Theme 05: Identifying the literature

Describing a Journal Article

In order to describe a source successfully, you need to be able to (1) locate the key information, and (2) summarise the key information in your own words.

**Task 1**

* Complete the second column of the table by putting the following sections of a journal article in the right order: References, Abstract, Conclusion, Literature Review, Discussion, Introduction, Findings
* Is every journal article structured like this? Look through the articles which you have used so far.

**Task 2**

* The best descriptions of sources outline their *aims*, *methods* and *key findings*. In which sections would you expect to find that information?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Section | AIM | METHOD | KEY FINDINGS |
| 1 | Abstract |  |  |  |
| 2 | Introduction |  |  |  |
| 3 | Literature Review |  |  |  |
| 4 | Methodology | NO | YES | NO |
| 5 | Findings |  |  |  |
| 6 | Discussion |  |  |  |
| 7 | Conclusion |  |  |  |
| 8 | References |  |  |  |

**Task 3**

Answer the questions:

* Can you copy and paste from the Abstract when describing the source?
* What could the Literature Review be useful for?
* How to decide which ‘key’ findings to summarise?

**Task 4**

* Find a journal article relevant to your project.
* Use the table below to note down the most important information from each section.
* Use your own words.
* When the table is complete, use your notes to prepare 1-3 PPT slides with your summary of the source. This can be used in your mini-presentation.
* Try to condense the information into 2-3 sentences. This can be used in your Literature Review.

**Source Reference:** ……………………………………….

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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