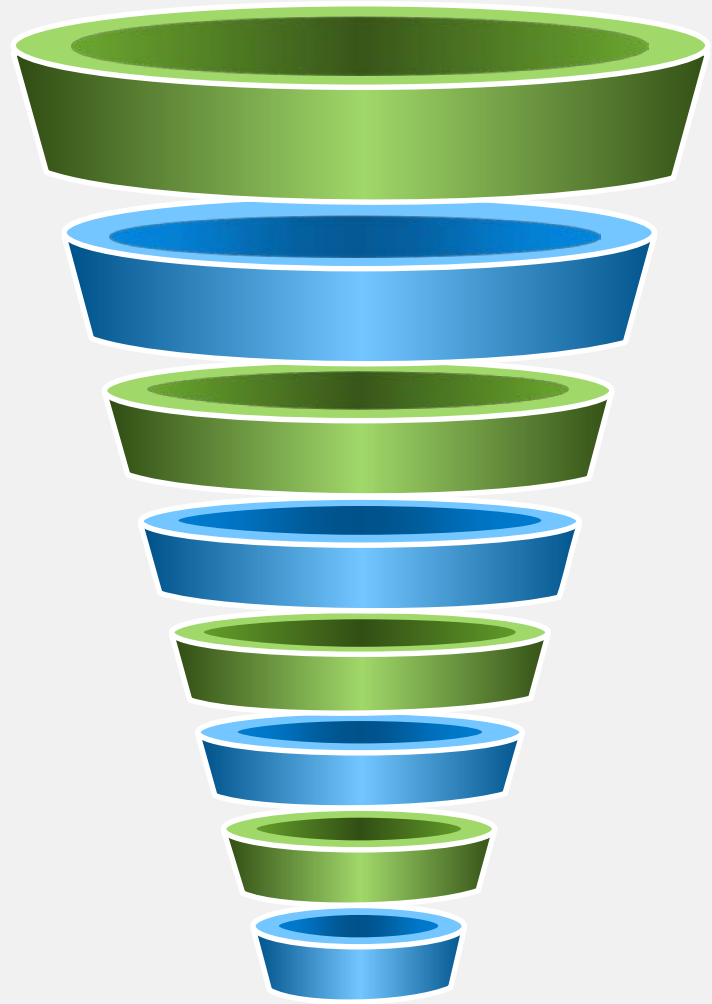


Conducting and Writing a Literature Review in Less Time



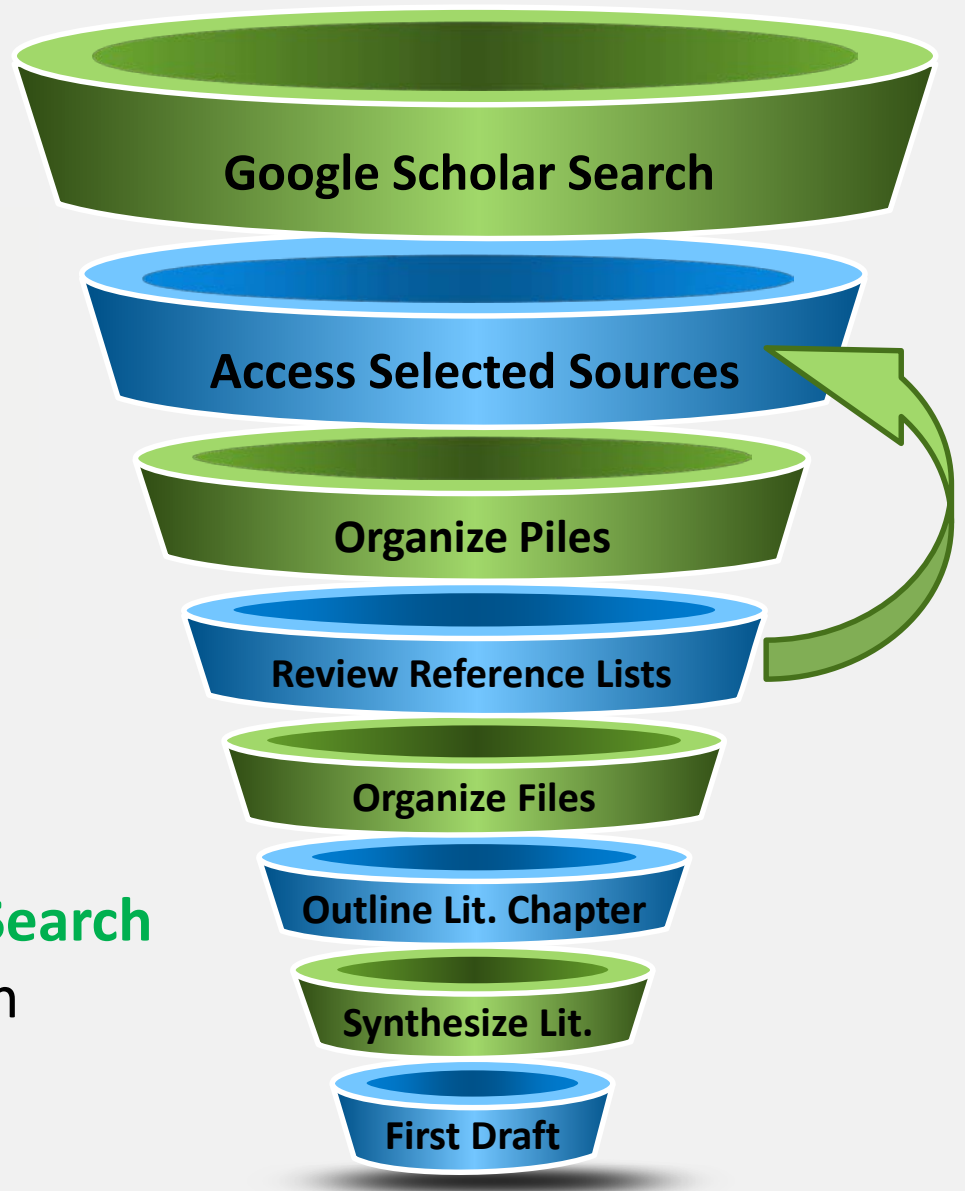
By Debra A. Fisher, Ph.D.
CastleBridge Research Consulting
www.CastleBridgeResearch.com

Webinar Series Overview

Conducting and Writing a Literature Review in Less Time

Conducting a Google Scholar Search

Part A: Simple Key Word Search

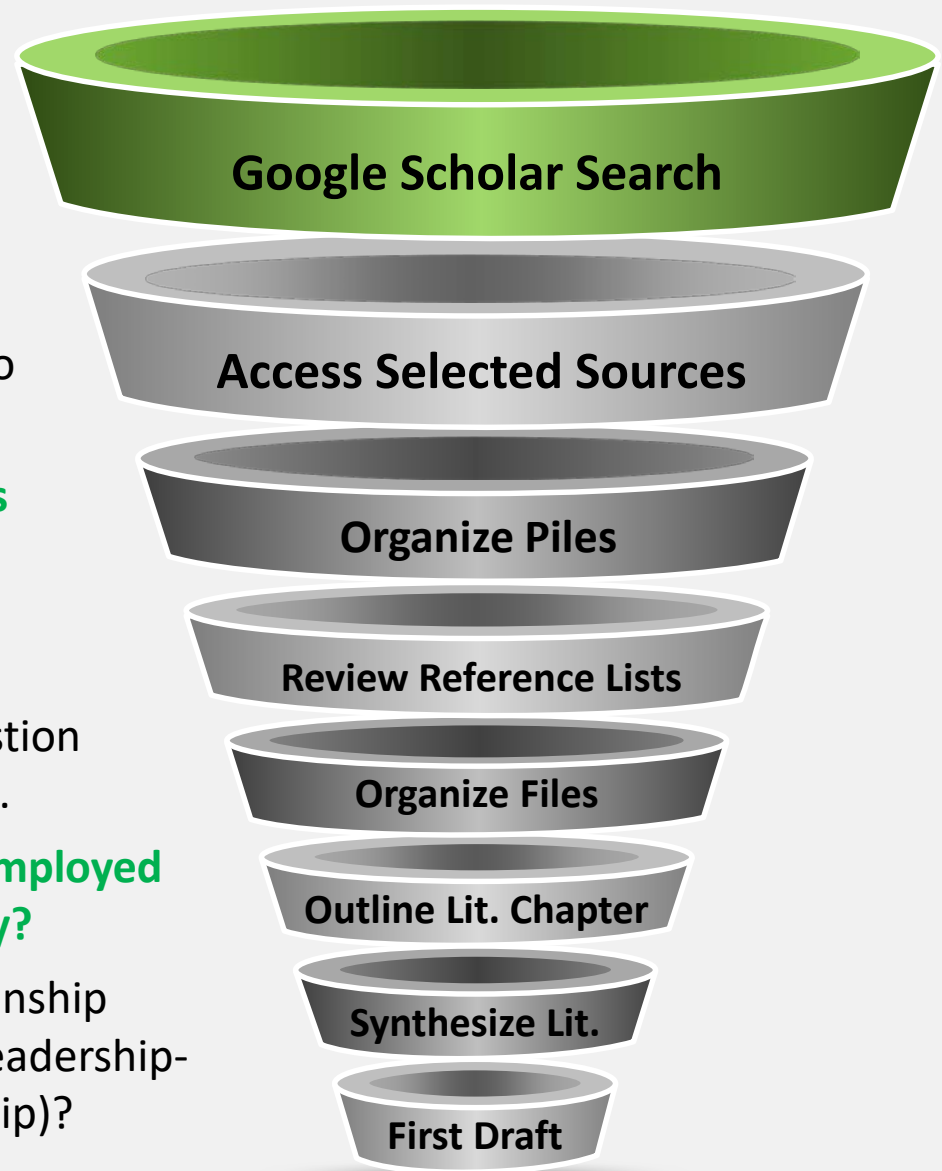


How do I focus my search of the literature?

