

CMPT 880/890

The literature review

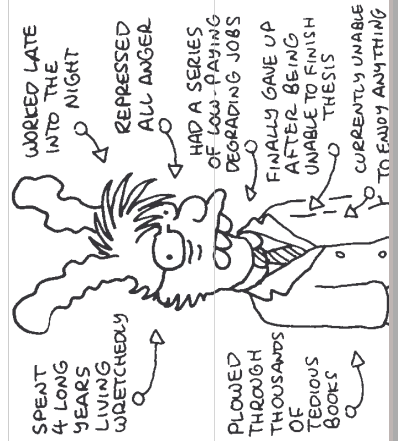
SCHOOL IS HELL BUT IT BEATS WORKING

SHOULD YOU GO TO GRAD SCHOOL? A WEE TEST

- T F
- ☐ I AM A COMPULSIVE NEUROTIC.
 - ☐ I LIKE MY IMAGINATION CRUSHED INTO DUST.
 - ☐ I ENJOY BEING A PROFESSOR'S SLAVE.
 - ☐ MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME IS USING JARGON AND CITING AUTHORITIES.
 - ☐ I FEEL A DEEP NEED TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF AVOIDING LIFE.

MEET THE BITTEREST PERSON IN THE WORLD

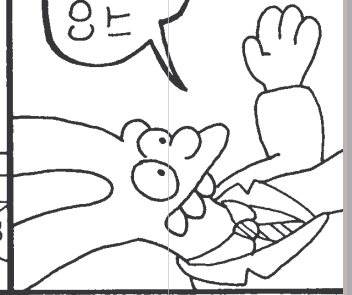
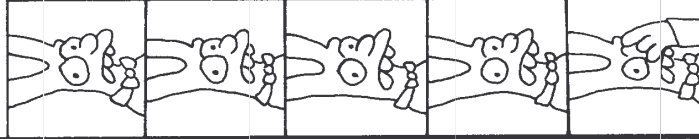
THE GRAD SCHOOL DROPOUT



LESSON 19: GRAD SCHOOL- SOME PEOPLE NEVER LEARN

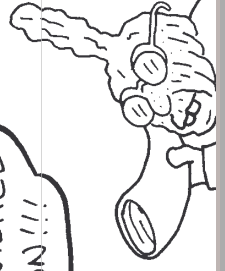
THE 5 SECRETS OF GRAD SCHOOL SUCCESS

1. DO NOT ANNOY THE PROFESSOR.
2. BE CONSISTENTLY MEDIOCRE.
3. AVOID ANYTHING SMACKING OF ORIGINALITY.
4. DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE TOLD.
5. STOP READING THIS CARTOON RIGHT NOW AND GET BACK TO WORK.



CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU DID IT!!! YOU FINALLY FINISHED YOUR DISSERTATION!!!

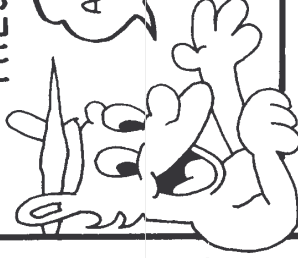
EH? SPEAK UP, SONNY.



THE SIMPLE WAY TO AVOID THE STOMACH-CHURNING AGONY OF HAVING TO FINISH YOUR THESIS

READ ANOTHER BOOK.

REPEAT WHEN NECESSARY.



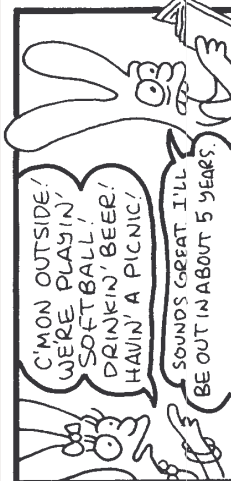
WILL YOUR RESEARCH MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

YEAH. SURE.



C'MON OUTSIDE! WE'RE PLAYIN' SOFTBALL! DRINKIN' BEER! HAVIN' A PICNIC!

SOUNDS GREAT. I'LL BE OUT IN ABOUT 5 YEARS.



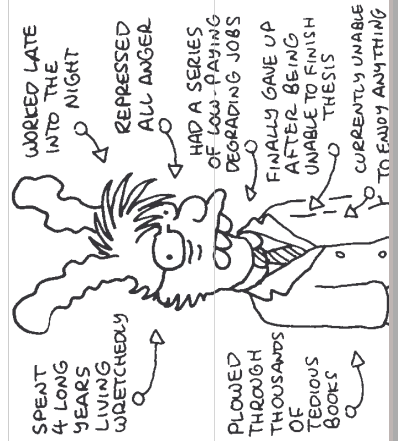
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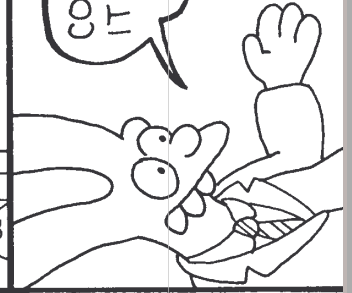
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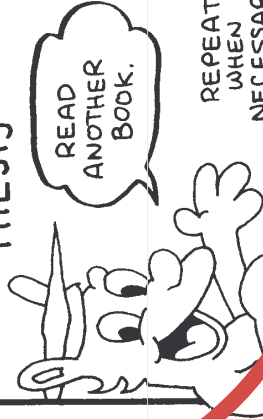


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WHEN
NECESSARY.

WILL YOUR RESEARCH MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

YEAH.
SURE.



SOME PEOPLE
DROPOUT IN ABOUT 5 YEARS.

