

PROBLEM STATEMENTS

RICK WEST • BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✻ Today's Devo: Keith
- ✻ Next week's devo:
- ✻ Next week's writing strategies: Me
- ✻ Join Mendeley, and get invited to our group.
 - ✻ Starred reviews are great exemplars. My notes point out sections I thought were strong.

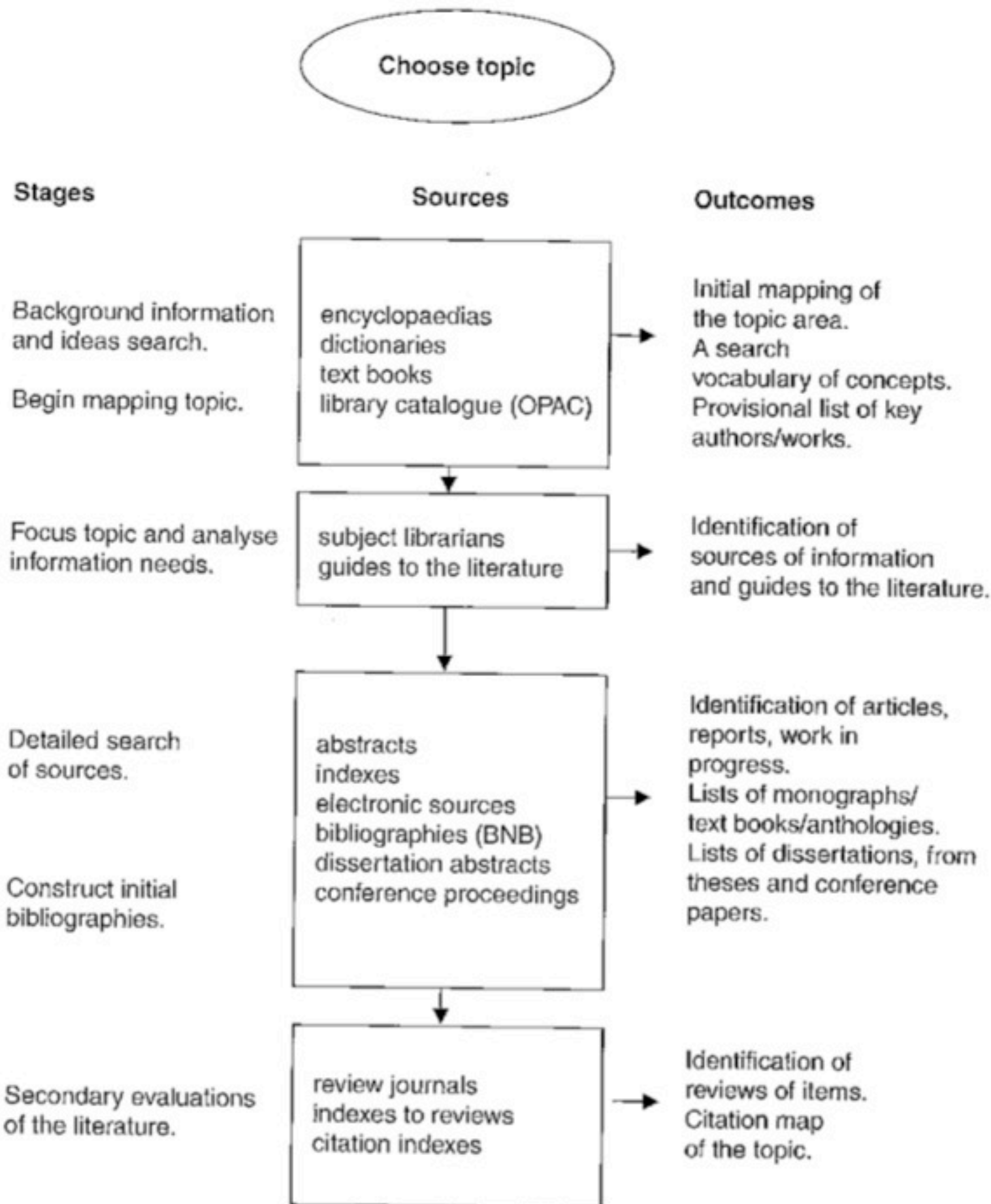
REFLECTING ON THE LIBRARY WORKSHOP

“Usually the difficulty is a lack of academic terminology. Students often try to use their everyday vocabulary to access the language and discourse of a specialized field.”