- Identify general topics of inquiry relevant to your doctoral program, for example:
 - **Women and pay equity in STEM fields**
 - Emotional intelligence

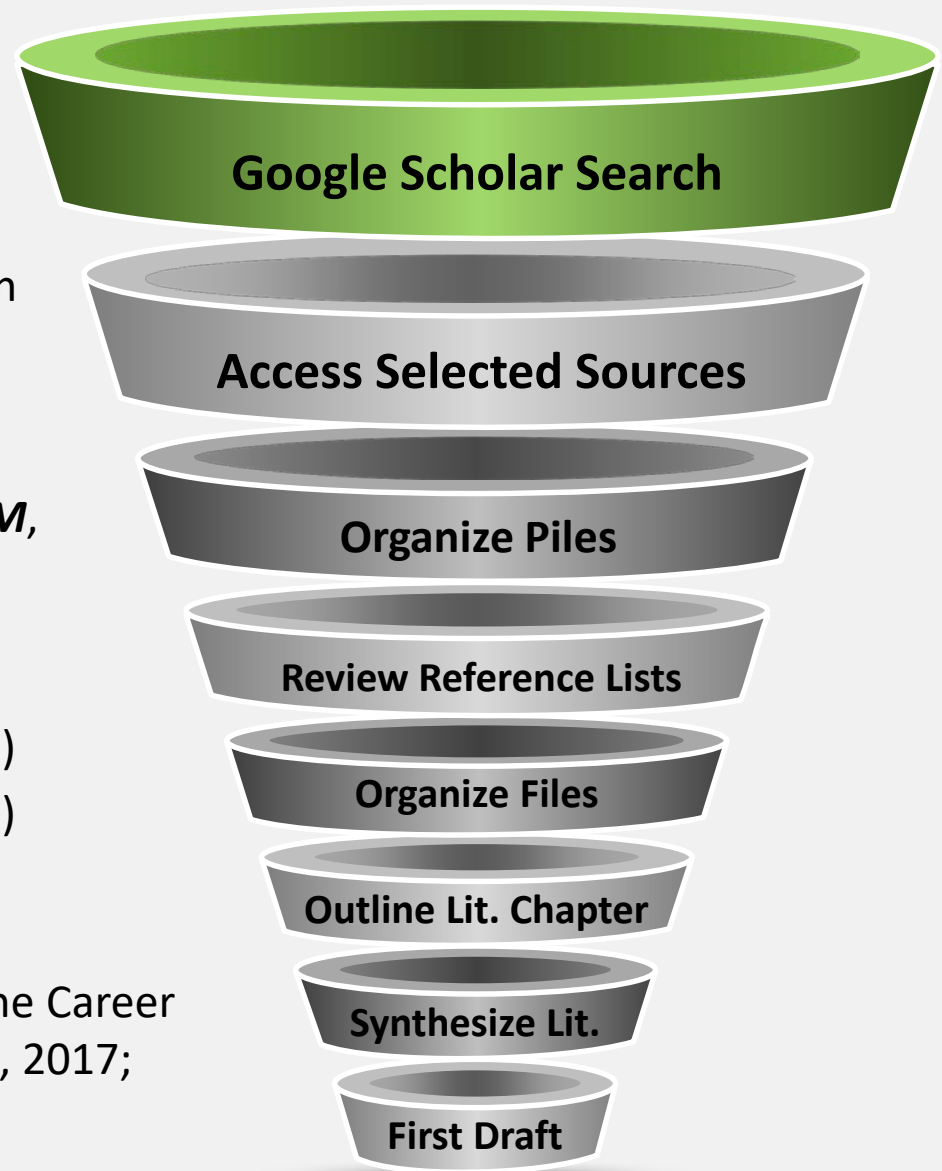
OR

- Develop a broad overarching research question that will evolve as you search the literature.
 - **Example 1 (QUAL): How do women employed in the STEM fields describe pay equity?**
 - Example 2 (QUAN): What is the relationship between emotional intelligence and leadership-member exchange (or entrepreneurship)?



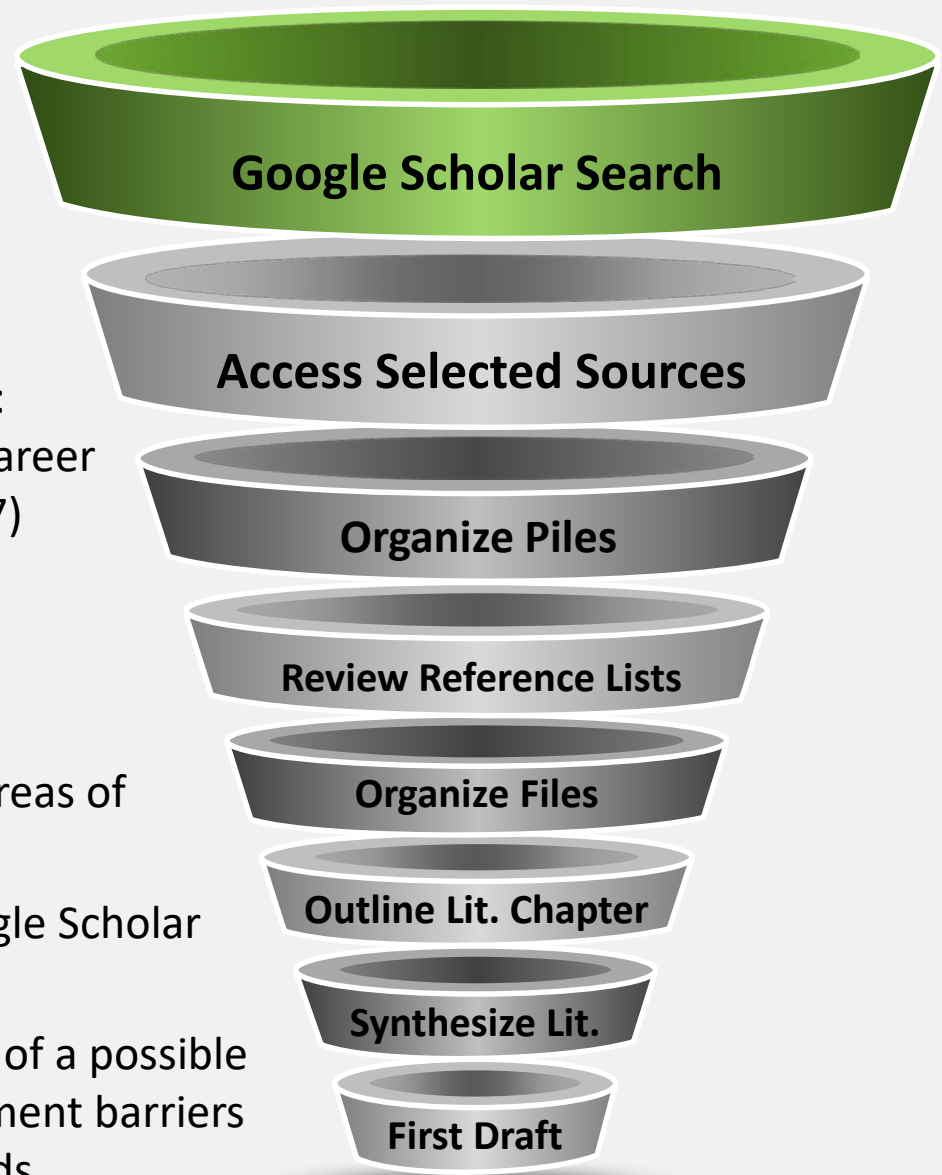
Google Scholar Search Example A: Simple Key Word Search

- Topic of Inquiry: Women and pay inequity in STEM fields
 1. www.scholar.google.com
 2. Advanced Scholar Search
 3. With all the words: ***pay inequity, STEM, women***
- Let's explore...
 - Too broad (~40,600 results)
 - Click on "Since 2015" (~ 16,000 results)
 - Click on "Since 2018" (~ 15,900 results)
 - Click on "Since 2019" (~ 3,870 results)
 - Click on "Attrition of Women in STEM: Examining Job/Major Congruence in the Career Choices of College Graduates" (Y. J. XU, 2017; page 1 of Since 2015)



