

A Better Lit Review Workflow

Zotero, Reference Management, and Manuscript Integrations

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23 February 2022

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Roadmap for Today's Talk

The Problem With Lit Reviews

Reference Workflow in Zotero

Templating Deliverables

Q&A For Remaining Time

The Problem With Lit Reviews

What makes a lit review a chore/pain/avoidable task?

They are HUGE time sinks in the standard workflow

- Large start-up costs for a task – can be simplified
- Journal gating, multiple log-ins, etc make this worse

Take a lot of work, may not use all the information gathered

- Limited continuity – may not use after the current project

How do we make this better/more bearable/efficient?

A Better Lit Review Process

Consistent process & workflow across projects

- Gather citations, map to Zotero, create lit review

Retention of all gathered info & citations

- Collect & index references in Zotero
- Use browser extensions to save directly to libraries

Templated format for lit review product/deliverable

- Allows for transferability across projects with ease

A Better Lit Review - Step-by-Step

Step 1: Identify target papers for literature review

- **tired:** search RePEC, Google Scholar, etc for papers
- **wired:** identify seminal paper P_1 and use ConnectedPapers

Step 2: Collect metadata for all papers in literature review

- **tired:** download all files, load into Zotero, clean details
- **wired:** Zotero browser extension + ConnectedPapers bibfile

Step 3: Create deliverable with all information from lit review

- **tired:** varied files all doing the same thing, diff. formats
- **wired:** use template and actively reference citations, check details

Requisite Software & Setup for this Workflow

Zotero Reference Manager

- Free, allows for unique libraries by project
- Add browser extensions which allow for direct saving

RStudio -or- MS Word -or- LaTeX (Overleaf works!)

- Final deliverable will be templated for one of these
- Will need LaTeX downloaded for RStudio, here.

If using LaTeX: Sublime Text (ST3) highly recommended

- Lots of package options, free, citation manager built in
- PDF Viewer **Skim** is very nice with ST3, auto updates on build

Step 1 - Establish Scope

Start-Up Costs Can Be Lessened

How should we approach a lit review, in practice?

- A meta-analysis? A memo of existing papers?
- **Better:** a skeleton for the first half of paper

Establish scope of lit review, identify P_1

- Every paper is written using another as a template
- Grab all citations from intro of P_1 , start Zotero lib

Use ConnectedPapers to find related works

- **prior works:** cited by P_1
- **derivative works:** cites P_1

Using ConnectedPapers for Lit Reviews

Creates graph of prior and derivative works from P_1

- Graph created based on distance to node (“degrees of separation”)

Allows for .bib file download of all graph nodes

- This can be imported directly to Zotero library

ConnectedPapers viewer shows abstract no matter what

- Can conduct most of lit review from here, no gating

Connected Papers: Downloading .bib File

Tracking Public and Private Responses to the Covid-19 Epidemic: Evidence from State and Local Gov...

Prior works

Derivative works

Sponsored by  RemNote



Search...

Download

Collapse

Title	Authors	Year	Citations	References	Similarity to origin
Tracking Public and Private Responses to the Covid-19 Epidemic: Evidence from State and Local...	Sumedha Gupta, Thuy Nguyen, Felipe Lozano-Rojas, Shyam Raman, Byungkyu...	2020	185	31	100
When Do Shelter-in-Place Orders Fight COVID-19 Best? Policy Heterogeneity Across States and...	Dhaval M Dave, Andrew Friedson, K. Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia	2020	31	32	25.6
Did California's Shelter-in-Place Order Work? Early Coronavirus-Related Public Health Effects	Andrew Friedson, Drew McNichols, Joseph J. Sabia, Dhaval M Dave	2020	131	23	19.7
Impacts of State Reopening Policy on Human Mobility	Thuy Nguyen, Sumedha Gupta, M. Andersen, A. Bento, K. Simon, Coady Wing	2020	39	27	16.8
Were Urban Cowboys Enough to Control Covid-19? Local Shelter-in-Place Orders and Coronavirus Cas...	Dhaval M Dave, Andrew Friedson, K. Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia, Samuel...	2020	43	14	16
Mandated and Voluntary Social Distancing During the Covid-19 Epidemic: A Review	Sumedha Gupta, K. Simon, Coady Wing	2020	28	94	15
Do Stay-at-Home Orders Cause People to Stay at Home? Effects of Stay-at-Home Orders on...	D. Alexander, Ezra Karger	2020	56	26	14.5
JUE Insight: Were urban cowboys enough to control COVID-19? Local shelter-in-place orders and...	Dhaval M Dave, Andrew Friedson, K. Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia, Samuel...	2020	17	29	12.9
The Immediate Effect of COVID-19 Policies on Social Distancing Behavior in the United States	Rahi Abouk, B. Heydari	2020	96	11	12.8
Strong Social Distancing Measures In The United States: Evidence From A National Survey	Charles Courtemanche, Joseph Garuccio, Matthew Gentzkow, Michael Hoxby, Michael...	2020	417	4	12.5

Tracking Public and Private Responses to the Covid-19 Epidemic: Evidence from State and Local Government Actions

Sumedha Gupta + 6 authors Coady Wing
2020

185 Citations, 31 References

Open in:

This paper examines the determinants of social distancing during the COVID-19 epidemic. We classify state and local government actions, and we study multiple proxies for social distancing based on data from smart devices. Mobility fell substantially in all states, even ones that have not adopted major distancing mandates. There is little evidence, for example, that stay-at-home mandates induced distancing. In contrast, early and information-focused actions have had bigger effects. Event studies show that first case announcements, emergency declarations, and school closures reduced mobility by 1-5% after 5 days and 7-45% after 20 days. Between March 1 and April 11, average time spent at home grew from 9.1 hours to 13.9

Step 2 - Zotero Workflow

You've Selected Papers – Now What?

