Literature Searching - Tools and Techniques
Sources

- Papers
  - Conference
  - Journal
- Theses
  - PhD
  - Masters
- Technical reports / preprints
Techniques

• Search:
  – keyword
  – from recent paper
  – from old(er) paper

• Alert
Search

• Keyword
  – search for papers with relevant terms in the title / abstract / keywords, e.g.
    • ants, collective decision making
  – read relevant papers and proceed from there
Search

• Recent paper
  – given publication details of a recent paper, find that paper
  – read paper and find relevant cited papers in the references
  – find these papers
  – repeat *ad nauseam*
  – works best with a good survey paper
Search

- Old(er) paper
  - given publication details of an old(er) relevant paper…
  - search for relevant papers citing that paper
  - repeat *ad nauseam*
  - works well with ground-breaking, well-known papers…
  - but very well known papers can be cited 1000s of times
Alert

• Keep track of developments in a field by being alerted to new papers as they come out
  – be aware of key journals and conferences in the field and check these
  – be aware of key people in the field and check their new output
Search Tools

• Citeseer
  – most CS publications, not very reliable
  – ISI Web of Knowledge
    • all significant journals in any discipline
  – Google Scholar
    • everything!?
Alert Tools

• Zetoc
  – email alerts of new papers and journals at the British Library by:
    • keyword
    • journal
    • author
Accessing Sources

• Papers
  – Conference - library, or online e.g. LNCS
  – Journal - www.lib.bris.ac.uk

• Theses
  – PhD - www.theses.com for abstracts
  – Masters - online / degree granting institution library

• Technical reports / preprints - online
• www.bris.ac.uk/~marshall/bookmarks/