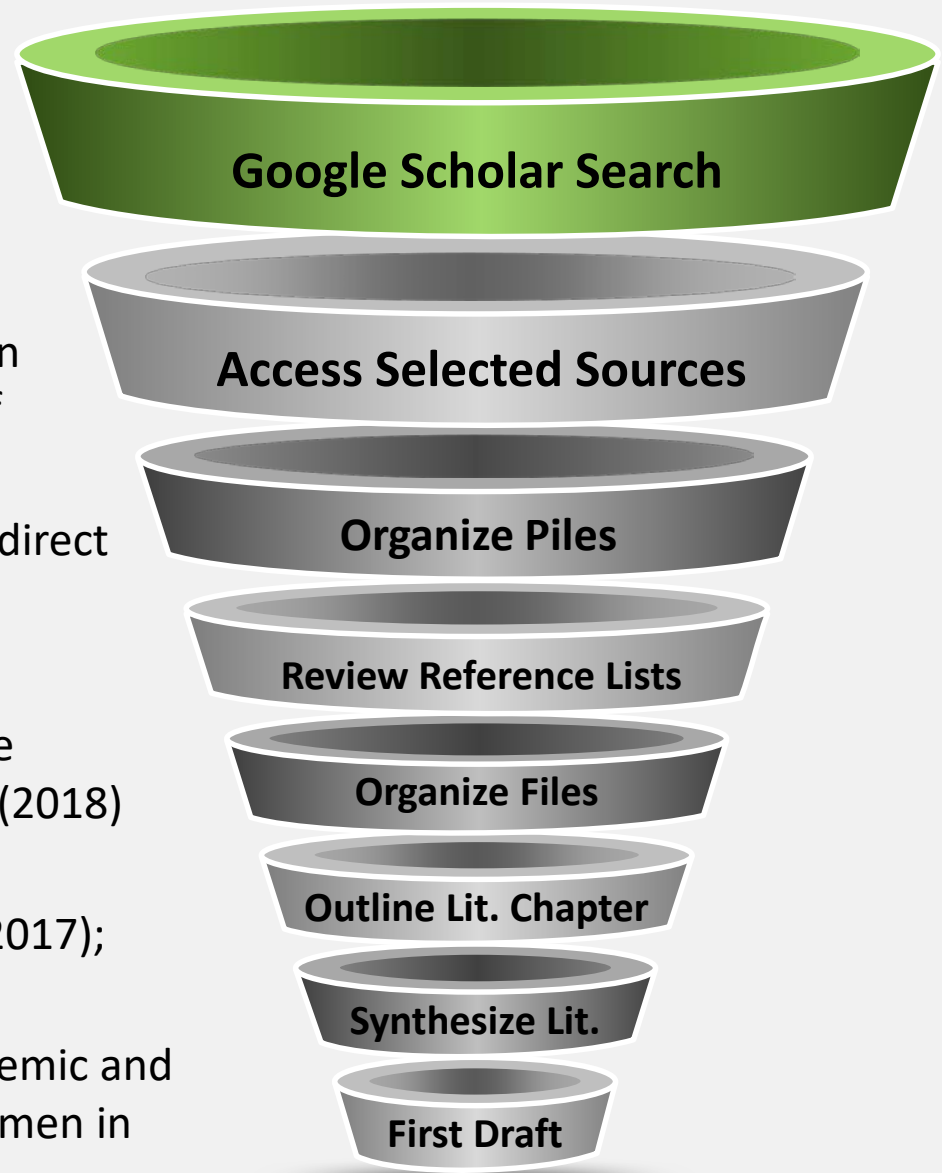
Google Scholar Search Example A: Simple Key Word Search (cont.)

- Let's explore "Attrition of Women in STEM: Examining Job/Major Congruence in the Career Choices of College Graduates" (YJ XU, 2017)
 - **Observation:** Used archival data set
 - **Observation:** Compared two groups (male/female)
 - **Observation:** Results indicate other areas of potential inquiry
 - **Observation:** Reference list with Google Scholar links (treasure trove of sources!)
 - **Observation (YJ XU, 2017):** Discovery of a possible new topic of inquiry: Career development barriers and supports for women in STEM fields



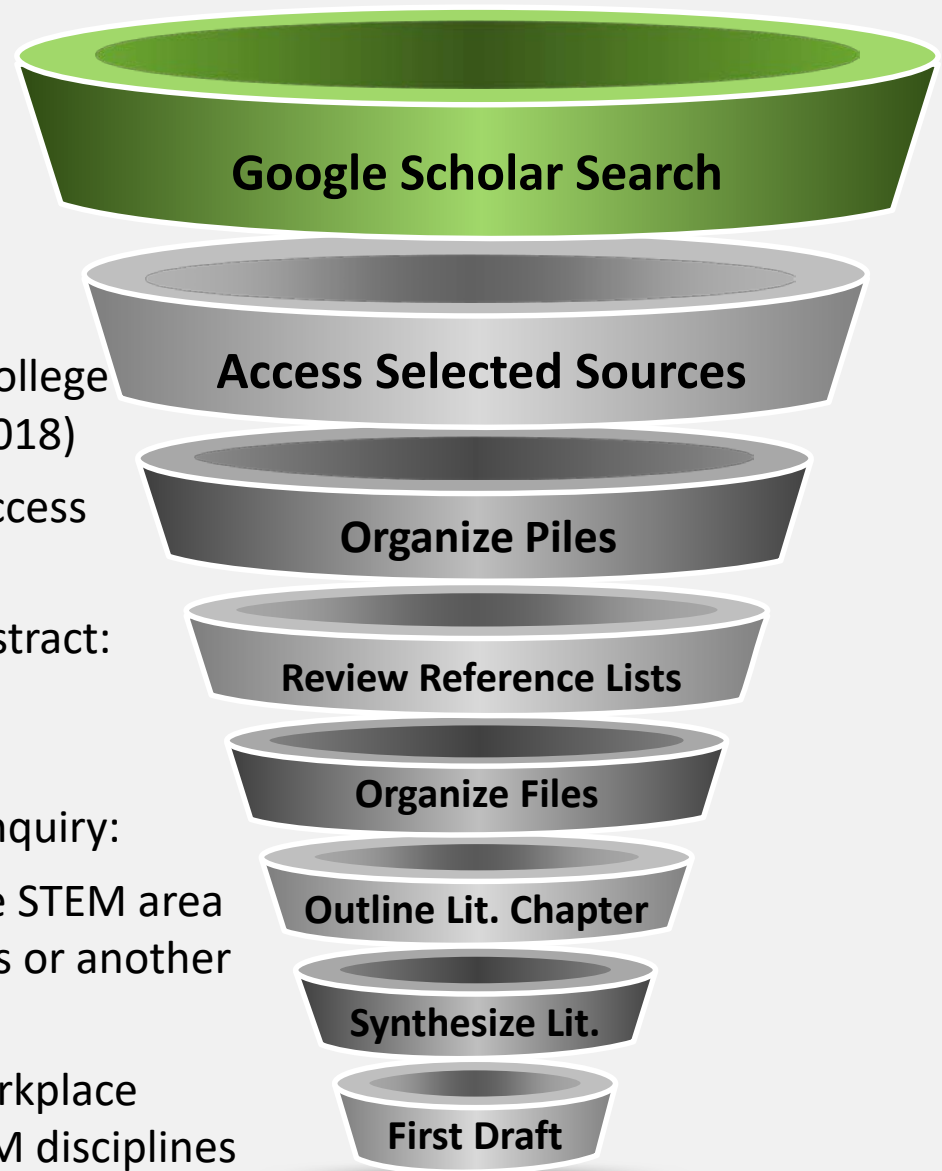
Google Scholar Search Example A: Simple Key Word Search (cont.)

- Let's further explore... "Attrition of Women in STEM" (Y. J. XU, 2017)
 - Go back to "pay inequity STEM women search and scroll down to "Attrition of Women in STEM" (YJ XU, 2017)
 - Click on "All 2 versions" (Checking for direct access)
 - Click on "Cited by 17"
 - **Observation:** Direct access to both the Blackburn (2017) and Smith & Gayles (2018) articles
 - Note literature review by Blackburn (2017); treasure trove
 - Click on "Girl Power": Gendered Academic and Workplace Experiences of College Women in Engineering" (Smith & Gayles, 2018)



Google Scholar Search Example A: Simple Key Word Search (cont.)

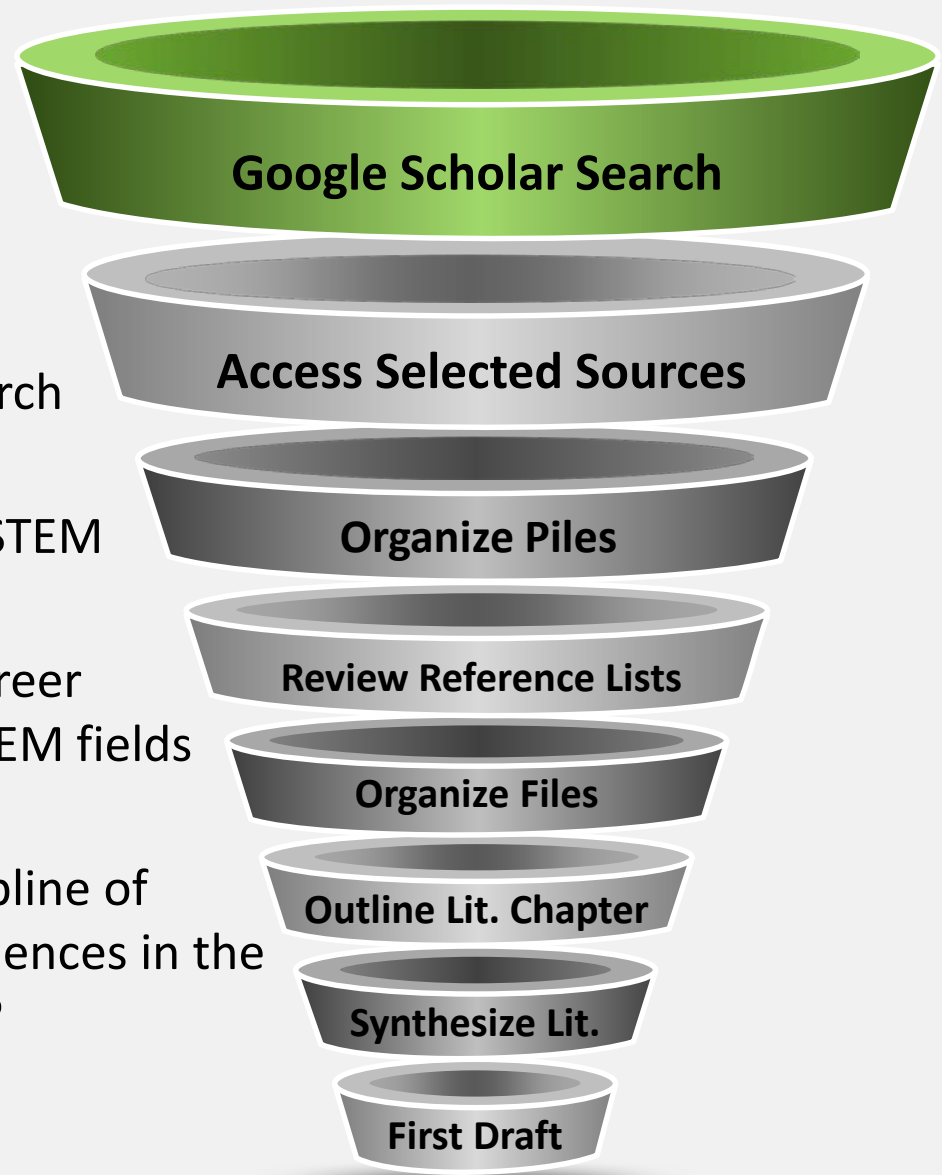
- Let's explore... ““Girl Power”” Gendered Academic and Workplace Experiences of College Women in Engineering”(Smith & Gayles, 2018)
 - **Observation:** *Social Sciences* (Open-access peer-reviewed journal)
 - **Observation:** QUAL methodology (Abstract: constructivist case study based on feminist theory)
 - **Observation:** Possible new topics of inquiry:
 1. Replication study, but change the STEM area from engineering to mathematics or another particular STEM discipline
 2. Investigate the academic and workplace experiences of women in all STEM disciplines through feminist theory or a different theoretical lens