- Machi & McEvoy, p. 27

LITERATURE SEARCH METHODS

Hart (1998), p. 34



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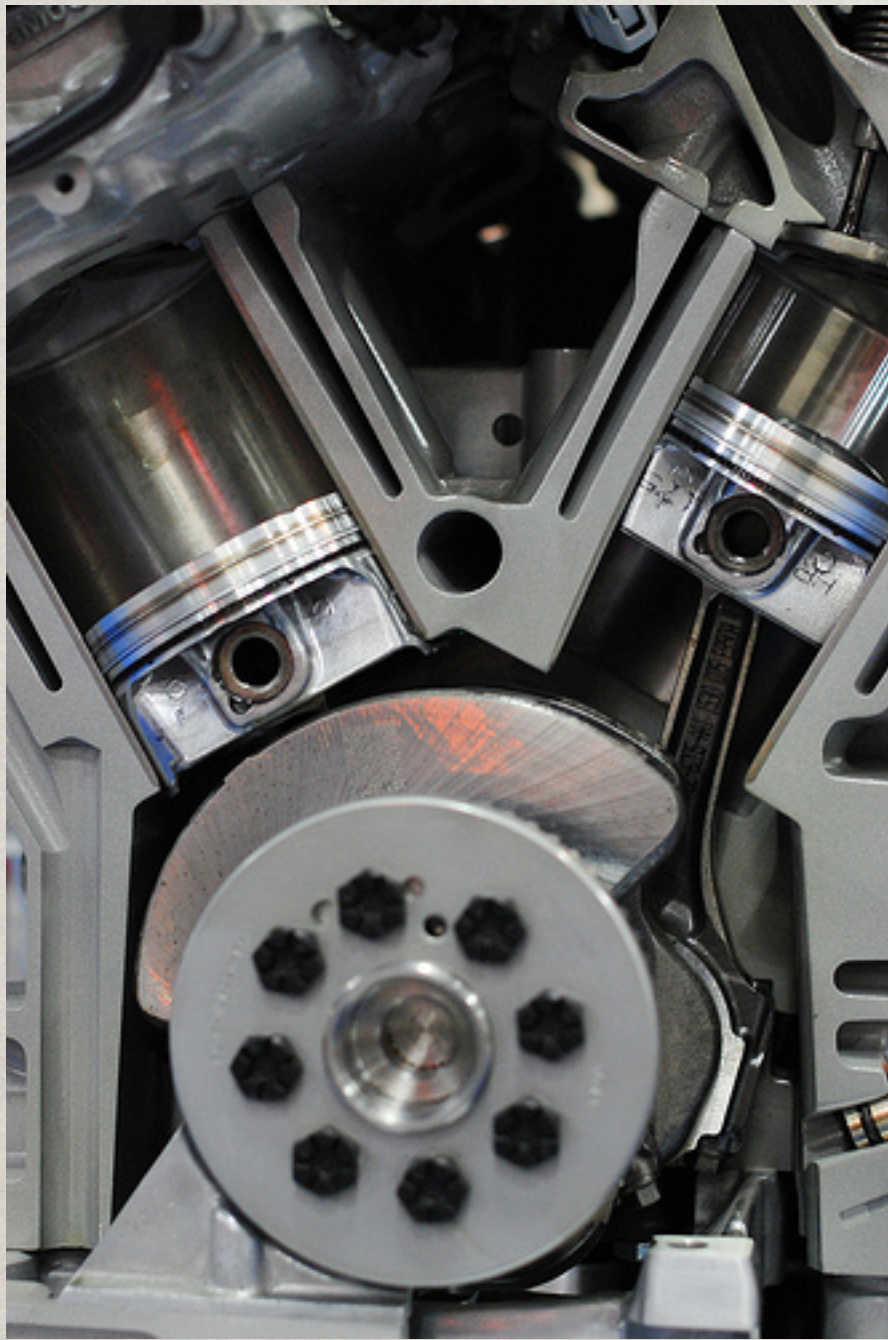
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- ✻ What has worked for organizing/reviewing those sources?
- ✻ What did you learn from your textbooks?

