

# 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](http://www.lib.bris.ac.uk)
- Theses
  - PhD - [www.theses.com](http://www.theses.com) for abstracts
  - Masters - online / degree granting institution library
- Technical reports / preprints - online
- [www.bris.ac.uk/~marshall/bookmarks/](http://www.bris.ac.uk/~marshall/bookmarks/)