Google Scholar Search Example A: Simple Key Word Search (cont.)

➤ Example of evolving overarching research questions:

1. How do women employed in the STEM fields describe pay equity?
2. What barriers and supports for career development do women in the STEM fields experience?
3. How do women in the STEM discipline of mathematics describe their experiences in the academic and workplace settings?

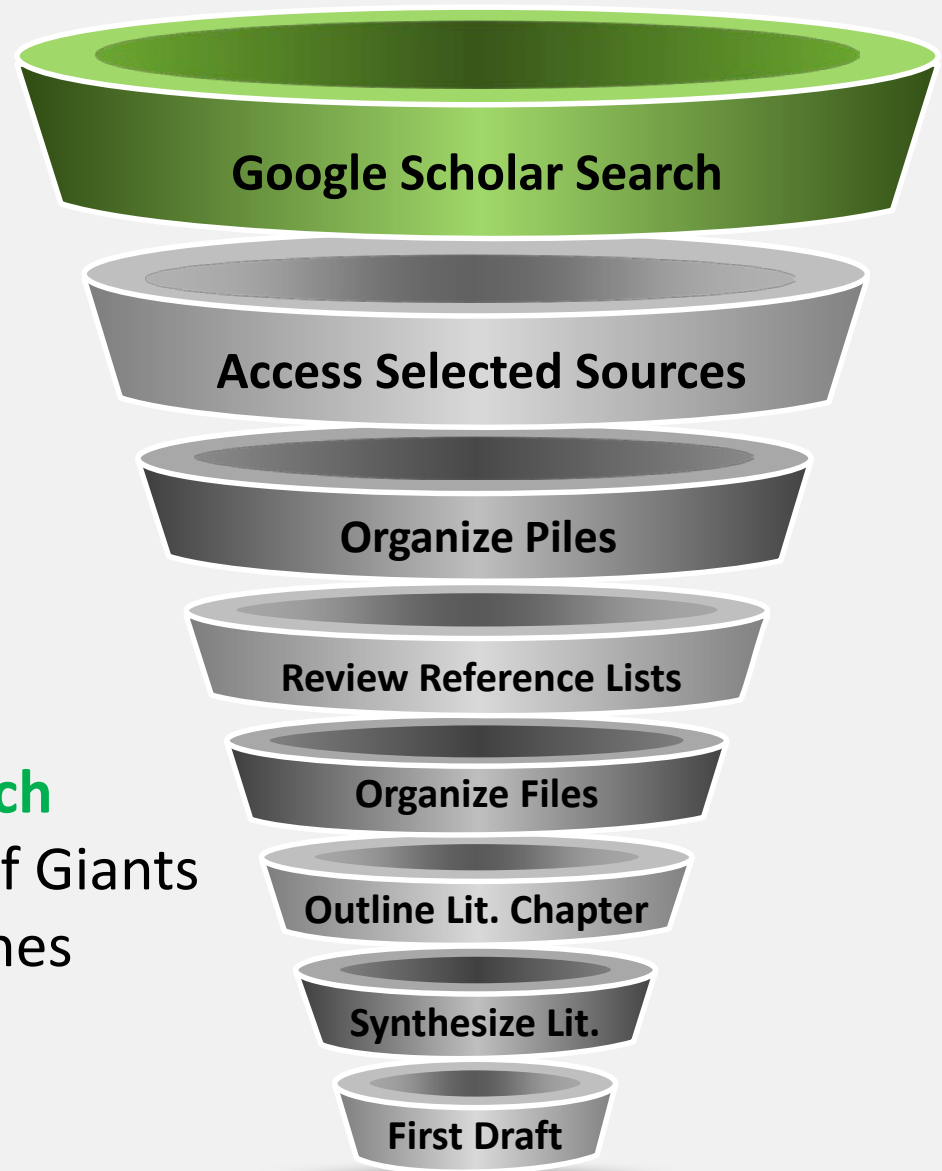


Webinar Series Overview

Conducting and Writing a Literature Review in Less Time

Conducting a Google Scholar Search

Part B: Building on the Shoulders of Giants
Using “Exact Phrase” Searches

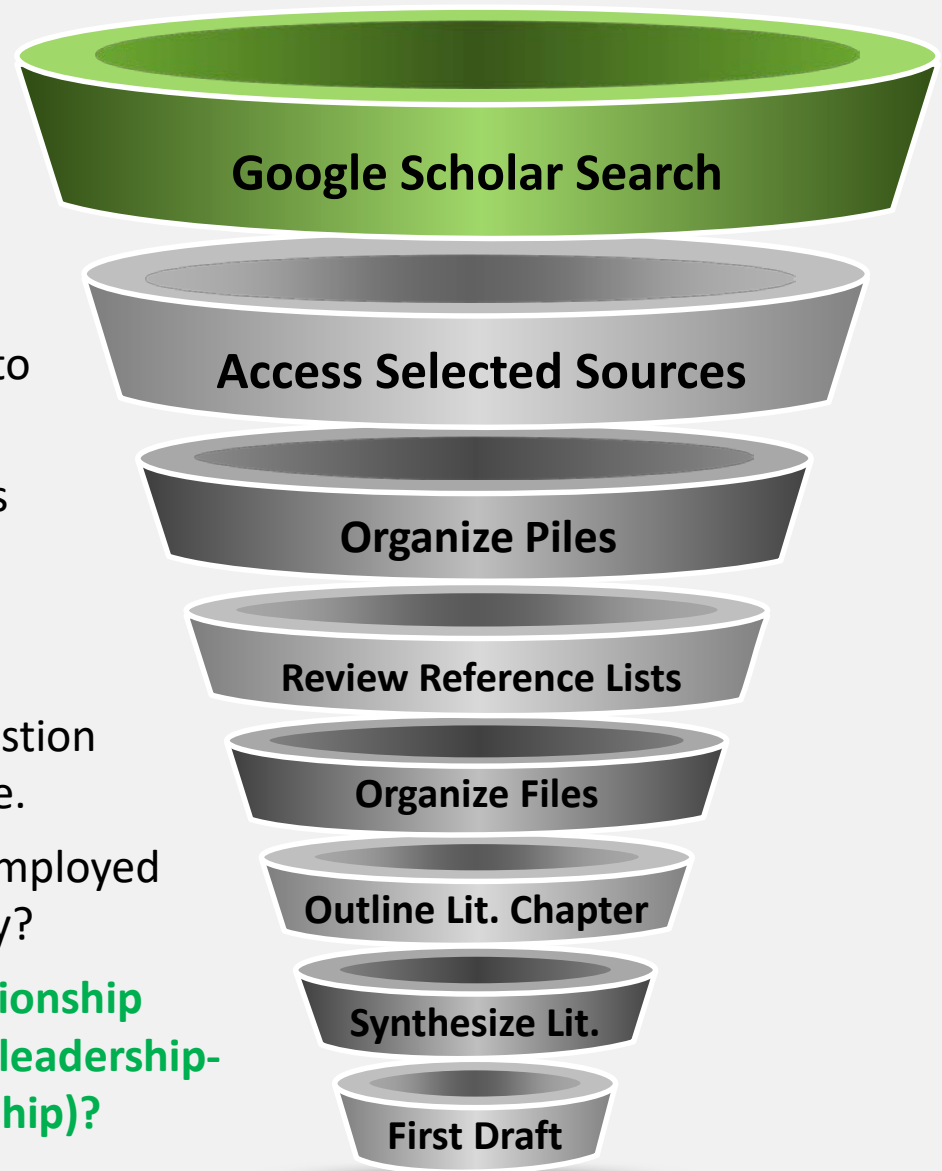


Review: How do I focus my search of the literature?

