

Scientific Reporting

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Literature Reviews

- You must know what has already been published in your field to a first approximation
- Start with search engines, like:
 - Google Scholar www.scholar.google.com
 - Pubmed <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>
- The literature is quite extensive. For example, using the key words “Dog and behavior” returned 1.6 million documents; using Pubmed returned 13,278 documents

Refine your literature search

- Add key words until you narrow your search.
- When you have narrowed your search too much, you will get no documents
- Keep in mind these levels of documents and their relative importance:
 - Scientific, peer reviewed journals (most critical)
 - Books
 - Patents
 - Informational writings (ex., Time, Nat Geo, etc.)
- Also keep in mind some documents are not in databases, especially older literature

Unique aspects of Animal Behavior Literature

- Many lay writings will be found; that is, not by scientists in scientific journals
- Many informative descriptions of animal behavior are in textbooks and other books. While informative, they are descriptive and not quantitative

Outline of Writings

- Major headings:
 - Abstract
 - Introduction (end with the objectives of the study)
 - Methods
 - Include averages and descriptive statistics where possible
 - Results (only objective findings)
 - Discussion
 - Relate your findings to the literature (same or different; if different, why?)
 - Relate your findings to the behavioral biology of the animal(s)
 - Give useful applications of this information for animal owners

Journal of Animal Science

- Use this journal as an example for style and form
- <https://academic.oup.com/jas>