضوعي (Subject classification)
- الأرشيف (Archive)
- الرسائل الجامعية (University messages)
- الكتب الإلكترونية (Electronic books)
- قواعد المعلومات الأجنبية (Foreign information rules)
- قواعد المعلومات العربية (Arabic information rules)



# Where to find a scientific reference

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