

## Reading

GRS Writing Group – WED 23 AUG 2017

---

It has been estimated that over 50 million journal articles have been published since 1665 and currently PubMed adds 1 paper per minute to its database. So reviewing the literature for a thesis, and keeping up to date with new articles as they are published, is difficult. The thesis whisperer recommends you are cunning in your approach by “reading like a mongrel”.

I would advise:

1. Mapping what you know before you begin – MindMaps will help you identify your keywords, focus your searching & read with purpose.
2. Don't be afraid to begin expanding your understanding of your topic using 'non-academic' sources like introductory textbooks, Google and Wikipedia.
3. Prioritise articles based on the relevance of the content to your research. Don't download every single article, do not read every article in detail & do not read every article from front to back.
4. Read in detail only the most relevant papers – skim the remaining articles. To know how to skim you need to understand the academic structure of articles in your discipline area.
5. Take note of the authors, key words, key references, & citation index, and research metrics (like impact factor) but remember that popularity does not always equate to quality or relevance.
6. Add notes about this paper to your MindMap to test both your understanding of the paper & its relevance to your thesis.
7. Keep a note book handy – your mind will connect to other things while you are reading an article. But try to keep on track with the original reason for reading the article. Otherwise you will develop 'readitis'.



The Thesis Whisperers Blog “Reading like a Mongrel”

[www.thethesiswhisperer.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/reading-like-a-mongrel](http://www.thethesiswhisperer.wordpress.com/2011/03/08/reading-like-a-mongrel)

American Psychological Association gradPSYCH magazine “Sink or Skim”:

<http://www.apa.org/gradpsych/2010/11/skim.aspx>

The Thesis Whisperers Blog “How a librarian can be a postgrad’s best friend”:

<http://thethesiswhisperer.wordpress.com/2011/04/14/how-a-librarian-can-be-a-postgrads-best-friend/>

The contact details of UWA librarians (& their online LibGuides):

[www.library.uwa.edu.au/contact](http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/contact)

<http://guides.library.uwa.edu.au>

The information explosion and publishing statistics:

[duncan.hull.name/2010/07/15/fifty-million/](http://duncan.hull.name/2010/07/15/fifty-million/)

[thefutureofpublishing.com/influences/the-information-explosion-and-its-impact-on-the-future-of-publishing/](http://thefutureofpublishing.com/influences/the-information-explosion-and-its-impact-on-the-future-of-publishing/)

<http://www.cdsciencepub.com/blog/21st-century-science-overload.aspx>

For more information about Boolean operators see:

[adbonline.anu.edu.au/help-boolean.htm](http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/help-boolean.htm)

Next session: WED SEP 6 Reverse Outlines and Revising Flow

Further details of the UWA GRS Writing Group, including advice sheets to download, here:

[www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/communities#writinggroup](http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/communities#writinggroup)