

Questions for Paula

In preparation for our session on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025**, please list any questions that you might have for me about your research process or citation. I will address these questions during our session.

This document is anonymous. Feel free to include your name if you prefer.

- **What is Mendeley?** I'm not sure what a reference manager is but I'd like to learn more about it. UPDATE - Thanks for the lib guide!
 - Mendeley is a free reference manager that can help you store, organize, note, share and cite references and research data. It is just one of several citation/reference managers. See the EdD Library Guide for more information on Citation Reference Managers: <https://mville.libguides.com/edd/citationmanagers>
 - Zotero is just one of the many other options for Citation Managers. Molly Dignam, our Electronic Resources Librarian created a Library Guide for Zotero: <https://mville.libguides.com/zotero>
- **What are some strategies for locating seminal articles?**
 - See the page on the EdD Library Guide on "Writing Tips" to get some hints on locating seminal works: <https://mville.libguides.com/edd/WritingLitReview>
 - One tip is: **Highly Cited** - A source has been cited in many other works is one indication that a particular source is seminal.
- **How can I determine if a source is peer-reviewed and credible?**
Are there specific databases or techniques I should use to verify the quality and reliability of a source?
 - When you do a search in a database, filter it by using scholarly/academic journal or peer reviewed.
 - Google Scholar will also locate scholarly academic articles. Please be aware that Google Scholar will also retrieve

dissertations, reports, unpublished reports, and student papers. These sources would NOT be appropriate to include in your research.

- See the EdD Library Guide for Evaluating Sources:
<https://mville.libguides.com/edd/EvaluateSources>
- Review the box: How to Tell if an article is a scholarly/peer reviewed journal

- **What's the best way to stay organized when managing dozens (or hundreds) of sources over the course of a dissertation?**

I'd love some tips on creating a sustainable system for note-taking, annotating, and tracking sources.

- This is a personal preference. Some students use citation reference managers:
<https://mville.libguides.com/edd/citationmanagers>
- Some students keep their sources on their computers or the cloud.
- Create the citation at the same time that you save the article on a Word document, on a cloud document (Google Doc etc) or use Excel or Google Sheets

- **ALWAYS BACK UP YOUR RESEARCH AND WRITING**

- Save each source by renaming the file with:
 - the author's last name_
 - Year of publication-
 - First word or two of title
- Dr. Mitchell has students sometimes use a matrix. See EdD Library Guide under "Writing Tips" Drop-down page: Writing the Literature Review for some other examples of matrices:
<https://mville.libguides.com/edd/WritingLitReview>
- You can always annotate each article. (Many of the databases include an abstract)

- **How do I effectively use keywords and subject terms in database searches?**

Sometimes I feel stuck or overwhelmed by too many irrelevant results. What search techniques can help?

- We will review search strategy.
- The Ebscohost database (Education Research Complete) will usually provide synonyms. Try using alternate keywords and synonyms.
- Use the Advanced search feature. Build a search using multiple terms to try to locate sources that are on point.
- Conduct multiple searches.
- If you take the “re” out of “research,” you get the word “search.” Searching takes time.
- Keep track of all of your various searches. Use the Research Information Sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F6aYHjvrB53ImPS3FOfn_tOpABfKn6fyKLxgCNzxMa1w/edit?usp=sharing
- NOTE: When I meet with you individually during a research appointment, you will see that I keep track of all of our searches and the terms used in each search.
- Sometimes there is not one perfect article that meets your criteria. You might have to make the connections yourself. Always consult your instructor or Chair.

- **What databases are best for education-focused research at the doctoral level?**

- Go to databases are *Education Research Complete* and *Proquest Education* (Remember to limit/filter to Academic/Peer Reviewed journals) <https://mville.libguides.com/edd/findarticles>
- Second place to search is Google Scholar. (Remember to set your Preferences): https://youtu.be/Jc_-UgK3D74

Are there any hidden gems or advanced search features in ERIC, JSTOR, or others that I should be using?

