



UiO : **University of Oslo Library**

Academic writing and citation

How to write an academic paper and get it approved



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I will talk about

- Why academic integrity is important
- The consequences of cheating
- How to write a good paper
- How to evaluate your sources
- How to cite correctly
- The online resources «Writing and Publishing» and «Search and Write»

This thing called science

- One of the main points of **science** is that a research result must be **verifiable** by others
- A scientific paper must show where the **knowledge** comes from and within which **tradition** you're writing

«If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants» (Isaac Newton, 1676)



Illustrasjonsfoto: Colourbox.no

Put your own mind into it

- Independent thought and new ideas are key elements in a work of science
- You can use facts and theories from different sources, but the conclusions that you draw from them must be your own
- The teachers already have all the text books. They want know what ***you*** think

But I'm not a cheater...

- Many cheat without knowingly doing so
- Not to reference to your sources is considered cheating
- As a student you are obligated to learn the rules for academic writing and citation
- <http://www.uio.no/english/studies/admin/examinations/sources-citations/>

The consequences of cheating

If you cheat you risk having your examination **annuled** and be **excluded** from all universities and university colleges in Norway for a period of one or two semesters

So what is a good paper?

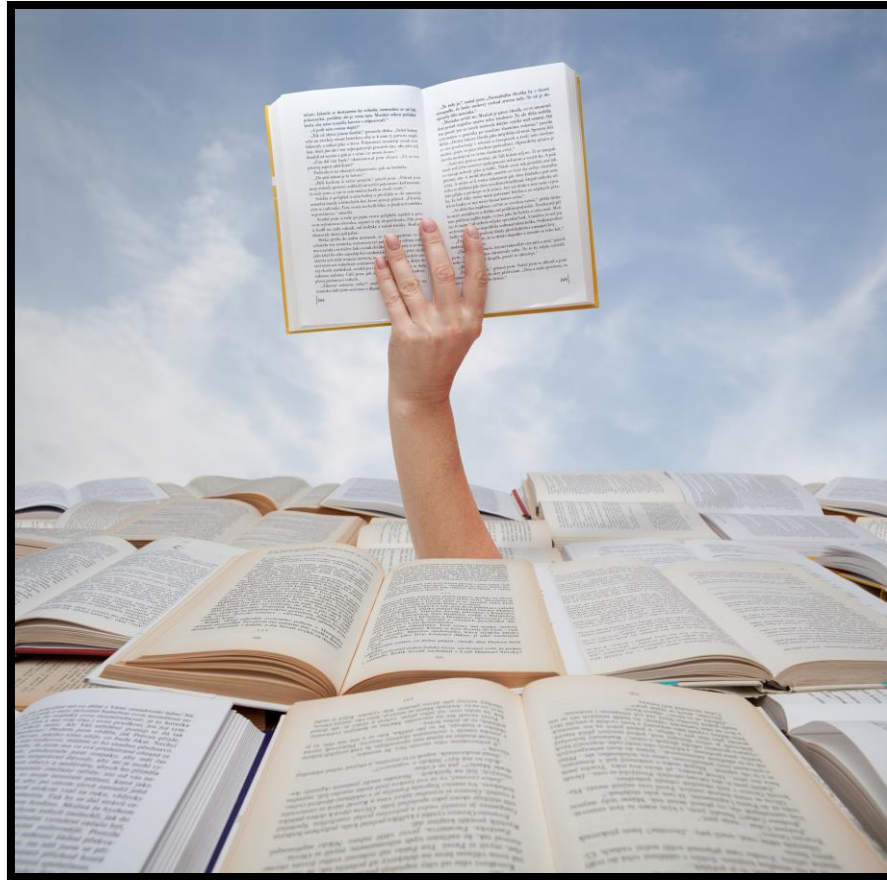
Lars Nyre, professor in Information and media science explains

So what is a good paper?

Summary:

- Limit your subject
- Take time to form a proper thesis question
- Actively use your curriculum
- Focus, don't jump around between subjects
- Let your thesis question act as a red thread through your paper

The quest for knowledge



Where should I look?

«Google can bring you back 100 000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.»

-Neil Gaiman

Where should I look?

- Oria
- Google Scholar rather than Google
- Research databases

These sources have quality assurance:

- References
- Peer review
- Scientific research

Where should I look?