- Identify general topics of inquiry relevant to your doctoral program, for example:
 - Women and pay equity in STEM fields
 - **Emotional intelligence**

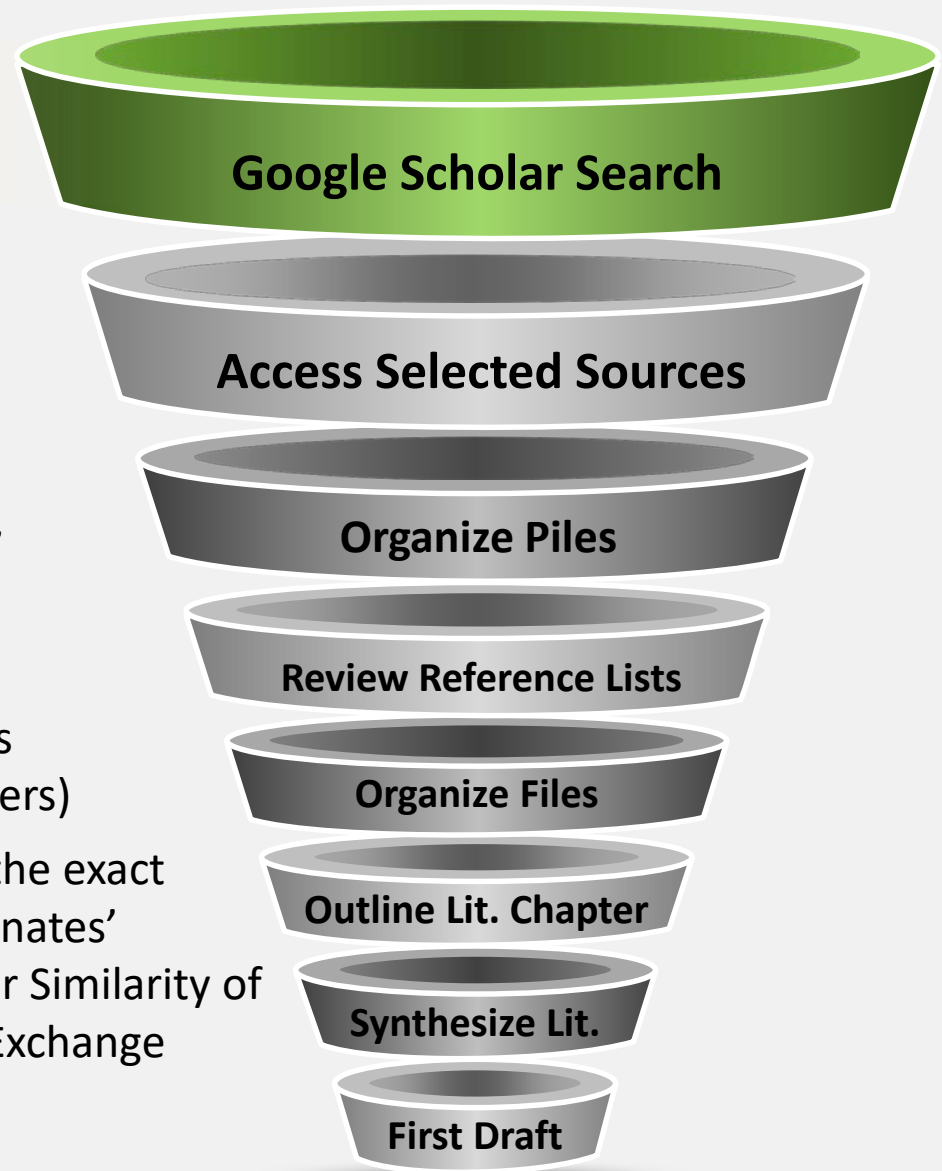
OR

- Develop a broad overarching research question that will evolve as you search the literature.
 - Example 1 (QUAL): How do women employed in the STEM fields describe pay equity?
 - **Example 2 (QUAN): What is the relationship between emotional intelligence and leadership-member exchange (or entrepreneurship)?**



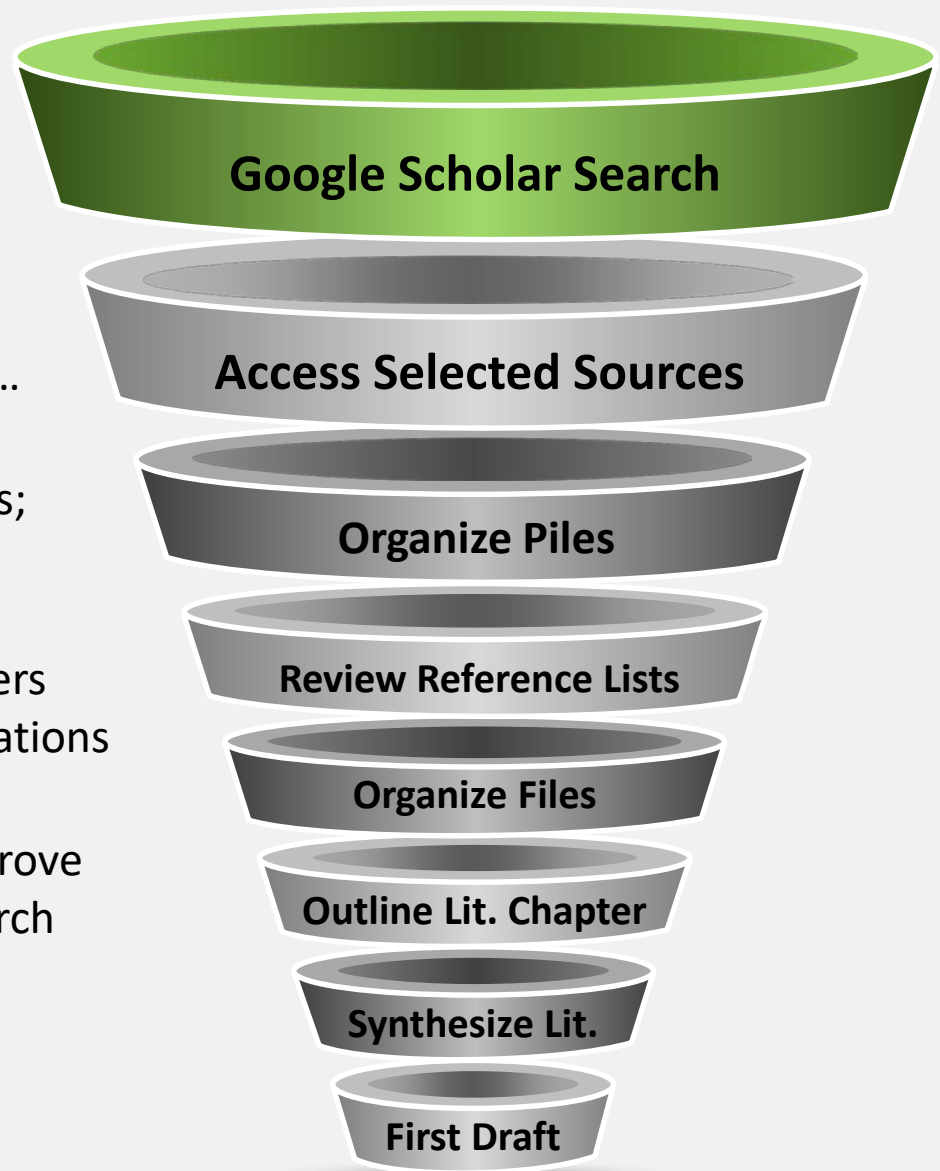
Google Scholar Search Example B: “Building on the Shoulders of Giants”

- Topic of Inquiry: **Emotional Intelligence (EI)**
 1. www.scholar.google.com
 2. Advanced Scholar Search
 3. With the exact phrase: “Toward a neurobiology of emotion and feeling: operational concepts and hypotheses”
- Let’s explore...
 - Click on “See all results” (~ 199 results)
 - **Observation:** Identifying seminal voices (Damasio, Bar-On, Tranel, Bechara, others)
- Let’s conduct a new Advanced Search with the exact phrase: “The Effect of Leaders’ and Subordinates’ Emotional Intelligence and the Effect of their Similarity of Emotional Intelligence on Leader-Member Exchange Quality.”



Google Scholar Search Example B (continued)

- Let's explore Murdoch's (2015) dissertation...
 - **Observation:** Abstract (QUAN study; 2 samples—subordinates and supervisors; 2 instruments—WLEIS and LMX-7; results; implications)
 - **Observation:** Table of Contents (Chapters 1-3; Sample, p. 135; Chapter 5—implications and future research, p. 218)
 - **Observation:** Reference List (treasure trove of dated sources for doing forward search using Google Scholar)
 - **Observation:** Appendix G: Survey Instruments (p. 264)