- See answer above.
- ERIC does have articles and also Research papers. Begin with Education Research Complete, Proquest Education, and Google Scholar.
- **Can Mendeley (or another reference manager) integrate with Word or Google Docs for automatic citation formatting?**
I've heard this is possible, but I'm not sure how to set it up or use it correctly.
- Answer from Google AI
 - **No direct integration:**
Mendeley is primarily a citation and reference management tool, and it does not have a built-in feature to directly insert citations into Google Docs.
 - **Manual methods:**
You can manually copy and paste formatted citations from Mendeley into your Google Docs document. You can also drag and drop references from Mendeley into your Google Docs document.
 - **Alternatives:**
For those needing to work directly within Google Docs, Zotero and Paperpile are recommended as they offer Google Docs add-ons that allow for seamless citation and bibliography management.
 - How To Connect Mendeley To Google Docs 2025! (Full Tutorial) (8.37 Minute Video- Easy Solution. YouTube Link:
https://youtu.be/8a3pS8S1eM8?si=BM9Ac_rNWymGJrLb

- **How can I track down full-text versions of articles I find in Google Scholar or citation lists?**

I often hit paywalls — are there techniques or tools to access these articles through the library?

- If you find an article in our databases that is not available in full-text, select full-text@mville to see if the article is available in one of the other databases that Mville subscribes to
- If the article is not available in full-text, search it in Google Scholar. (Make sure sure that you have set your Preference: https://youtu.be/Jc_-UgK3D74)
- If the article is not available, you can request it through Interlibrary Loan. Go back to the database where you found the article, and select the link to “Request with Interlibrary Loan.” See the video: <https://youtu.be/JbGCTgDW9bs>
- If you find articles from citation lists, search for the article in Google Scholar. If the article is not available in our database or Google Scholar, then you can request it through Interlibrary Loan Here is the link to ILL: <https://mville.libguides.com/ILL/Home>

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- **What’s the best way to keep up with new research in my field?**

Are there ways to set up alerts or notifications in databases or Google Scholar?

- Here is a Libguide from Nazarbayev University with instructions and a video on how to set up Google Scholar alerts: https://nu.kz.libguides.com/search_alerts/googlescholar
- Here are instructions for creating alerts in EbscoHost (Education Research Complete): https://connect.ebsco.com/s/article/How-to-Use-Search-Alerts?language=en_US

- Here are instructions for creating an alert in Proquest:
https://support.proquest.com/s/article/Create-a-Search-Alert?language=en_US

- **How can I tell when I've reviewed "enough" literature for a section of my dissertation or literature review?**

Is there a benchmark for saturation or coverage?

- Good question. I defer to Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Troiano, and Dr. Iverson

- **What is the best way to organize a literature matrix or synthesis chart?**

Are there templates you recommend for mapping themes, methodologies, and gaps in the literature? **This is a repeat of an answer above**

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- **What are grey literature and dissertations, and when is it appropriate to cite them?**

How do I access them through library databases?

- [What is Gray Literature?](#)
- The term **grey literature** is used to describe a wide range of different information that is produced outside of traditional publishing and distribution channels, and which is often not well represented in indexing databases.
- A widely accepted definition in the scholarly community for grey literature is
- "information produced on all levels of government, academia, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing" ie. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body."
- From: Third International Conference on Grey Literature in 1997 (ICGL Luxembourg definition, 1997 - Expanded in New York, 2004).
- [See University of Exeter Library Guide for further explanation: https://libguides.exeter.ac.uk/c.php?g=670055&p=4756572](https://libguides.exeter.ac.uk/c.php?g=670055&p=4756572)
- [Defer to your instructor or Chair to verify if a document is appropriate for your research.](#)
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- **Are there tools that can help with identifying gaps in the research or underexplored areas in a topic?**

I want to make sure my study contributes something original.

- [Here is a quick video on How to find your research gap in under 5 minutes. This video suggests conducting a search on Google Scholar for your topic. Look at recent articles and jump to the **Limitations section** to identify gaps in the literature. Here is a link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/sOTnazP8Dmg](#)
- [From Southern New Hampshire University: FAQ: What is a research gap and how do I find one? https://libanswers.snhu.edu/faq/264001](#)

- **How should I approach citing older sources that are frequently referenced but difficult to find?**

What if I can't access the original publication?

- If you cannot find the original source, contact me at Paula.Moskowitz@mville.edu I will try to find it.
 - It is always preferable to locate sources that you plan to cite within your dissertation.
 - If you cannot locate a particular source and you have a source that cites it, you can use "cited in." This would be considered a secondary source. Here is the link to the APA Style Blog for secondary sources:
<https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/citations/secondary-sources>
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- If you are trying to access international literature, are there certain search terms to use/ways to locate?
 - Many databases have a filter that will allow you to specify a specific country.
 - Ebsco Host (Education Research Complete)=Geography
 - Proquest=Location
 - You can also construct a search and include the country or countries in your search statement

Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Paula 😊