The image shows a screenshot of the University of Oslo Library website. At the top left, the logo "UiO : University of Oslo Library" is displayed. To the right of the logo, there are links for "For employees" and "Norwegian website". Below these is a search bar with the text "Search our webpages" and a "Search" button. A navigation menu is located below the search bar, with the "Subjects" link circled in red. The main content area features a large photograph of a snowy outdoor path with people walking. Overlaid on the left side of this image is a white box containing the text "Libraries, opening hours, maps, study rooms etc." and "Visit one of our 21 libraries at the University of Oslo". Below the photograph, there is a search bar with the text "Find books, digital articles, e-books, journals and more." and a "Search the University Library" button. A link for "Search tips" is located at the bottom right of the search area.

UiO : University of Oslo Library

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Libraries, opening hours, maps, study rooms etc.

Visit one of our 21 libraries at the University of Oslo

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Evaluate your sources

The relevance of the source

- Does the source treat the subjects you are questioning?
- In what way can the source illuminate the questions you are asking?
- Compare the source with other similar sources to see what this source covers within your subject and what it doesn't.

Evaluate your sources

The quality of the source

- Who is the author?
- What is the audience?
- What is the genre?
- Who is the publisher?
- What is the publication date?

How to get your paper approved



What's your style?

- There are several reference styles
 - Many fields of science has a preferred style
 - Just stick to one of them!
- APA
 - Chicago
 - Harvard
 - Oxford
 - MLA
 - and many more...

Four keys to getting your paper approved

- Reference
- Paraphrase
- Quotation
- List of references

Reference

A reference is information about a source from which information in your text has been retrieved.

In the text:

Two-thirds of Pompeii has now been excavated (Berry, 2007, p. 41)

In the list of references:

Berry, J. (2007). *The Complete Pompeii*. London: Thames & Hudson

Reference

The reference will differ after what kind of source you are using.

- Book
- E-book
- Journal
- Website
- Etc...

Quotation

A direct quotation reproduces someone else's words exactly as they were written or spoken.

Remember that direct quotations must either be enclosed within quotation marks or indented (depending on their length).

Quotation example 1

Words words words words words words words
words words “The single life that exists in late
modern society may be perceived as forming
part of such a democratic culture. One may say
that it is an effect of the democratisation of the
private sphere.” (Kloster 2003, p. 10). Words
words words words words words words
words.

Paraphrase

Paraphrasing involves reformulating someone else's words. You should preferably change both vocabulary and word order, and rewrite it using your own words. Be careful, however, not to distort the original meaning.

EXAMPLE: Kloster (2003, p. 10) writes in his doctoral thesis that the single life that exists in late modern society is a consequence of the democratisation of the private realm.

List of references

A list of reference (also called a bibliography) must be included at the end of your essay.

Beck, U. & Beck-Gemshem, E. (1995) *The normal chaos of love*. Cambridge, Polity Press.

Dretske, F. I. (1993) *Conscious experience*. *Mind*, 102 (406), p 263-283.

Rognstad, O-A., Nagel, A-H., Laupsa, H. & Tønnesson, J. L. (2006) *God skikk – Om bruk av litteratur og kilder i allmenne, historiske framstillinger*. Available at: <<http://uit.no/getfile.php?PagelId=5839&FileId=38>> [Retrieved on 28 November 2007].

Oria

- Oria is the library catalogue
- Oria can help you find your sources and also with how to reference from them!

Reference management tools

- RefWorks
- EasyBib
- [End note](#)
 - EndNote is most used at UiO. The library teaches classes on how to use it, and there is a very active and useful [facebook group](#)

Use Writing and Publishing



Writing and publishing

Referencing

Reference styles, reference tools and information about referencing.

Master theses

Templates and information about submitting your thesis to DUO.

- [Templates](#)
- [Submission of Master's thesis to DUO](#)

Academic writing centre

The writing centre is open for all students who wish to improve their own writing.

When in doubt – ask!

- Ask your teacher
- Ask the library

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About the University of Oslo Library



The University of Oslo Library is Norway's largest academic library. The library's chief function is to support the University's aims regarding research, education, communication and innovation. Photo: Lars Lørdahl

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Contact us

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[More contact information](#) →

Ask us!

Literature search, writing a thesis, research support and other questions



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Good luck with your paper!

