Overview

1. Finding academic papers: Creating a Bibliography of Seed Papers (20 min)

2. Reading Academic Papers: Note Taking (30 min)
Finding academic papers

Exercise A: Creating a bibliography of seed papers

Objective: To develop skills in identifying relevant academic seed papers and articulating the rationale for their inclusion in a bibliography related to your research aims and questions.
**Exercise A: Creating a bibliography of seed papers**

**Write Down your Topic of Interest:** You will create a bibliography focused on your chosen topic.

**Define Research Aim(s) and Question(s):** Define your research aims and questions, as you will use these as the foundation to your bibliographic list. Ensure that your aims and questions are specific and relevant to your chosen topic.

**Identify Academic Papers:** Research and compile a list of academic papers related to your chosen topic. You should aim for 5 to 10 papers that are relevant to your research aims/questions.

**Write a Rationale for Each Paper:** For each paper you include in your bibliography, provide a rationale explaining how you think it might contribute to achieving your research aims or addressing your research questions. To help you structure your rationale, consider the following:

- **Relevance:** Why this paper is relevant to your chosen theme, research aims, or questions. What specific aspects of your theme does it address or illuminate?

- **Key Findings:** Are there any key findings, insights, or discoveries presented in the paper that contribute to your research objectives. How do these findings support or inform your research aims?

- **Methodological Approaches:** The paper contains methodological approaches or techniques that align with your research goals.

- **Research Setting:** Consider the setting or context in which the paper’s research was conducted. Does it resemble or offer insights into the setting relevant to your own topic?

- **Foundation Paper:** If the paper is considered a foundational work in the field of your topic, explain how it might help you shape your research topic.

- **Theoretical Basis:** If the paper provides a relevant theoretical framework or basis for your research topic, elaborate on how this theory supports your research aims and/or questions.

- **Other Relevant Aspects:** Identify any other aspects, such as innovative approaches, data sources, or perspectives, that might make this paper pertinent to your research.
Finding academic papers

**Exercise B: Reading academic papers**

**Objective:** To develop effective techniques for summarising and organising information from academic papers for effective literature review and referencing.
Exercise B: Note taking

Instructions: From the paper assigned for pre-tutorial reading, complete the following categories to create a structured summary. This information will help you build a spreadsheet for managing and navigating through the papers you review during your coursework:

1. **Title of the article**
2. **Authors**
3. **Journal (or Publication Outlet)**
4. **Publishing Date**
5. **Tags/keywords**
6. **Background** (e.g., What was the context for this research? When and where did the research take place?)
7. **Objectives**: What was the objective? What did the research aimed at achieving?
8. **Data** (Did the authors collected any data? If so, what are the sources and key characteristics of the main data/sample?)
9. **Methods and Nature of the Study**: (e.g., How did the author(s) collect data? How did the authors processed the data? Any key methods relevant to the implementation of the research?)
10. **Key Results** (e.g., What key findings emerged? Were there any surprises, contractions, or novel findings?)
11. **Conclusions** (What could be learnt from this paper overall?)
12. **Future research** (Has the study proposed any future research direction or deficiencies to be addressed by future research?)
13. **Significance** (Why does this research matter? What is the contribution to the state of knowledge?)
14. **My thoughts and questions** (Any ideas, questions, limitations and/or research opportunities this paper may provide)