



# Methods of Library Research

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*(modified from Frank O. Nitsche 2017 and  
Satyajit Bose 2012)*

# Why literature search?

- New research is build on existing findings
- Helps you get better understanding of the topic and what has been done before
- Back up your arguments



# How to get started?

- If you have a mentor, ask for 2-3 recent papers that help to frame your topic.
- If you do not have a mentor, start your own library search and ask your advisor and everyone you meet on your quest for a mentor.



# What kinds of papers are ideal?


- 1-2 papers which give you the broad context
- 1-2 papers which are examples of detailed analysis closely related to your thesis question.
- Remember to read an example senior thesis with your advisor (a senior thesis  $\neq$  a published paper)



# How to do literature search?

- Columbia Libraries webpage: <http://library.columbia.edu/>
- [CLIO catalogue](#)
- Citation indexes:
  - [ISI Web of Science](#)
  - [Google Scholar](#) (convenient, might NOT be as comprehensive... but getting better!)
- Physical visit to the library:
  - Talk to reference librarian in your subject
  - Browse the bookshelves around a book you know to be useful

# Naskapi Hunting Rule

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- A good rule to follow in the quest for knowledge (in the early stages)
  - If you successfully hunted a caribou in one direction yesterday, then don't go hunting for caribou in that direction today.

# Organizing your references

Many options:

- EndNote
- Zotero
- Mendeley
- Others: BibTeX, Kopernio

Note: CU library offers workshops

- Next Zotero Workshop is TOMORROW
  - Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 10-11am in Butler Library
  - Tuesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 1-2pm in Butler Library
  - And more....



# How to cite your references?

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# Citing in text

- **Format: (Author, year)**

- ... future generations (Hays, 1994)
- ... argument (Miller and Smith, 2016; Bostick, 2019)
- Smith et al. (2006) reported that ...

# Reference list

- **All cited reference in alphabetical order**

## REFERENCES CITED

Aüllo, T., Ranchou-Peyruse, A., Ollivier, B., and Magot, M., 2013, Desulfotomaculum spp. and related gram-positive sulfate-reducing bacteria in deep subsurface environments: *Frontiers in Microbiology*, v. 4, p. 362, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2013.00362>.

Baker, B.J., and Banfield, J.F., 2003, Microbial communities in acid mine drainage: *FEMS Microbiology Ecology*, v. 44, p. 139–152, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-6496\(03\)00028-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0168-6496(03)00028-X).

See the [Senior Seminar web page](#) for more details – will be updated soon!

## GSA Reference Guidelines and Examples

- In the References Cited section, list all references mentioned in the text, figures, captions, tables, and appendices. List references mentioned in the Data Repository as well, unless the DR item has its own reference section.
- Do not cite papers that are unpublished, in preparation, submitted, in review, or in revision. If a reference has not been formally accepted, cite it as a personal communication along with the year of communication.
- In the References Cited section, list references alphabetically by author's surname. For references with two authors, list alphabetically by first author and then alphabetically by second author. For references with more than two authors, list alphabetically by first author and then chronologically, earliest year first.
- For references with more than 10 authors, shorten the author list to the first author's name plus "et al." If author list includes co-chief scientists, please include all of their names, with the rest of the author names shortened to "et al." See example in the "Book" section below.
- Spell out journal titles and book publishers. Include the city of publication for books.
- Include DOI numbers when available.
- For website citations, include the month and year the site was accessed in parentheses at the end of the reference.
- For translated works, please see the Varnavskiy et al., 1995, example in the "Journal Article" section below.
- For references that do not match any of the examples given here, include all information that would help a reader locate the reference.

### **Abstract**

Fitzgerald, P.G., 1989, Uplift and formation of Transantarctic Mountains: Applications of apatite fission track analysis to tectonic problems: International Geological Congress, 28th, Washington, D.C., Abstracts, v. 1, p. 491.

LeMasurier, W.E., and Landis, C.A., 1991, Plume related uplift measured by fault displacement of the West Antarctic erosion surface, Marie Byrd Land [abs.]: Eos (Transactions, American Geophysical Union), v. 72, p. 501. *[Previous format for AGU abstracts. See Reusch et al., 2013, for new format.]*

*co-chief scientists; additional names may be substituted with "et al."]*

Hatcher, R.D., Jr., Carlson, M.P., McBride, J.H., and Martínez Catalán, J.R., eds., 2007, 4-D Framework of Continental Crust: Geological Society of America Memoir 200, 632 p.

Vogt, P., and Tucholke, B., eds., 1986, The Western North Atlantic Region: Boulder, Colorado, Geological Society of America, Geology of North America, v. M, 696 p., 11 pl.

**Chapter in a Book/Paper in a Multiauthor Volume**