

Literature Search

ECE 699 Cryptographic Engineering

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Obtaining Sources

Definitions

● Bibliography Hunt

- Finds *some* references to *sufficiently* support a scholarly paper.
- Perfect start to narrow down a topic.
- Result is just a list of references.

● Literature Search

- Attempts to find *all* references on a highly specific topic.
- Result is a sorted and commented list.

● Literature Review

- Analytically discusses the results of a literature search.
- It's an essential part of your thesis or dissertation.

More details on literature search can be found on the *Literature Search Home Page* at

<http://lilt.ilstu.edu/psanders/litsearch.htm>

Format of Literature Search Results

- Start with the title of your topic
- Write an introductory paragraph.
- Order and categorize the search results.
- Write short sentences about each source that help you identifying the main point of the source i.e. the reason why you list this source.
- A single sentence can reference more than one source.
- Sources should be references by name and identifier, e.g. Kaps [KY09a]
- Identifier as: First three letters of single author's last name followed by year e.g. [Kap08] or first letter of last name of every author followed by year, and in case of multiple papers with same identifier followed by lowercase letter a, b, c, ...

Format of a Literature Review

A *literature review* as a stand-alone document consists of three sections.

- Introduction to the topic
- The actual literature review
- Observations and conclusions

Previous Work

The actual literature review is also called *Previous Work* and is a Chapter of your thesis / dissertation or a section of your research paper.

Allowable Sources

Below is a list of valid sources for a literature search and review in order of usefulness and credibility.

- 1 Books
- 2 Doctoral dissertation, Masters thesis
- 3 Peer-reviewed journal papers
- 4 Peer-reviewed conference papers
- 5 Standards, Government publications
- 6 Technical reports
- 7 Manuals
- 8 Magazines, Newspapers
- 9 Websites

Resources

- Resources for Writing Literature Searches / Reviews
 - GMU Writing Center
 - Literature Search Home Page
 - Conducting a Literature Search (PSU)
 - Literature Reviews (UNC)
 - A Few Tips On Conducting a Literature Review (U-Toronto)
- Resources for Finding Sources
 - GMU Library
 - Inspec / Engineering Village
 - IEEE Xplore
 - ACM Digital Library
 - Springer LINK
 - DBLP Computer Science Bibliography
 - Cryptology ePrint Archive by the IACR
 - GMU ECE Crypto Resources

Method

- Find a Topic
- Get a Broad Overview
 - Use first the textbook as a resource.
 - Find PhD dissertation, Masters thesis.
 - Look for survey papers.
- Narrow Down the Topic, Broaden the Search.
 - Use Inspec and find all journal and conference articles that apply.
 - Obtain copies from the publishers or the author directly.
 - Check the references of each paper.
 - Categorize the sources.
 - Group them by research group.
 - Sort them chronologically.