Outline

- (From last week: what's your problem / question?)
- What is a literature review
- How to read papers in your area
- How do you decide what to put in
- How should it be organized

Tell me your problems...

- Interest
- Topic area
- General problem
- Specific problem
- (if known)

What is a literature review?

- “A critical, analytical summary and synthesis of the current knowledge of a topic”
- What do your readers need to know:
 - in order to understand your work?
 - What is the background?
 - Basic concepts and definitions
 - in order to believe your claims?
 - “X is a problem”
 - “X is worth solving”
 - “The current best way to solve X is Y”
 - “No one has attempted Z as a solution to X”

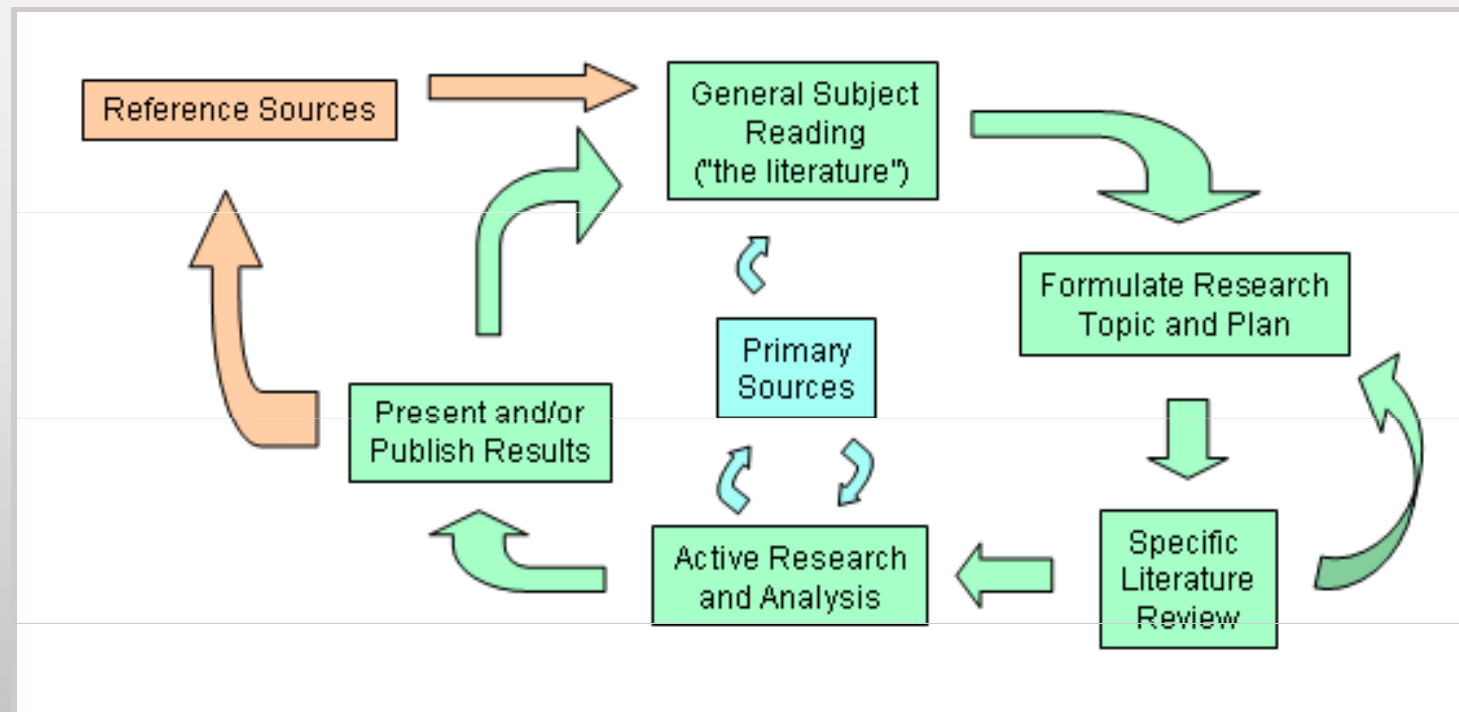
Not (good) literature reviews

- Reports on what you read
 - (Why should your reader read this?)
- Summaries without analysis
 - (“...and then Smith reported A [12]; and then Jones reported B [14]. OK, next topic:”)
- “Rather than a chronological listing of previous work, though, literature reviews are usually organized thematically (different theoretical approaches, methodologies, or specific issues involved in the topic).”
- “A thematic organization makes it much easier to examine contrasting perspectives, and to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of previous research.”
- “A literature review may offer new interpretations, theoretical approaches, or other ideas; if it is part of a research proposal or report it should demonstrate the relationship of the proposed or reported research to others' work; but whatever else it does, it must provide a critical overview of the current state of research efforts.”

Types of literature reviews

- Stand-alone lit review
 - E.g., ACM Computing Surveys
- Literature review for a proposal
 - Grant proposal, thesis/dissertation proposal
- Literature review for a report
 - Paper or thesis

The reading cycle



“The literature”

- Primary
 - Published papers in conferences or journals
 - Papers in books
 - Research monographs
 - Technical reports? Web pages?
 - What degree of authority does this source provide?

“The literature”

- Secondary / Tertiary
 - Other summaries and review articles
 - Textbooks
 - Encyclopedias (what about Wikipedia?)

Structure of a lit review

- Divide into main sections
 - What general areas does your question relate to?
 - E.g., human perception of colour, colour-blindness, information visualizations, adaptive recoloring
- What do you want to say about each area?
 - Simple background information?
 - Support for a claim?
- What are the issues / principles / approaches in each area of previous research?
- What argument do you want to make in each section?