CLARIFYING YOUR INTENT

- ✻ What did you learn from your books about focusing/clarifying your review question?
- ✻ What did you learn about clarifying your review methods?

FOCUS



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- ✱ Passion (heat) + focus (chamber) = momentum
- ✱ Focus your topic by being more specific and by setting boundaries

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 - ✻ e.g. Video self-evaluation by looking at video case study + teacher reflection + teacher evaluation

FRAMEWORK (PERSPECTIVE)



Perspective comes from your theoretical framework

e.g. Researching educational games: What's the difference from looking at this topic from a motivation, visual literacy, simulations, constructivist, cognitivist, emotional, mental health, social, or systemic perspective?

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*"I still don't have all the answers, but I'm
beginning to ask the right questions."*

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- ✱ Review questions ask about overall trends in a discipline

- ✱ *What do we know about X and Y ? What typically has happened? How have X and Y been combined before, producing what kinds of effects?*

EXAMPLES

- ✿ *Review (Desimone, 2009):* What counts as professional development? What professional development framework is best supported by the literature? How can we improve research on teacher learning?
- ✿ *Research (Martin, et al., 2010):* What is the relationship of eMints PD fidelity, lesson-plan quality, and classroom visit activities to the achievement of students in the classrooms of participating teachers?
- ✿ *Review (Moos & Azevedo, 2009):* What is the relationship in the literature between motivation, self-efficacy, and CBLE?
- ✿ *Research (Overbaugh & Lu, 2008):* Does short-term, online instructional technology courses provided by the WHRO/CII consortium help participants develop confidence to integrate technology?

EXAMPLES

- ✻ *Review (West, 2009)*: What would a community focused on creating new knowledge look like, and how would it evolve and function?
- ✻ *Research (West & Hannafin, 2010)*: What were the critical, creative incidents within a student design community? Did elements of a COI emerge in their experiences, and how did they describe these elements?
- ✻ *Review (Velazquez, 2010)*: What are the most prominent theories on care in education, and what do we know about developing caring teachers and classrooms?
- ✻ *Research (Velazquez dissertation)*: What modes of communication do students and teachers use to communicate care in online settings?

EXAMPLES

- ✿ *Review (Bernard, et al., 2004):* What is more effective, distance learning or classroom learning?
- ✿ *Research:* Do undergraduate students earn better statistics grades online or in a classroom?
- ✿ *Review (Cooper, et al., 2006):* In the last 15 years, what has research shown is the effect of doing homework on academic achievement?
- ✿ *Research:* What effect does school guidance counseling have on homework outcomes for middle school at-risk youth?

JOURNAL EVALUATION

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 - ✻ Prestige

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Prestige

- History
- Editorial Board
- Organizational Affiliation
- “Gut check” by colleagues
- prestige studies

BE WARY!

Your (real) Impact Factor

$$\text{Impact Factor (corrected)} = \frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{\# times your work is cited} \\ - \text{\# citations that actually trash your work} \\ - \text{\# times you cited yourself (nice try)} \\ - \text{\# times you were cited just to pad the introduction section} \\ - \text{\# citations the editor pressured the author to include to increase the journal's impact factor} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{l} \text{\# original articles you've written} \\ + \text{\# articles you were included in out of pity or politics} \\ + \text{\# not-so-original articles you've} \\ \quad \text{\del{written} copied and pasted} \end{array}}$$

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✻ In your area, what do you think are the tier 1 journals? Why?

✻ Write them on the board.

JOURNAL EVALUATION ASSIGNMENT

- ✻ Send me your Gmail accounts, and I'll give you access to the Google Document
- ✻ Select five journals - email me your choices
- ✻ Contribute evidence for the rigor, prestige, and impact of the journals and vote for what tier you think they belong to
- ✻ Due: Feb. 7

P.S. WORKSHOP

✻ In pairs, give feedback on your problem statements:

- ✻ Are the questions clear? Is it clear what perspective or theory they are based in and what kinds of studies would be included?
- ✻ Is the scope appropriate?
- ✻ Any suggestions for additional methods they might use to locate and analyze literature?
- ✻ Any comments on their target audience?