

# Research Capacity Building Workshop

## 5. Research Reading Skills Part 1



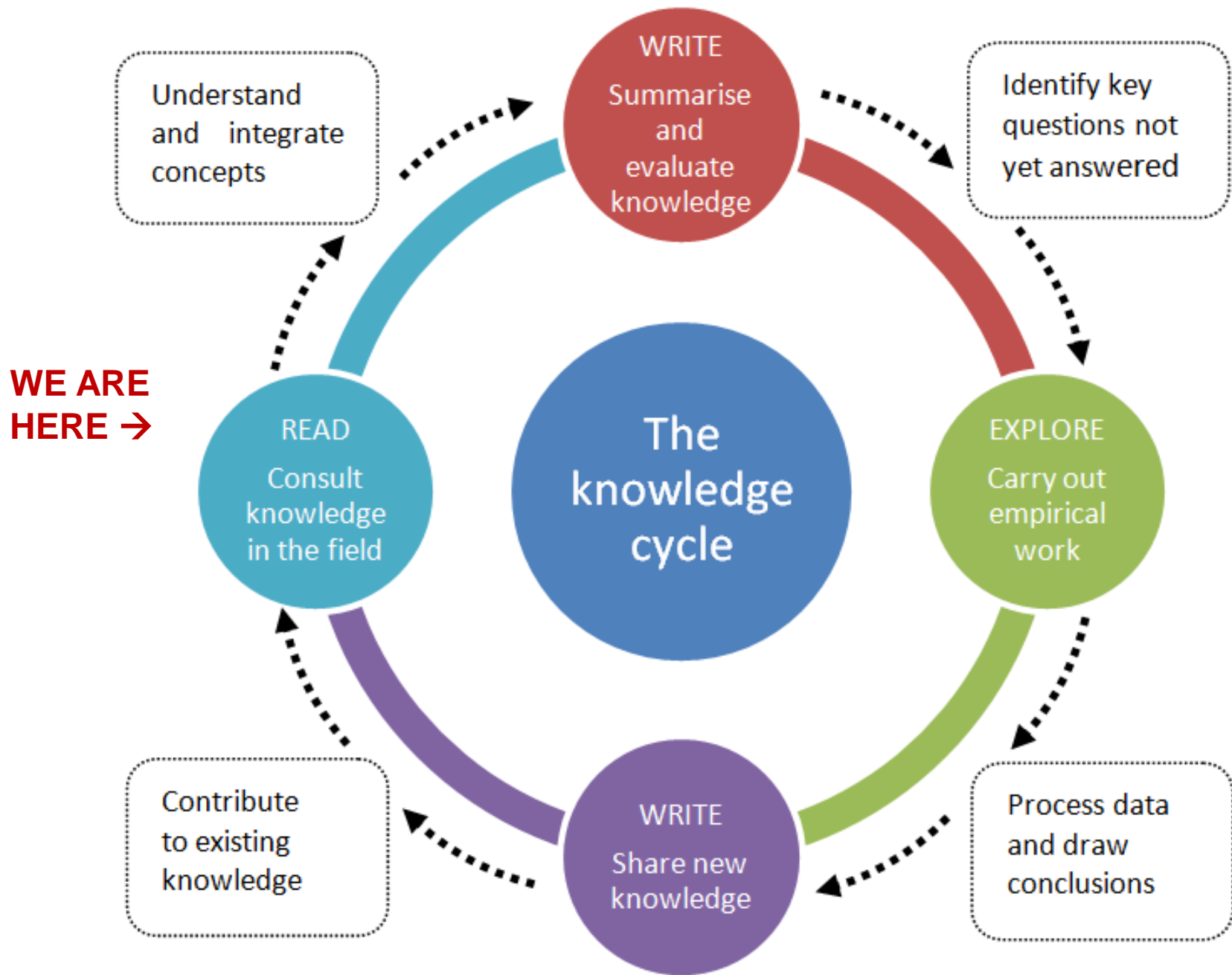
# Finding and organising sources



## Programme:

- Introductions
- Recap
- Readings about readings
- Some purposes the literature serves
- Key words and refining searches
- Organising sources

Literature searches, other practical applications and discussions will be carried out during the workshop.



