Library Resources & Services
AGRI 215: Agro-Ecosystems Field Course
Fall 2019

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Poll time!

https://tinyurl.com/agri215a
Do you prefer electronic polling (like this) or answering out loud?

Electronic

Out loud

Either one
Today’s Workshop

Part 1
Literature

Part 2
Assessment

Part 3
Citing

Part 4
Reading an article
Academic information sources

Reference Materials
- Encyclopedias

Books

Journal Articles

Synthesis

Broad or in-depth perspective of a topic

Specific point of view on a precise question

GENERAL

SPECIFIC
Example: soybean

Synthesis of origins, breeding, genetics, grading, etc.

Genetics and genomics / Production and uses

Antioxidative properties of xanthan on the autoxidation of soybean oil in cyclodextrin emulsion
Where to start?

McGill WorldCat
How do you assess the quality of information you find?
Assessment

Source: http://letterstoayounglibrarian.blogspot.com/2016/04/on-bias.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>• When was the information published?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Does your topic require current information, or will older sources work?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance</td>
<td>• Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Who is the intended audience?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>• Where does the information come from? Is it supported by evidence?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Can you verify any of the information in another source?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Are there spelling, grammar or typographical errors?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authority</td>
<td>• Who is the author?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What are the author's credentials?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Is the author qualified to write on the topic?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>• What is the purpose of the information? Is it to inform, teach, sell, entertain or persuade?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Is the information fact, opinion or propaganda?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The question I was asked most today by fellow World Leaders, who think the USA is doing so well and is stronger than ever before, happens to be, “Mr. President, why does the American media hate your Country so much? Why are they rooting for it to fail?”
How do you read journal articles?

I read only the abstract

I skim through the entire article

I read the entire article in order

I read the entire article out of order

I read only a few sections

It depends
# How to read a scientific article - sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Placement or wording</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>At the top of the article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author(s)</strong></td>
<td>Under the title or at the end of the article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract (summary)</strong></td>
<td>Beginning of the article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction/Background</strong> (thesis/motivation)</td>
<td>“The purpose of this study is…” “The authors aim to investigate…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methods (how it was done)</strong></td>
<td>“The authors used/collected/obtained”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results (what was found)</strong></td>
<td>Figure 1, Table 1, %, #s, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion/Interpretation/Conclusions (what it all means)</strong></td>
<td>“It was found…” “The results of this study demonstrate…”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>At the end of the article</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to read a scientific article

1. What was the most important point the text made?

2. What are the article’s strengths and weaknesses?

3. Do you agree or disagree with the authors on any points?
How to read a scientific article

https://tinyurl.com/agri215
What is plagiarism?

“Plagiarism’ means the representation of another’s work, published or unpublished, as one’s own.”

Why cite your sources?

- To give credit where it’s due: to the person whose words or ideas you are using

- To allow your reader to find the original source of your information

- Avoid plagiarism
When do you need to cite?

1. You use another person's ideas, opinions, or theories.

2. You use facts, statistics, graphics, drawings, music, etc., or any other type of information that does not comprise common knowledge.

3. You use quotations from another person's spoken or written word.

4. You paraphrase another person's spoken or written word.

Should I cite?

Is it a quote?

- Yes: Cite it and place double quotation marks around the text
- No:
  - Is it a paraphrase?
    - Yes: Cite it
    - No:
      - Is it another's idea / theory?
        - Yes: Cite it
        - No: There is no need to cite if it is common knowledge or your own thoughts.

Canada extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. It covers 9,984,670 square kilometres, 9% of which is water. Its population is 35,151,728.

http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/test/plagiarism
Canada extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. It covers 9,984,670 square kilometres (Statistics Canada, 2016), 9% of which is water (Environment Canada, 2009). Its population is 36,151,728 (Statistics Canada, 2016).
Should you cite? The Louisiana black bear has been on the "threatened list" since 1992.

Yes

No
number of species that are observed to inhabit islands in relation to their landmass has been a topic of study for several decades.

The islands of the Caribbean region reflect a mosaic of different geologic histories and exhibit a considerable variety of different landforms. Consequently, they provide locations for comparative studies to examine such associations. Bass (2003) discusses the biodiversity of aquatic invertebrates in this region. Species richness was generally related to area and island altitude, consistent with biogeographic theory. However, the ability or inability of certain groups of aquatic...
What to include in a reference

**Example (book)**

**Example (book chapter)**

**Example (article)**
Elliott KJ, Vose JM, Knoepp JD, Clinton BD, Kloeppel BD. 2015. Functional role of the herbaceous layer in eastern deciduous forest ecosystems. Ecosystems. 18(2): 221-236.
Citing Electronic Information

Must include
• Date the resource was accessed
• URL

Example (electronic book)

Example (website)
Yao and Flores assert that *Magnaporthe oryzae* is airborne but is also transmitted through seed, infecting rice plants during all developmental stages (Yao and Flores 2010).

**Source Material:**
Rice blast, caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*, is a disease threatening rice worldwide. The fungus is airborne but is also transmitted through seed, infecting rice plants during all developmental stages. Strains of rice blast are always changing, making it a challenge to continually produce varieties resistant to it.

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Is this plagiarism?

When workers in any industry refuse to engage in scientific thinking, they risk ruining international aid programming, education, and illegal-drug laws.

Source material:
The combination of the appearance of professional respect for scientific rigor coupled with professional contempt for scientifically rigorous behavior is toxic, a poison that infects more activities in North America than the few I have pointed out here. It cripples foreign aid programs, pedagogy, and illegal-drug policies, and it promotes dubious and harmful medical treatment fads, nutrition and other lifestyle advice, and agricultural recommendations.

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Jacobs warns of many future problems for North Americans because of the unwillingness of workers in every industry to engage in scientific thinking that requires hypotheses, testing, and evidence (99).

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Zotero
Any last-minute questions or comments?
AGRI215

When survey is active, respond at PollEv.com/mylenepinard874
Getting help

Ask me:

Mylene Pinard

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