

LMU

LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

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ARBEITSGRUPPEN MEDIENINFORMATIK UND
MENSCH-MASCHINE-INTERAKTION

Reviewing by Literature



Agenda

I. Literature Resources

II. Conducting a Literature Review

III. Discussion



Motivation

- Early in their research, most students are advised by their supervisors to “study the literature“
- In the beginning it is often hard to know what this means, and where to start

Literature Resources

- Books
- Journals
- Conference and Workshop proceedings
- Reports
- Newspapers, Magazines, Radio and TV
- Internet
- Other Resources

Books

- Textbooks:
 - Useful as introductory sources
 - Give guidance on particular methods or techniques
 - Are aimed to students on taught courses NOT at academic researchers!!
- Monographs
 - Are aimed at an academic audience (can be cited)
 - Often survey a field in depth and discuss ideas in detail

Journals

- There you should find information on the current thinking and research
- Can be useful to start first with journal articles that are themselves a survey of the literature on a particular topic
- Journals containing “refereed” articles are rated more highly than those with non-refereed articles
- Can take two years or more before appearing in print

Journal Rankings

Ranked MIS Journals (Based on ISWorld)		Literature Vendor (Database)											
		ProQuest (ABI/INFORM)	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	INFORMS	IEEE (Comp Soc & Xplore)	Wilson (OmniFile)	Thomson (G. Bus, OneFile)	ACM (Digital Lib)	JSTOR	Blackwell (Synergy)	LEA Journals	EBSCOhost	Free Full Text Web Access
No.	Journal Name												
1	MIS Quarterly	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-
2	Information Systems Research	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-
3	Communications of the ACM	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
4	Management Science	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
5	Journal of MIS	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Artificial Intelligence	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Decision Sciences	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-
8	Harvard Business Review	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	IEEE Transactions (various)	-	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
10	AI Magazine	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	European Journal of IS	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Decision Support Systems	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	IEEE Software	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓
14	Information & Management	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	ACM Transactions on DB Sys	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Levvy and Ellis 2006

Other (German) Ranking: VHB Jourqual: <http://vhbonline.org/service/jourqual/>

Conference and Workshop proceedings

- There you can find the most up-to-date theories
- Can be difficult for students to know the standard of a conference
- Can be hard to obtain copies of conference and workshop papers

Reports

- Market research reports (e.g. by consultancy groups)
- Government reports
- Often difficult to obtain / expensive
- Most of them are not reviewed by objective outsiders
- Always question the interests of the publisher

Newspapers, Magazines, Radio and TV

- Can be valuable resources for up-to-date information
- Often easy to access online
- Useful for finding a way into a subject
- Many press and broadcasting organizations are biased politically or geographically
- No peer review

Internet

- Includes many of the just mentioned resources as a digital copy
- Note that anyone can at any time put material online and offline
- Easy to download tons of material but you also have to read them
- Don't lose yourself in too many links

Other Resources

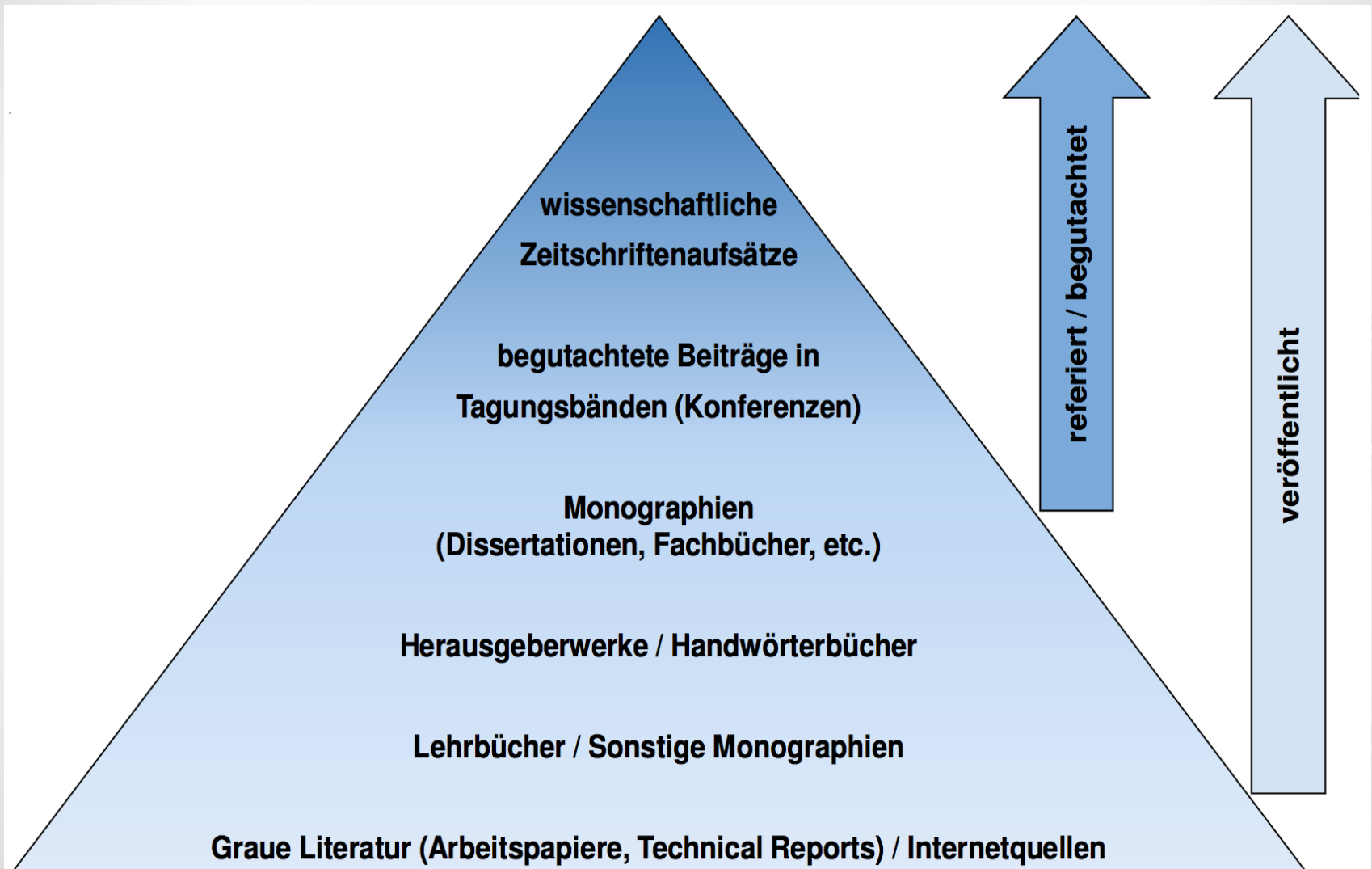
- Multimedia “literature“
- Gateways (academic portals)
- Resource catalogues and online databases (like: opac)
- Online literature search services (see next Slide)
- People

