

Keep It Current

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Compiling research is a difficult task and as you are filing through the information you have gathered, you should pay close attention to the dates. Though there may be some really great findings by one researcher in 1979, there is probably something that they suggested in their original research that others have studied more recently.

Saving your literature searches when using Web of Science and other databases, as well as registering to receive updates via email or RSS feed will keep you abreast of new information as it becomes available. Most journals will list feeds and/or email alerts on their home pages where you can register for some of these for free. Utilizing these resources can help you keep your literature current and keep you informed and aware of what is developing in your interest area. Professors may also be more focused on what is going on currently in a specific area rather than something that was investigated a long time ago and urge you to follow current trends.

It is much easier to remain informed about current literature on certain topics with the email alerts and RSS feeds. Google and Yahoo news RSS feeds that will give you access to news as well as journal, magazine, and web blogs. The resources available are much more efficient and time saving than going to the library to access the card catalogue and copying endless pages. These feeds and alerts will keep you updated as they get new information in real time.

The library has information sessions available on using library and other resources to gather information. They can also help with questions and with use of the bibliography software programs such as Endnote and Refworks. You may even have access to a library that has live

online help during certain hours. They can also answer many of the questions you may have about utilizing email alerts and RSS feeds to gather data.

Keeping current with the trends and new information as it becomes available as well as utilization of bibliography software will help you as you research and learn more about your interest area. Just remember that there are lots of resources of information right at your fingertips and many out there that can help you with questions you might have. Sorting through the information, staying current, and gathering what you need is much easier today than it was ten or even fifteen years ago before email alerts, RSS Feeds, and bibliography software.

References

Keep Current with Research. Retrieved April 20, 2010 from

<http://libraries.mit.edu/esl/current.html>