The goal of a lit review is not to produce a writeup

- An important aspect is the deliverable, but not the whole pie

A lit review is time to invest in gathering references + cites

- Formatting these in Zotero at this stage saves time later!!
- Dealing wth metadata errors while writing is a pain, prevent it

Take time before digging in to see what the metadata look like

- Remove/merge any duplicated entries; fix names & publication dates

Use BetterBibTex & Create Perpetual Export

Problem: you don't want to create a new [.bib] export every time ref is added

- *Solution* : Better BiBTeX integration with Zotero and Project-Specific Folders

Create perpetual export using BBT for project-specific libraries ↓

Zotero folder with all relevant papers → [.bib] file exported to project folder

Integrating Zotero - MS Word (Simple Add-In)

Zotero Word add-in allows for connection to local libraries

- Can add citations in popup and generate bibliography w/ custom style

Many journal styles are offered on default by Zotero, you choose:

Home Insert Draw Design Layout References Mailings Review View **Zotero** EndNote Acrobat Tell me Share Comments

Add/Edit Citation Add/Edit Bibliography Document Preferences

Zotero - Document Preferences

Citation Style:

- Cite Them Right 11th edition - Harvard
- Elsevier - Harvard (with titles)
- IEEE
- Modern Humanities Research Association 3rd edition (note with bibliography)
- Modern Language Association 9th edition
- Nature
- SAGE - Harvard
- The Lancet**
- Vancouver

Manage Styles...

Language: English (UK)

Store Citations as:

- Fields (recommended)
Fields cannot be shared with LibreOffice.
The document must be saved as .doc or .docx.

Act's free contraception

Producing PDF via RMD → LaTeX is seamless!

Use `citr::insert_citation` for GUI reference management

- Package searches for [.bib] file in manuscript directory (same folder)
- With BetterBibTex, can connect RStudio directly to Zotero library

Can also use perpetual export settings to create [.bib] file

- Just need to add `bibliography: bibfilename.bib` to YAML

Adding Citations in Document - Zotero and RStudio

population [[@Bradford2018](#)]. Recreational cannabis laws (RCLs) are associated with reductions in opioid prescriptions among Medicaid enrollees [[@Wen2018](#)]. Reductions in opioid prescriptions following recreational laws, particularly with policies that restrict advertising [[@doi:10.1111/ecin.12819](#)].

Recreational cannabis laws increase cannabis use among adults. A 1% increase in the number of or more RCL dispensaries increases the same measure by 2%. A 1% increase in the number of adult cannabis use by 5%, which is consistent with the reductions in opioid prescriptions following RCLs. [Cerde et al. \(2020\)](#) also used the NSDUH and found a 1% increase in the number of RCL dispensaries to study the impact of these policies on the distribution of

Methods

We used a difference-in-differences approach to analyze the impact of the implementation of dispensing of all pharmacies and states' implementation of recreational cannabis laws. Our sample includes all 50 states and the District of Columbia for the period 2000-2019 at the quarter-year level.

Data

Our primary data source was the Drug Enforcement Administration's Consolidation Orders System (ARCOS). The ARCOS tracks flows of controlled substances, including opioids, up to the point that they are distributed to pharmacies. We observe oxycodone prescriptions, not prescriptions (e.g., we observe oxycodone prescriptions from ARCOS data at the state-quarter level).

Insert citation

Bradford & Bradford (2016). Medical marijuana laws reduce prescription medication use in medicare part d. Health Affairs.

[@Bradford2016]

In parentheses

Insert citation Cancel

Bibliography file to read

/Users/shyamraman/Library/CloudStorage/OneDrive-CornellUniversity/RMLarcos/writir

YAML front matter missing or no bibliography files specified. [Reload file](#)

Zotero connection available. [Connect and load libraries](#)

Insert citation Settings

Step 3 - Templated Deliverables

Scope Established, Metadata Clean, What Next?

Creating a consistent template for lit reviews is valuable

- Having this template be something that helps **you** is priceless

Recall: A lit review is basically the first half of your paper.

- Lit review in a way that you can copy & paste to paper intro
- An example lit review entry from one of my RA's:

The effects of public health insurance on health behaviors: Evidence from the fifth year of Medicaid expansion.

Aparna Soni, 2020, Health Economics

This study observes the relationship between legislative expansions of public health insurance and health behaviors over time through analysis related to the installment of the Affordable Care Act-facilitated Medicaid expansions. The results show that said expansions increase the implementation of certain forms of preventive care, a reduction in heavy drinking, a reduction in smoking and a probabilistic increase in exercise, thereby indicating that the public insurance expansions could reduce harmful health habits in low-income populations over time.

One Step Further: Annotated Bibliography Template

Create RMD or Word doc and connect to [.bib] file for deliverable

Create a separate paragraph entry for each paper with info:

- Full paper title (makes searching for name easier later)
 - cite using Vancouver style – produces ordered biblio
- Authors, Year, Journal of Publication
- Data used – source name, access link if available, study window
- Method used – Details, any methodological advances
- 2 sentence abstract re-write
 - Synthesize results and contribution in your words (copy & paste to intro)

Will send this template with a dummy [.bib] file - email: sr2297@cornell.edu !

Thank You! Questions?
