

## Strategic reading



Presented by Dr Julia Rayner

## Some tips on reading difficult articles

- More than reading them you need to study them (this applies to everyone)
- Respect for writers as researchers
- Researchers write for other researchers and each has his/her own style
- Don't get stuck on ...
- Read cooperatively  
– (Locke, Silverman & Spirduso, 1998)

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## Prioritise Material Type

1. Articles in refereed, international journals
2. Books / Chapters in Ed. Books
3. Articles in national, refereed journals
4. Conference papers / Research reports (govt, com, org)
5. PhD thesis
6. MA thesis
7. Honours thesis
8. Websites / Articles in non-refereed journals

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## Make Good Decisions

### Ask yourself questions to find the purpose

- What is the point of this task?
- Am I reading and taking notes while I try to gain an overview of this topic?
- Am I trying to gain an in-depth understanding?
- Am I researching for an assignment topic?
- Am I revising for an exam?

**The purpose should determine the way you read and the type of action you take!**

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## Postgraduate study

- 2 key skills
  - Be able to evaluate what you read
  - Relate what you read to other information

(Wallace & Wray, 2006)

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## Reading

- Some useful questions to ask before reading
    - Who are some of the most important researchers that have written on this topic?
    - What major themes do they deal with?
    - Is X dealt with by any of these authors?
    - Are there any differing points of view on this theme? How and in what ways?
    - What are other areas of disagreement where this topic is concerned
- Know when to stop!
- (Manalo & Trafford, 2004)

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