Practice: Focusing Your Search

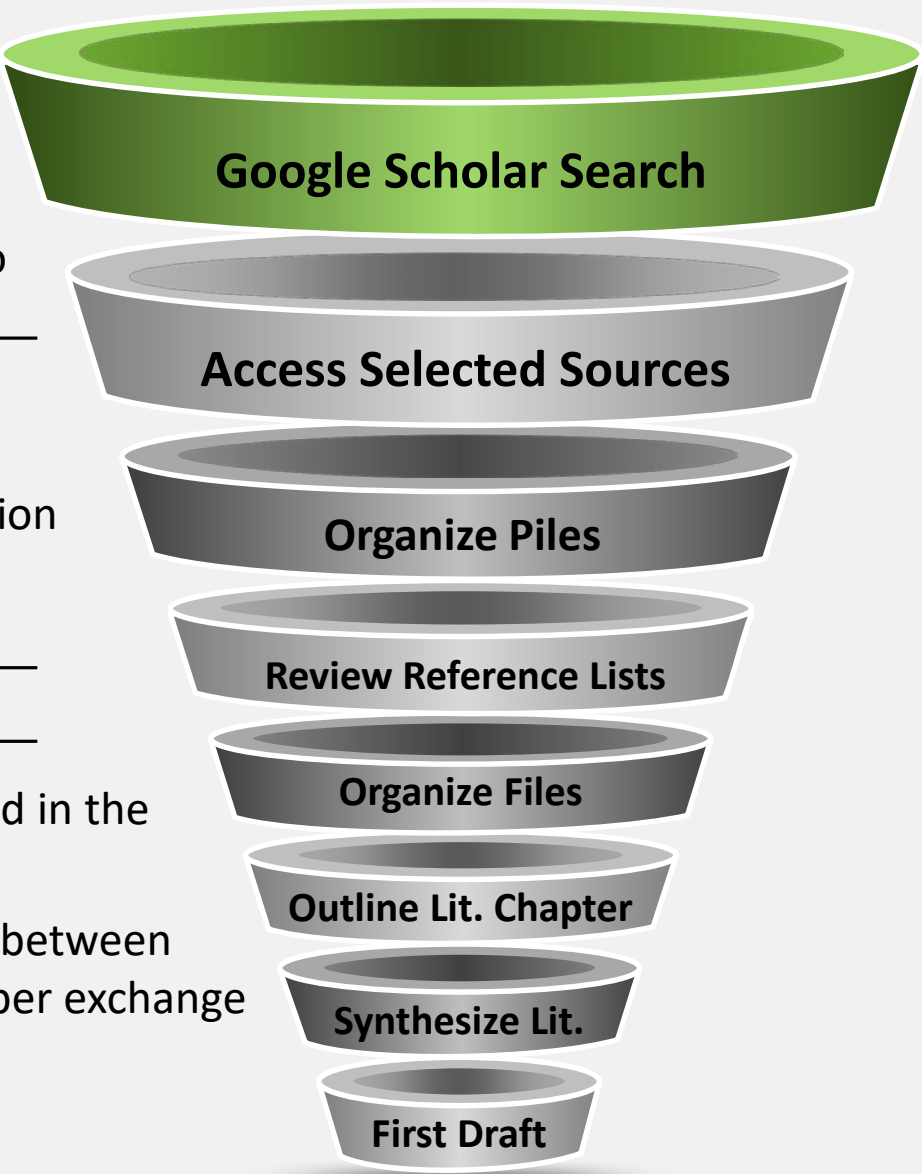
➤ Identify a general topic of inquiry relevant to your doctoral program: _____

OR

➤ Develop a broad overarching research question that will evolve as you search the literature.

- (QUAL): _____
- (QUAN): _____

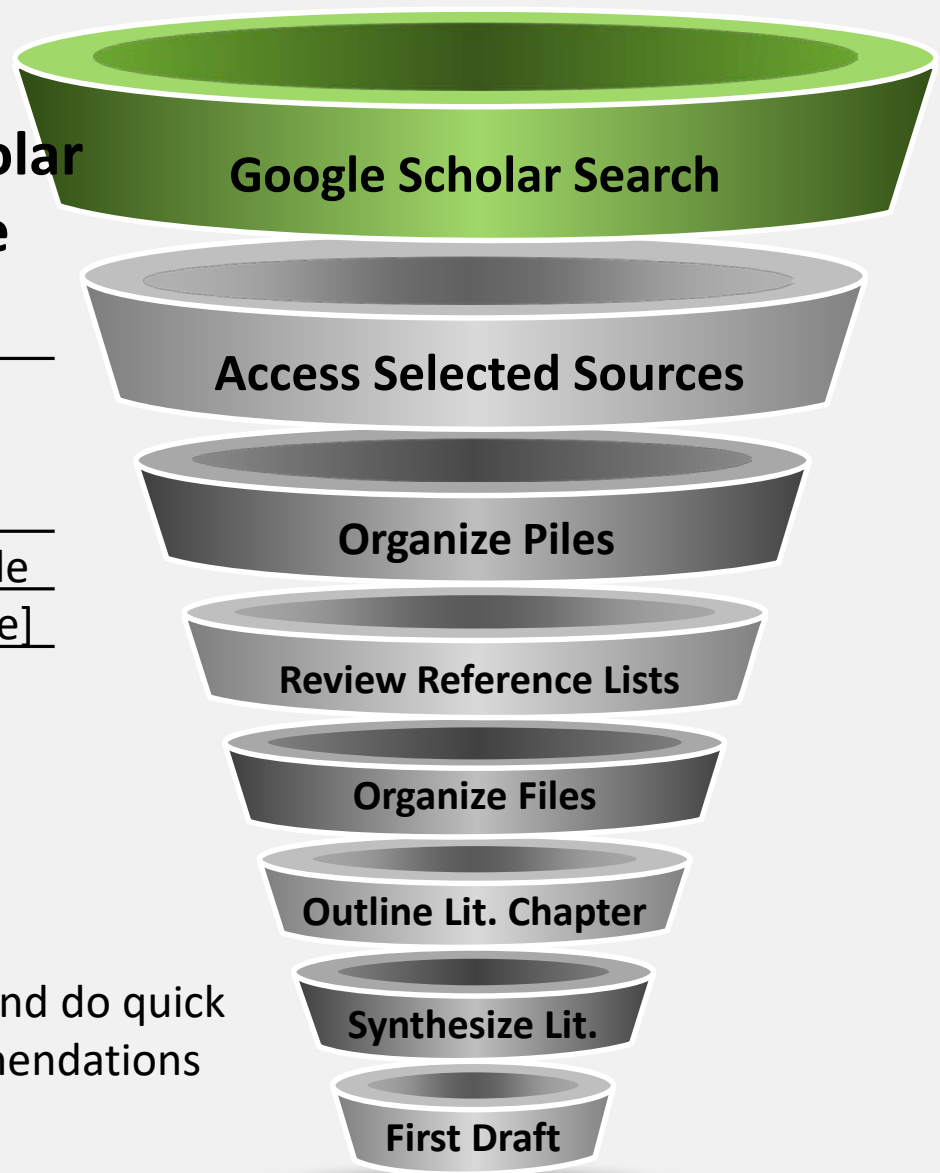
- Example 1 (QUAL): How do women employed in the STEM fields describe pay equity?
- Example 2 (QUAN): What is the relationship between emotional intelligence and leadership-member exchange (or entrepreneurship)?



Practice: Conducting a Google Scholar Search: Key Word and Exact Phrase

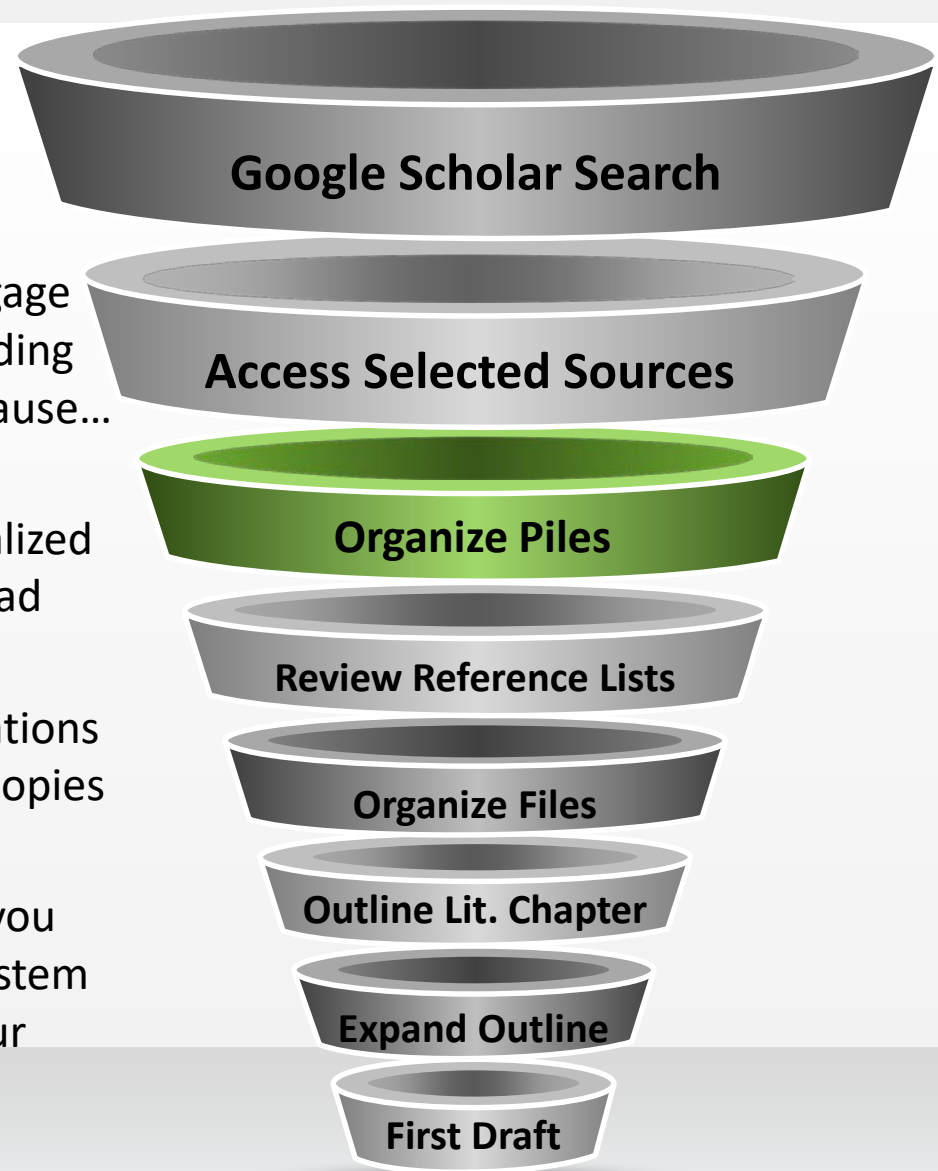
- General topic of Inquiry: _____
 1. www.scholar.google.com
 2. Advanced Scholar Search
 3. With all the words: [type key words]
 4. With the exact phrase: [type exact title of your selected peer-reviewed article]

- Begin exploring...
 - If too broad, narrow by clicking on
 - “Since 2015”
 - “Since 2018”
 - “Since 2019”
 - Click on particular articles of interest and do quick review (abstract, implications, recommendations for future research, reference list)



Organize Piles

- While accessing sources, it is best to engage a first-level organizational process according to piles **as you search the literature** because...
- You do NOT want to interrupt the literature search with a more formalized organizational process (cognitive load issues);
 - You do want to save all your annotations (with page flags) made on printed copies of abstracts and full articles;
 - You may not use all of the sources you access, but you want a first-level system of organization so you can track your search trajectory.



