



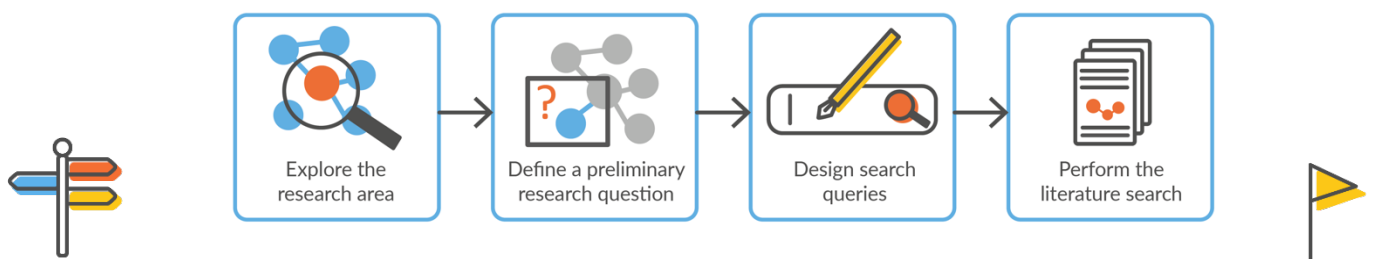
Conduct a literature search

with support from the Science Skills Platform

Whenever you want to gather reliable information about a topic, be it for a paper you have to write, research you have to perform or just out of curiosity, you need to conduct a literature search. Academics across the world share their insights in the form of literature at a rapid speed and finding what you need can feel like looking for a needle in a haystack. However, once you know where to look and which methods to employ you will **get to a list of relevant and reliable literature much quicker** than you might think. The first two modules of the skills platform *Research domain* help guide you through the whole process of conducting a literature search. You can find a summary of the available chapters below. Select the support you need and get started with your literature search!

Process of conducting a literature search

The **Science Skills Platform** offers you a **detailed and practical guide** through all the steps of conducting a literature search as well as an explanation of how to use a reference manager to keep track of your results. How do you start searching if you are not sure what exactly you are searching for? Which literature is reliable and which is not? What do you type into the search bar so you do not get 200.000 hits? And how do you select the literature that is actually relevant to you? The first two modules of the *Research domain* guide you through the process depicted below.



Links to all relevant skills chapters

[Explore the research area](#)

[Define a preliminary research question](#)

[Design search queries](#)

[Perform the literature search](#)

Not sure how to properly save and reference the literature you found? Use the [using sources correctly module](#) to learn about plagiarism and referencing as well as setting up a reference manager.

Once you have gathered some literature you can use the following chapters to [read the publications](#) and create an [overview of the research findings](#).



Keep in mind that the **instructions** you receive from your **supervisor** are always **leading**. They might have specific expectations of the literature you should search for that go beyond the content presented on the skills platform.

Is this your first time hearing about or using the platform?

Consult the [homepage](#) for some general information and discover [how to use the platform](#).

Questions or concerns about the platform?

Consult the [FAQ](#) or contact the Science Skills Team via skills@science.leidenuniv.nl

