

Identifying references for the term paper

The purpose of this activity is for you to use tools you learn from the AOK Librarian for finding appropriate source materials to develop a list of papers that can form the focus of your term paper.

Semhar Yohannes (Science Reference & Instruction Librarian, semhar@umbc.edu, x5-8130) will be showing you how to get the most out of databases available through the AOK Library or on-line (such as the Pubmed database at the National Library of Medicine). The techniques she presents can be used to narrow the published papers to those that concern a topic concerning your target gene/protein so that your term paper will have a coherent theme.

As a first step in developing your paper you should use the techniques and databases to identify 10 (ten) paper related to your target and to a research theme. These should be original research papers, not review articles. In the databases review papers are clearly identified but you should be able to recognize them because they do not present original research data but rather discuss data and conclusions presented in referenced research papers. Rarely, they may show data but usually as a summary of work done in more than one paper. You may, however, want to find one or more review papers that you can use to identify a theme for your paper; the review will also reference published research papers that you could use as references in your own paper.

Below is a possible procedure for you to follow in finding your 10 references.

1. Do a broad search for any research or review papers concerning your disease, gene or protein.
2. Find papers with titles that sound interesting to you; do a little reading in the papers to find topics or themes that authors are interested in concerning your target.
3. Use search techniques learned from Ms. Yohannes to identify more papers that address aspects of the topic or theme that interests you.
4. Skim or read parts of the papers to determine how they are related to the topic/theme. Look for references in the papers to other research papers that you have not already found.
5. Decide on a list of at least 10 papers you would like to use in starting your research for the term paper.

Ultimately, you may not use all of these papers in writing your paper and you may even find others in the process of writing it. For this activity, you should turn in an annotated bibliography of the papers you intend to use. Please use the reference style described in the prompt for the writing project (found at <https://approaches.umbc.edu/writing/>). The bibliography should include a one or two-sentence description of the content of each paper. This description should be very general and avoid describing technical details of the research presented. You may be able to create this description based on a reading paper's abstract alone but you may want to consult the rest of the paper if the abstract is unclear.

The list of references is due on October 11, 2018.