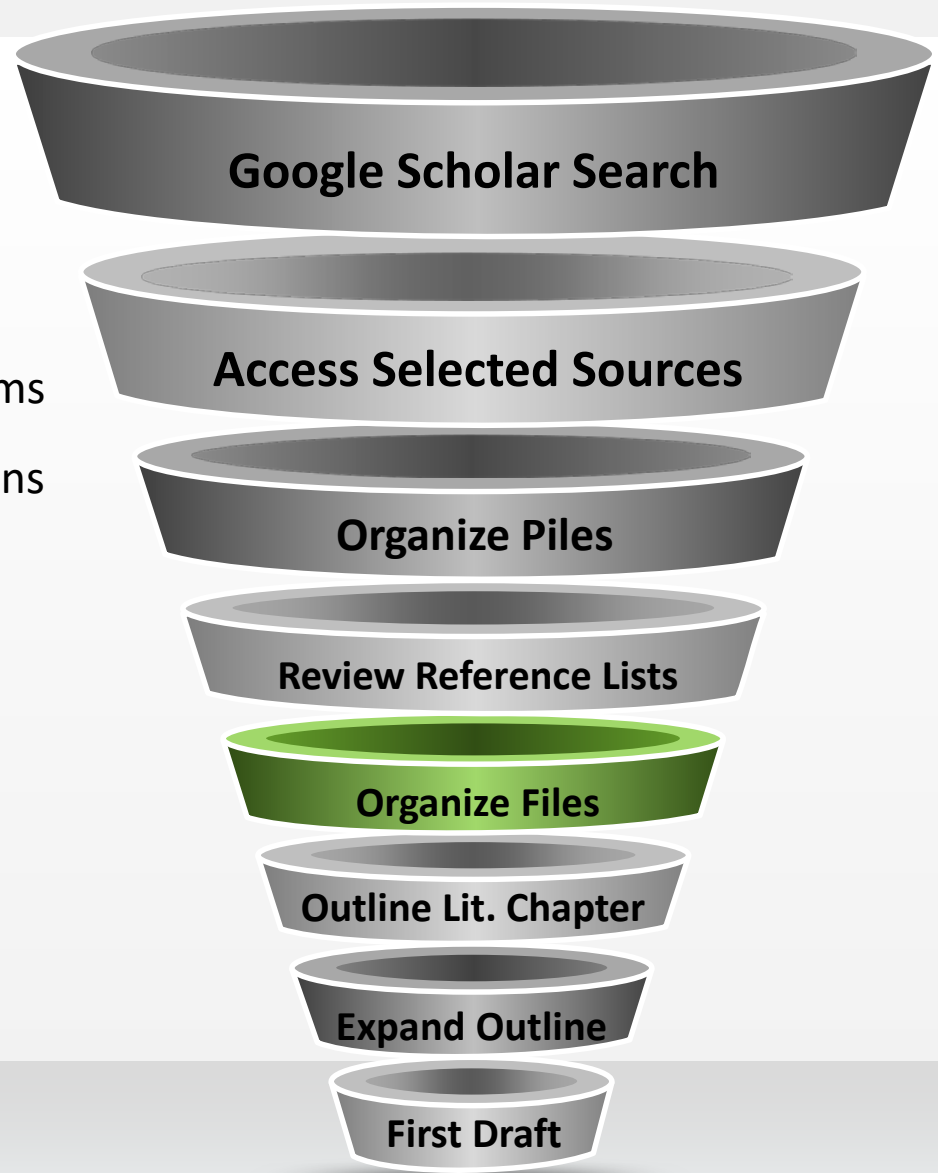
Organize Piles

1. Historical Foundations/Background
2. Theoretical/Conceptual Frameworks
3. Problem(s) to address (such as others' recommendations for future research)
4. Purpose statement + research questions (examples from other studies)
5. Phenomenon (QUAL) or variables/constructs (QUAN) of interest (those most likely to be included in your purpose statement and research questions)
6. Methodology/research design



Organize Files

- Digitized Files: Computer/Cloud programs
- Printed Files: With document annotations



Organize Files

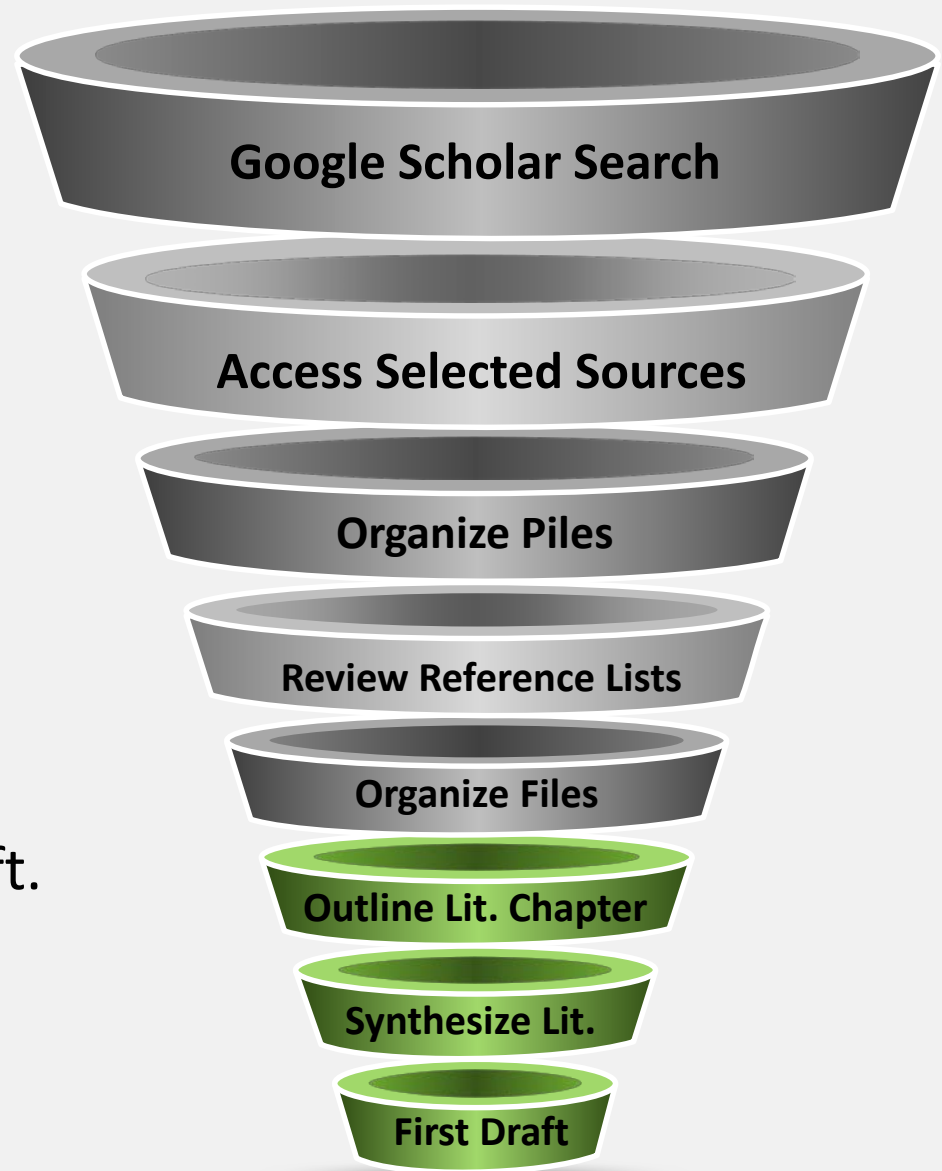
- You can use computer/cloud programs to organize your sources into digital files.
- For sources you will be accessing often over the course of your dissertation work (and possibly beyond), I recommend organizing/filing printed copies.
- This photo shows federal government sources that were critical to my dissertation work. Because access to government documents can be restricted over time and URLs can change, I printed these historical Cold War documents.
- The notebooks include color-coded page flags for organizing my handwritten annotations.



