



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
informatics

IRR Q&A

2nd of October 2024



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
INFORMATICS FORUM

Welcome to the first IRR Q&A Session

- Course overview and status
- Schedule this week
- Resources
- Exercises
- FAQ
- Q&A





Course overview and status

- **319** students enrolled
- **Lectures**
 - In person, in weeks 1, 2, 6, and 7
 - ***Lecture 3 in Week 5 (on the 16th of Oct) will be held online*** – a link for the course will be provided soon
 - We will keep updating LEARN/OpenCourse with useful materials, please visit these pages regularly
- **Tutorials**
 - 6 tutorials - starting from week 3 → commencing on 30th of September
 - **13 tutorial groups** → see on OpenCourse in IRR:Course Materials >> IRR Tutorials
 - For a tutorial change request, please complete this form: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/timetabling-examinations/timetabling/personalised-timetables/>
- **Coursework**
 - Research review – 100%



Weekly Schedule – on Open Course

IRR: Schedule

Week	Date and Time/ Location	Lectures and Q&A Sessions	Tutorials
1	18-Sep-2024 14:10-15:00 Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre	Lecture 1: Introduction Slides Video (TBD)	No tutorial
2	25-Sep-2024 14:10-15:00 Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre	Lecture 2: Academic Reading Slides Video (TBD) Guests: David Caulton	No tutorial
3	02-Oct-2024 14:10-15:00 Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre	Q&A Session 3 Slides Video (TBD)	Tutorial 1



Resources



Open Course Materials

[IRR: Informatics Research Review](#)

[View](#) [Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Revisions](#)

IRR: Resources and Reading

Please note that the lectures are designed to provide an introduction and overview of the relevant course material. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the topics covered in the course, we strongly recommend delving into the books and additional resources indicated on the reading list. You are expected to learn from the papers, books, videos and discussions covered in tutorial sessions. The lectures primarily serve as a platform to help with your understanding of the key foundations of the course and to give you an opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues. This is a large course and wide engagement in questioning and discussion will be difficult or impossible to achieve. To address this, we will post discussion topics on the course Piazza page, and smaller, more interactive group discussions will take place in the tutorial sessions. Additionally, we will organise live sessions where you can directly pose questions to lecturers, teaching assistants, and guest speakers.

Supporting resources:

[Learn](#)
[Piazza](#)
[DRPS](#)

Navigation

[IRR: Course Materials](#)
[IRR: Resources and Reading](#)
[IRR: Academic Development Resources](#)
[IRR: Topic Guidance Resources](#)
[IRR: Assessment](#)

Exercise 1

Please click on the link below and try to identify the value of truth for the statements that appear on the top right corner:

https://xerte.cahss.ed.ac.uk/play.php?template_id=2278



Exercise 2

Please drag the definition that appears on the top right corner under the corresponding concept:

https://xerte.cahss.ed.ac.uk/play.php?template_id=3265



Exercise 3

1. Download Mendeley for desktop*:

<https://www.mendeley.com/guides/desktop/>

**if you are familiar with other reference managing tool (e.g., Zotero) feel free to use that.*

2. After installing it, create a folder, e.g., “IRR_2024”.

3. Search for an article related to your topic**. You can start from Google Scholar or use any of venues suggested in the [IRR Guidance Resources](#) in your favourite field

***if you did not have time to identify a topic, just pick up one suggested in IRR Guidance Resources.*

4. Add the article you selected to your folder, add a tag and a general note (e.g., the first sentence from the abstract). Repeat that for 2 other articles
5. Filter all articles with a certain tag. Look at the general note for each of the selected articles



FAQ

Q1: Can I choose whatever topic I want?

A1: The IRR topic is entirely your own choice. We only added some suggestions/guidance to help you in case you don't know where to start from. What makes a good topic is covered in Lecture 1 and we will also cover during tutorials.

Q2: Should I ask for my topic to be approved by anyone?

A2: You don't need anyone's approval of your chosen topic.

Q3: What should I do when there is little relevant literature on my topic?

A3: Ask your tutor, and if needed contact a member of staff directly or via your tutor. If this does not help, try to widen your scope, or include more history of the field.

Q4: What level of knowledge should I assume for the reader?

A4: Imagine your audience as a Master student from another discipline, such as from the Sciences. Certainly, don't assume that the reader has read the papers, but on the other hand don't dumb things down.

"Assume infinite intelligence and zero knowledge" (Wolfgang Pauli)



FAQ

Q5: How should we connect the different papers in a research review?

A5: Create a cohesive narrative that links the studies based on themes, methodologies, or debates. For example, if you discuss the studies based on themes, then group papers according to common themes (or ideas/problems) they address. This helps organise the review around larger concepts. Specifically, in a review on environmental sustainability in education, group papers on teaching strategies, student engagement, and learning outcomes.

Q6: How many references should we have?

A6: The honest answer here is "enough". You will need enough to convince the reader that you are not making something up. While we cannot put a precise number on it, if there are less than 10 references, it might be the case that you have not done enough work. That being said, we have found examples of people with a lot of references who have still not picked relevant papers. The key thing with your references is quality, not quantity.

Q7: Is it allowed to include review papers in our IRR?

A7: It is, but it can be hard to abstract review papers even further. It is probably not a good idea to use them as core paper.

