

IAT 834 Mixed Methods in Design Evaluation**Weekly Research Design Assignment #2:** Literature Review – a Framing Exercise

Deliverable: We will work on this in class. Then submit your final version of exercises on Friday by 5 pm.

Please email a word document using the format "IAT834_AssignX_Name".

Read: Creswell (2013) 2 & 4

The Purpose(s) of a Literature Review in your Thesis

The literature review, frames the problem you will be studying by:

1. Defining the limits or scope of your topic of inquiry
2. Showing (not telling) the reader why the topic is important
3. Outlining key researchers and research findings relevant to your topic
4. Supporting your case by presenting a gap in knowledge that you will address
5. Setting a benchmark(s) for your study.

Note: for this assignment, we will NOT use the literature review as a place to review relevant *theory* related to your work. We will do this in a separate assignment and write it up as a separate section later in the course. Instead, this literature review will frame the topic you are studying. (Both aspects are important. We will start with problem framing).

Assignment

1. In less than 30 words write a succinct description of your research topic (as per previous assignment but even shorter!).
2. List 4-6 key words which characterize your research topic (topic not approach to inquiry). Use these as the basis for your literature search.
3. Determine and read 5-7 of the most important papers related to your topic.
 - a. Include at least 1 monograph/book, 4 journal articles, no more than 2 conceptual articles (vs. research articles), 1 dissertation and no websites.
 - b. Decide on the key themes of your work. Organize your papers under these themes. Include a maximum of 4 themes.
 - c. Format your organized list using ACM style of citation for conference papers as detailed under HCI Archive format <http://chi2013.acm.org/authors/format/#archiveformat>
4. Create a document that lists each theme, citations for that theme (ACM style) and a summary for each paper in a theme. The maximum length of this submission should be 6 pages. Include page numbers, header and footer on your submission as appropriate. You do not need to include references at the end since you should use citations as subheaders under each theme. For each paper, write a summary which is at most 250 words. See Creswell (2009) *Abstracting Studies* p. 36. Use an active voice. Use past tense. See Creswell (2009) pp. 85-87. In the summary include:
 - a. Who studied what. [Look in the introduction]
 - b. State the central purpose of the study. [Look in the introduction]
 - c. Summarize information about the humans, activity, technology and the context of the study. [Look in the methods or experimental design section]
 - d. Summarize methodology and how it links the RQs to the findings through data collection and analysis. Identify any paradigm-related assumptions.
 - e. Summarize key findings that are important to frame your topic and problem. [Look near the end of the article]

Note: in your actual thesis you might review as many as 50 – 100 articles and summarize 30 or more. This assignment is designed to give you some practice with the process of summarizing papers. It does not provide the details on how to weave these summaries into a compelling narrative that provides the foundation for your work. You will need to do the latter in your thesis. See Creswell for tips.