Webinar Series Overview

Conducting and Writing a Literature Review in Less Time

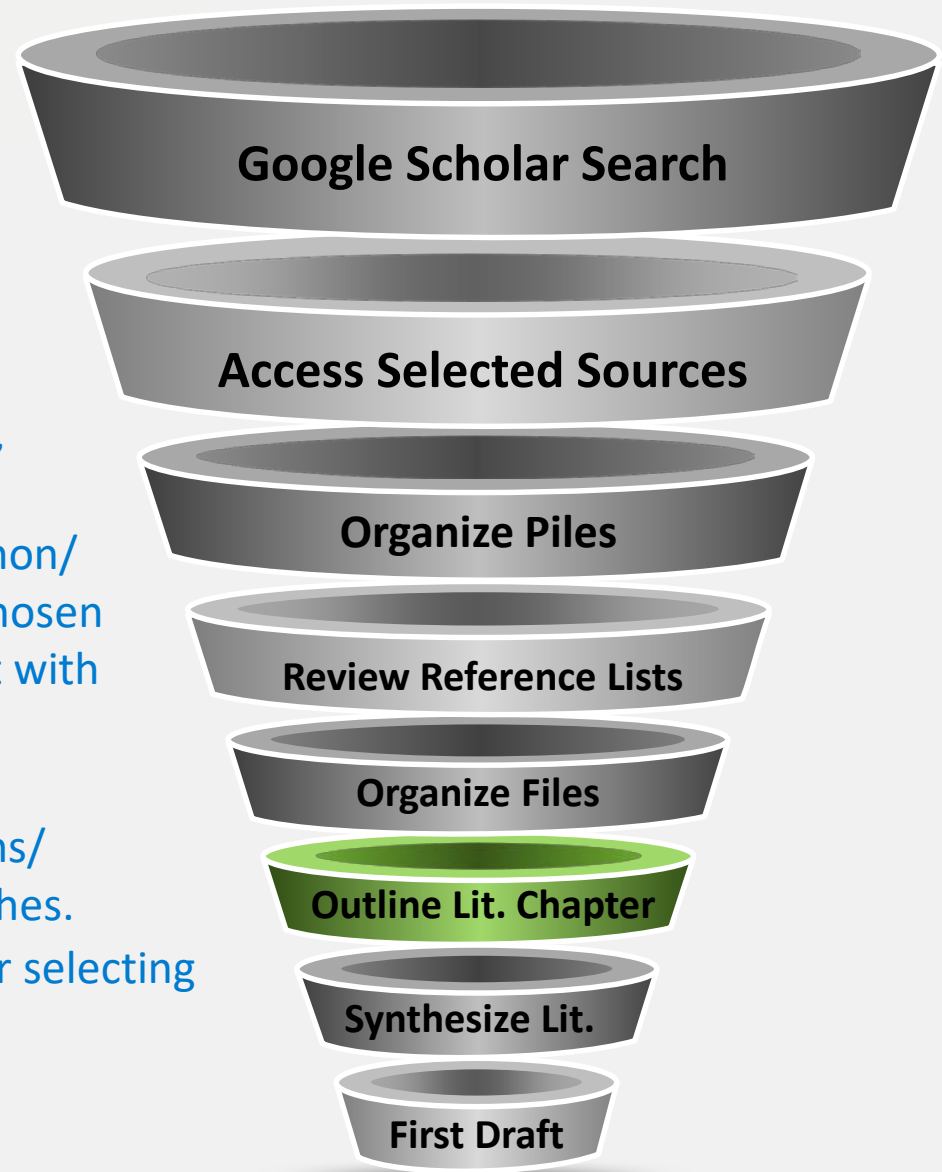
Outlining chapter, synthesizing the literature, and writing the first draft.



Literature Review

Outlining the Chapter

1. Chapter Introduction
2. Literature Search Strategy
3. Theoretical Foundation (as appropriate)
4. Conceptual Framework (as appropriate)
5. Literature Review Related to Phenomenon, Key Variables and/or constructs
 - Describe studies related to phenomenon/ variables/constructs of interest and chosen methodology and methods consistent with scope of your study.
 - Describe ways other researchers have approached the problem and strengths/ weaknesses inherent in their approaches.
 - Justify from the literature rationale for selecting phenomenon/ variables/constructs.
 - Review and synthesize studies
6. Summary and Conclusions



Synthesizing the Literature:

Sample Literature Review Research Log

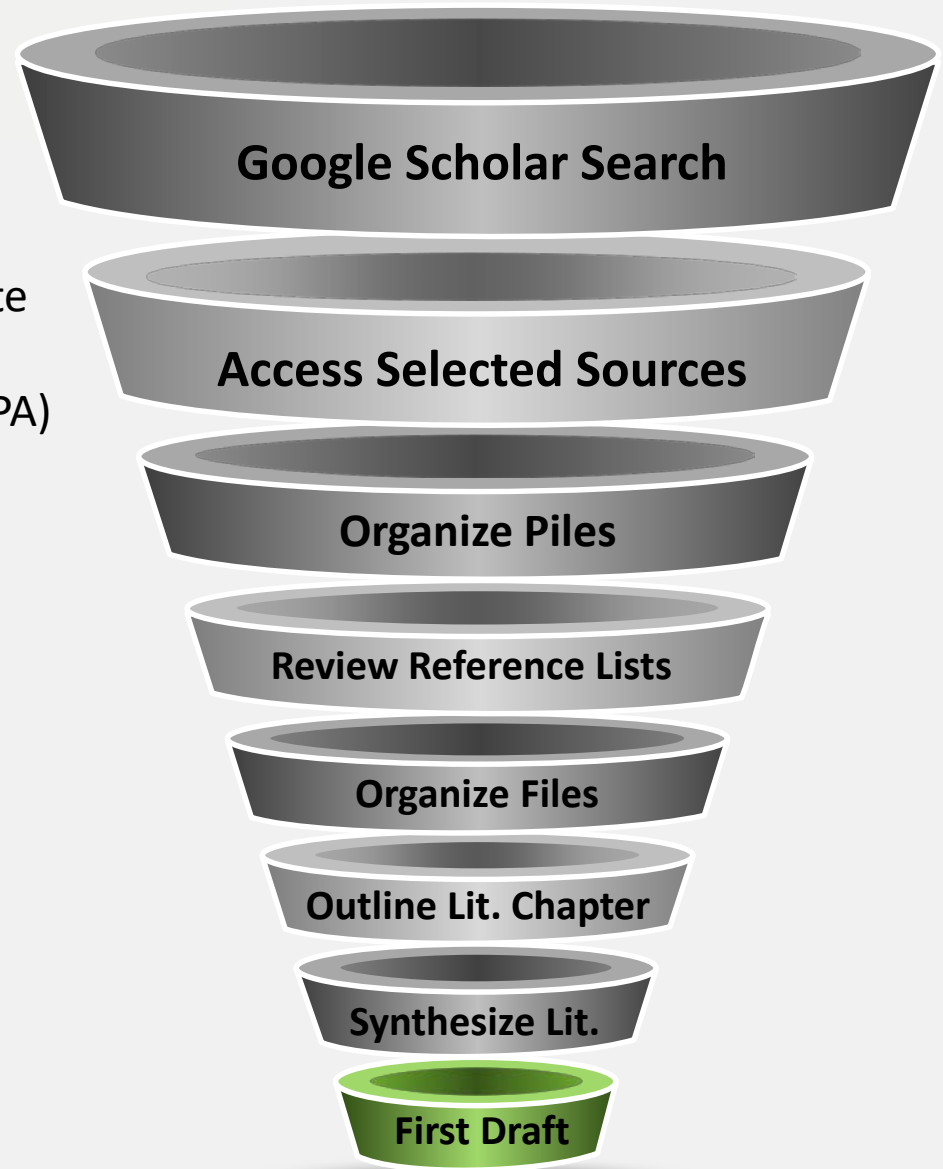
Source	Theoretical/ Concept. Framework	EI	LMX	Similarity of EI	Sample	Methods	Summary/ Findings



Literature Review

Writing First Draft

- Final expanded outline as guide
- Tools for organizing literature files
 - Lit. Review Research log (copy-paste summary/findings)
- Minimum three-sentence paragraph (APA)
- Paragraphing with the **MEAL** Plan (see “Resources” slide)
 - **M**ain Idea
 - **E**vidence or **E**xamples
 - **A**nalysis
 - **L**ink
- Use of transitional and guiding words
 - Moreover, ...
 - Furthermore, ...
 - Conversely, ...
 - First, ...
 - Second, ...
 - Third, ...



Resources

1. Hart, C. (1998). *Doing a literature review: Releasing the social science research imagination*. Thousand Oaks, Ca.
2. Pan, M. L. (2013). *Preparing literature reviews: Qualitative and quantitative approaches* (4th ed.). Glendale, CA: Pyczak.
3. Randolph, J. J. (2009). A guide to writing the dissertation literature review. *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation*, 14(13), 1-13. Retrieved from <http://pareonline.net/pdf/v14n13.pdf>
4. Duke University's Thompson Writing Program coined the title "MEAL Plan." Here are three links to documents describing this approach to paragraphing:
 - <https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/meal-plan.original.pdf>
 - https://twp.duke.edu/sites/twp.duke.edu/files/file-attachments/hs_meal_plan.pdf
 - <http://www.capella.edu/interactivemedia/onlineWritingCenter/downloads/handoutMEALPlan2006.pdf>



About the Author/Presenter

Debra A. Fisher, Ph.D. earned her doctorate in education with an emphasis on professional/interdisciplinary studies. In addition to education, her academic background includes English, philosophy, adult learning theory, and emergency management. Dr. Fisher is the founder/owner of CastleBridge Research Consulting, a research education, and communications company. As an independent consultant for more than 17 years, she supports academic and business clients by providing qualitative research analysis (ATLAS.ti), advising/coaching, and developmental editing services. You can learn more about Dr. Fisher and the services she provides at www.CastleBridgeResearch.com.

Dr. Fisher is presently training her second Golden Retriever, Caleb, to serve as a therapy dog for children with special needs, including those living with the challenges of cancer, hearing impairments, and diverse neurological conditions.

Should you have questions about today's webinar, you can reach Dr. Fisher at Debra@CastleBridgeResearch.com.