Selection of Literature Search Services

- ACM Digital Library: <http://dl.acm.org/dl.cfm>
- CiteSeerx: <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu>
- EBSCOhost: <http://search.ebscohost.com/>
- Google Scholar: <http://scholar.google.de>
- IEEE Xplore: <http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/>
- IngentaConnect: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/>
- JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/>
- Microsoft Academic Search: <http://academic.research.microsoft.com/>
- Science Direct: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/>
- Scirus: <http://www.scirus.com/>
- Web of Knowledge: <http://wokinfo.com/>
- Base Search: <http://www.base-search.net/>
- WorldCat: <http://www.worldcat.org/>



Summary



Conducting a Literature Review

- Searching
- Obtaining
- Assessing
- Reading
- Critically evaluating
- Writing a critical review
- Never plagiarize



Searching

- Initially define some keywords or search terms
- Use search engines and online databases to produce a list of potentially useful references
- Think about your topic and clarify your ideas
- Define your topic in one phrase
- Develop a (new) list of potentially useful references

Obtaining

- Check the catalogue of your library
<https://opacplus-ub-uni-muenchen-de.emedien.ub.uni-muenchen.de/>
- Use inter-library loan
- LMU students can access a huge range of E-Media for free
- Other university websites can also be helpful

Assessing

- Assess the credibility of any text that you find
- Questions you can ask yourself about a text:
(e.g. book)
 - Is the author someone eminent in the field?
 - Have you heard of the publisher before?
 - Is the publisher a university press?
 - Is the book in a subsequent edition?

- Questions you can ask yourself about a Journal:
 - Is it aimed at academics or practitioners?
 - How long has the Journal existed? (look at the volume number)
 - Does the Journal provide a list of its editorial board and advisors and do these people seem to be of high standing?
 - Does the Journal state clearly its policy for reviewing articles? (Concentrate on articles that are peer reviewed)

- Questions you can ask yourself about conferences and workshops:
 - Is it an academic conference?
 - Is the conference or workshop well established?
 - Does the conference or workshop give details about its programme committee?
 - Does it make clear its reviewing policy or were all papers accepted for presentation?

- Questions you can ask yourself about Internet sources:
 - Does the website make clear who owns it and provide contact details if you want to query something?
 - Does the website seem to be authoritative (e.g. owned by an university or government)?
 - Does the website make clear its purpose, including any disclaimers?
 - Does the website show when it was last updated and is it up-to-date?

Reading

- Academic reading means to “gut“ a text quickly
- If available concentrate first on the abstract
- Look at the section headings
- Usually you find key ideas of a paragraph in the first and last sentences

Critically evaluating

- Evaluate the relevance of a text to your own research
- Are there parts you disagree with?
- Even high quality papers can have omissions

Recording

- Devise a system to keep track of the material you're reading and evaluating
- Keep note of:
 - A brief summary of the content
 - A brief summary of your evaluation
 - Bibliographic details of literature source (Citavi, EndNote...)
- Backup copies of your electronic datas

Writing a critical review

- It's not a summary of everything you have read
- It's a discussion of only the material you have read that is directly relevant to your research
- Don't make your review author-centric, but structure around concepts
- Check details of the referencing system you are expected to use

Plagiarism

- Means that you have used someone else's words or ideas without giving them credit
- Don't Copy/Paste
- Avoid plagiarism by quoting !!



Take-Home Messages

- Wikipedia, Newspapers, Textbooks... provide a good introduction to the subject, but they're not scientific literature
- Use Monographs and (peer reviewed) Journals as scientific sources
- Make a step-by-step structured literature review
- Always evaluate critically

Discussion



Sources

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