

Bachelor's Thesis Seminar in Economics

Literature search 2022

Agenda for today:

- How to find (more) literature on your topic
- How to know if a paper is high enough quality
- How to know if a paper is Economics
- What about unpublished Working Papers?

Finding literature:

- Identify review articles/survey articles!
 - Look through respected working paper series e.g. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Search for keywords.
 - Searching on Google scholar
 - searching for keywords, methods and concepts, keywords in **referring papers** etc.
- > Show example <https://scholar.google.com/>

Quality & Field identification

- JUF0 Portal:

<https://jfp.csc.fi/en/web/haku/julkaisukanavahaku>

- Finnish official classification and rating of journals in different academic fields. You can search by journal name here. If a paper that you consider is in a journal not included in this classification, then you should treat that with high reservations.

- IDEAS/RePec impact factor ranking:

<https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html>

- This ranking of academic journals in Economics and related fields give an *indication* of which are the respected journals.

Is it Economics?

- Look up the authors: are they working in departments of economics? Did they publish other papers in Economics journals?
- Does the paper refer mainly to economic papers in their bibliography?
- Look for keywords from economic theory: utility maximization, optimization problem, incentives, budget constraints, agency/principal agent problems...
- Look for methods typical to economic empirical analysis (Difference in differences, RCTs, Instrumental variables)

Note: It is OK also to cite work from other disciplines in your thesis, if motivated by your topic. But you should make sure to also cite economics papers, and frame your thesis in a way that is relevant to **economics** rather than other adjacent fields such as finance.

Unpublished work?

- In Economics, the publishing often takes very long. Therefore, it is also common to cite unpublished papers, so called Working papers.
- Especially for new topics (e.g. much research specific to COVID-19 is still not published).
- It is OK to cite some working papers in your thesis, but:
 - Find a balance between published work and unpublished Working papers
 - Try to assess the quality of the working paper by e.g. looking at identity of authors, their universities and other published work, checking if the paper is already cited (via google scholar), is the paper part of an established working paper series (e.g. NBER)?

Guide on mycourses

A PDF guide for the work with the thesis has been added to the mycourses section Materials.

Read the sections about finding a topic and literature.