

How to Choose References

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- Choosing correct information from the ***best resources*** can make or break the quality of your paper.
- Even if your written argument both flows smoothly and follows stylistic rules, if your content and supporting research is poor, then your entire paper will render insignificant.

Tips:

A. Choose specific topic:

- Choosing a narrow, specific topic accomplishes two things:
 1. Elimination of irrelevant content.
 2. Allows you to begin searching for resources that emphasize your chosen topic.

- You can always add more information later -- a few, well-developed points are often more effective than a long list of underdeveloped points.*



Guidelines for Choosing Topic

- Work on important problems.
- So what and who cares?
- Novelty, feasibility, relevance and fundability.
- Go for areas that are far from being crystal clear.
- Work on something you are interested in.

- Personal clinical experience.
- Recognition of research gaps.
- Gives rise to further research?



B. Find highest-valued expert on topic:

- When researching specific resources for your paper, find out who the "**big cheese**" is on your topic!
- Who is quoted or referenced in the majority of works that you have researched? Who seems to have the final word on your topic?

- This person is the "big cheese" whom you are looking for.
- Make the "big cheese" your starting point for finding other references. Find all the relevant works by your "big cheese" that you can, and see which works that person acknowledges -- consider using those as supporting references for your paper.





C. Choose Relevant Resources:

- Keep your topic in mind! but leave room to make your paper your own!
- Choose resources relevant to your topic that you can incorporate smoothly into the flow of your paper.



- Do not see a research paper simply as proof of how many sources you have read.
- When writing a research paper, you are entering a conversation about your topic in which others have already contributed their opinion. Decide what your view is.



D. Research opposing views to address possible objections.

- A superb research paper will not only contain information that supports your view of the topic, but will also include contrary views.
- Meet each contrary view with a strong rebuttal as to why yours is correct.



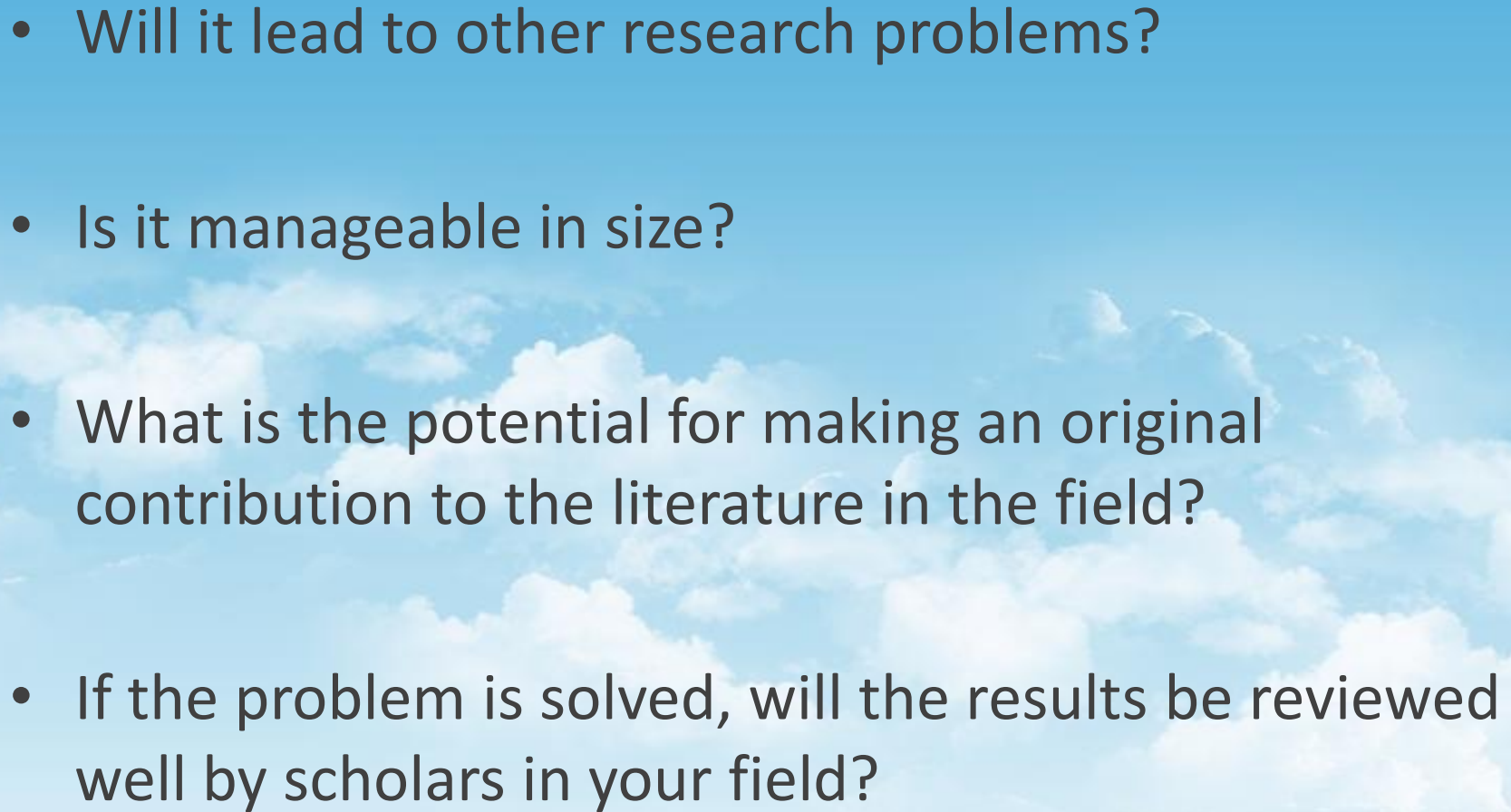
E. Credibility and Date of Publication.

- The quality of information included in a paper is judged according to the credibility of its source (journal, webpage).
- The Date it was published also plays a role (include recent as well as older ones).



List of Points to consider about topic

- Can it be enthusiastically pursued?
- Can interest be sustained?
- Is the problem solvable?
- Is it worth doing?

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- Will it lead to other research problems?
 - Is it manageable in size?
 - What is the potential for making an original contribution to the literature in the field?
 - If the problem is solved, will the results be reviewed well by scholars in your field?

Challenges:

- Gathering required information: (large).
- Best Resources.
- Quality of Paper.

Good Luck!