# Online Forum



An online forum has been set up at the following web address: <http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/>

Click on category *RPS Research Capacity Building*, and click on course *Research Matters*.

Materials are posted there online after workshops, including useful articles and books.

To log in:

User ID: staff or student number

Password: research

Once on *Research Matters*, go to the “Social forum”.

# Workshops listed on *Research Matters*



After each workshop, materials and resources are posted on the Moodle course *Research Matters*, which provides a recap of what has been covered so far.

Guests can browse through *Research Matters*, see what has been done, and download resources and materials without having to log in.

The annual weekly workshop programme and booking sheet can also be found there.

# Introductions



Reply to my message on the Social Forum headed:  
**RESEARCH READING SKILLS PART 1 24 Feb 2012**

Introduce yourself and your research topic or area, as well as level of study (e.g. MTech, DTech).

Next, tell us:

1. which point you have reached with your reading, and
2. what difficulties (if any) you anticipate or are facing even now.

# Reading about reading



Go to the following web pages, read what is said about reading, and post a response to my message:

- <http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/mod/resource/view.php?id=1532>
- <http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/mod/resource/view.php?id=1536>
- <http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/mod/resource/view.php?id=1745>
- <http://dutmoodle.dut.ac.za/moodle/mod/resource/view.php?id=1540>

# Some purposes the literature serves



- Contextualises your research in terms of the body of knowledge available.
- Summarises research in the field.
- Gives insight into the disciplinary matrix of the field.
- Acts as an exemplar of scholarly writing.
- Models research orientations and methodologies.
- Can be used to reference a fact or opinion.
- Can be used as evidence to support your argument.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the field or area.
- Demonstrates you have mastered certain research conventions.



Display replies in ▾



### Finding a crucial reading online

by Dee Pratt - Friday, 17 February 2012, 09:23 AM

Using Google, search for a critical reading which you need at this stage of your research, and see if you can find (and download) a free copy. Report back, saying (1) how you found it (e.g. what keywords did you use) and (2) whether you could get a free copy (and why not, if not).

[Reply](#)



### Re: Finding a crucial reading online

by JANICE LISE MOOLMAN - Friday, 17 February 2012, 09:45 AM

I googled: Operations Management, clothing, thesis

I was able to find a 2011 Dissertation towards a Masters in Consumer Science at University of Pretoria.

I was able to download a full PDF version of this thesis.

This gives me confidence that there are relevant resources related to my subject matter expertise as well as relevant to the industry that I work in.

Perhaps this Masters is "doable" after all!!!!

[Show parent](#) | [Reply](#)

# Key words and refining searches



- Move from general key words to more specific ones.
- Group phrases with “ ” as the search progresses.
- Look for authors.
- Look for whole titles.
- Add these words to your search to find book/article titles:

References

Bibliography

*Remember you will also be searching for literature on methods and research orientations in the field/area.*

# Change key words to follow up useful leads



Change key words when interesting or useful aspects come up in the search.

A student researching the teaching of pattern-designing software found that her focus moved to the issue of the (alleged) skills scarcity in Industry, so Googled using key words :

"skills shortage" in South Africa clothing industry  
apparel

# Madness?



**From:** Dee Pratt [mailto:deep@intekom.co.za]

**Sent:** 22 February 2012 08:01 AM

**To:** 'Steve'

**Subject:** RE: Not sure why only 8 are showing

I googled on: "medical discoveries" "discourse analysis" reporting news (or some such), lost the keyword page, but found some discourse analysis stuff on mad cow disease, then googled on: analysis of discourse "mad cow disease". Then I reconstructed the initial key words and googled again.

# Tell us what you found!



In response to my forum message, “Tell us what you found”:

Tell us what you found in your reading searches today, and anything interesting or useful which you have discovered about the search process.

*Good luck with your future searches!*