

# Postgraduate Journey: Research Tools for Postgraduate Students

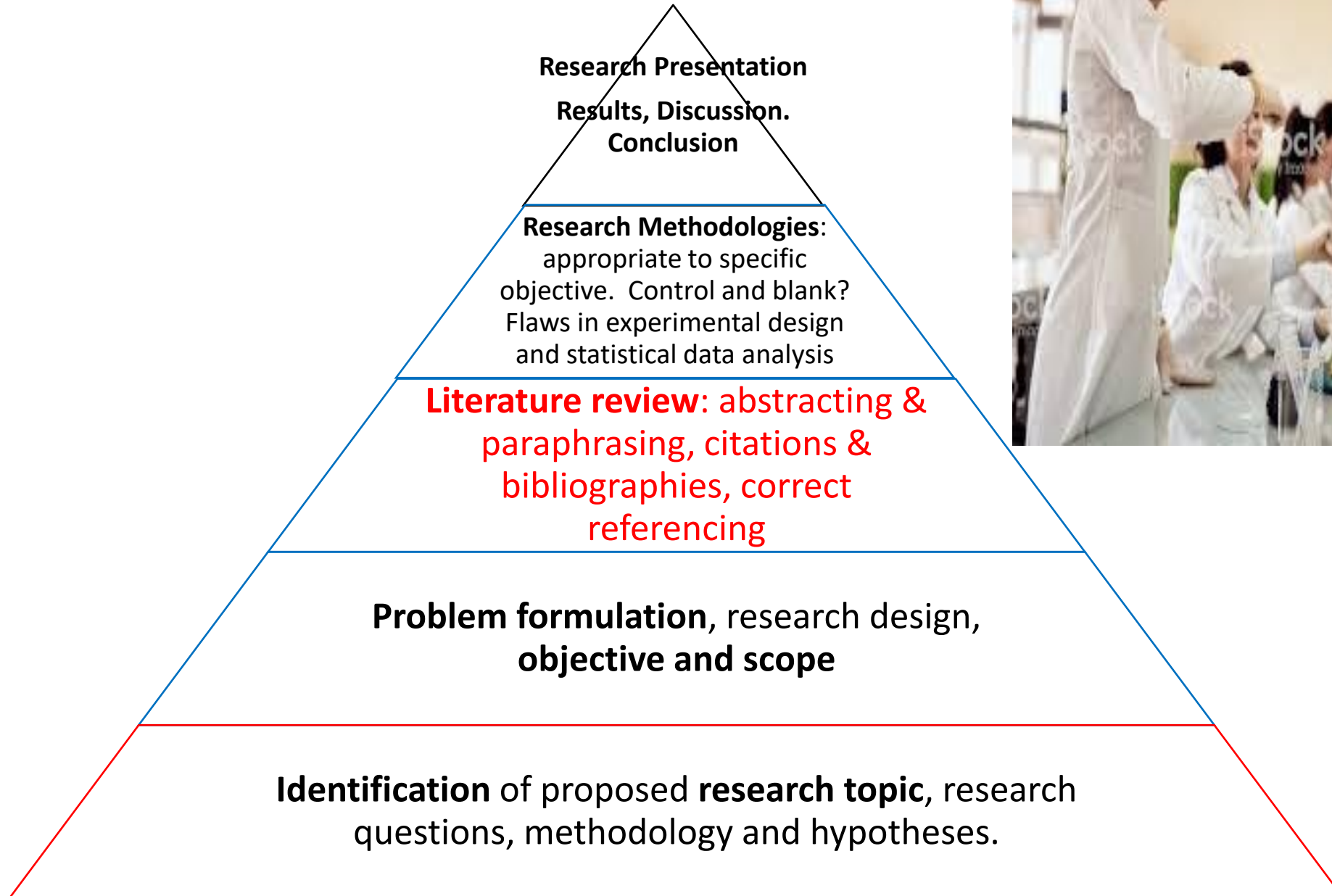


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Deputy Director  
Research Nexus (Energy and Environment)  
Universiti Teknologi MARA  
Shah Alam Selangor  
[Zainihar@uitm.edu.my](mailto:Zainihar@uitm.edu.my), +06016-4958178

# Graduate Research Journey

- Focus on Clarity. What are the problems? Research Questions?
- Read the literatures for finding solutions. Identify the variables/parameters & gaps
- SMART research objectives.
- Clear methodology in achieving the research objectives
- Make observations through experiments and analyse collected data (validate the data)
- Discuss any trends/ conflict with supporting facts
- Make a sound conclusion (answering the objectives)

# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SKILLS



# 1. A Good Research Topic/Title



# Rethink and understand your research topic...

- THE EFFECTS ON THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE COMPONENTS IN DETERGENTS
- THE EFFECTS ON THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE COMPONENTS IN MULTI ACTIVE DETERGENTS
- STATISTICAL STUDY OF THE EFFECTS ON THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE COMPONENTS IN MULTI ACTIVE DETERGENTS
- THE EFFECTS ON THE PERCENTAGE OF ACTIVE COMPONENTS ALKYL ETHOXY SULFATE (AES) AND ALKYL SULFATE (AS) IN MULTI ACTIVE POWDER DETERGENT

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERATURE REVIEW



*Seriously read a scientific paper*

1. Identifying research question
2. Developing clear research objective
3. Choosing the right methods
4. Support scope of work/limitation of studies
5. Identifying gaps
6. Avoid duplication
7. Creating hypotheses and benchmark
8. Supporting result and discussion
9. Assist in explain
10. Propose recommendations
11. Examiners guide



# Literature Review is a continuous process

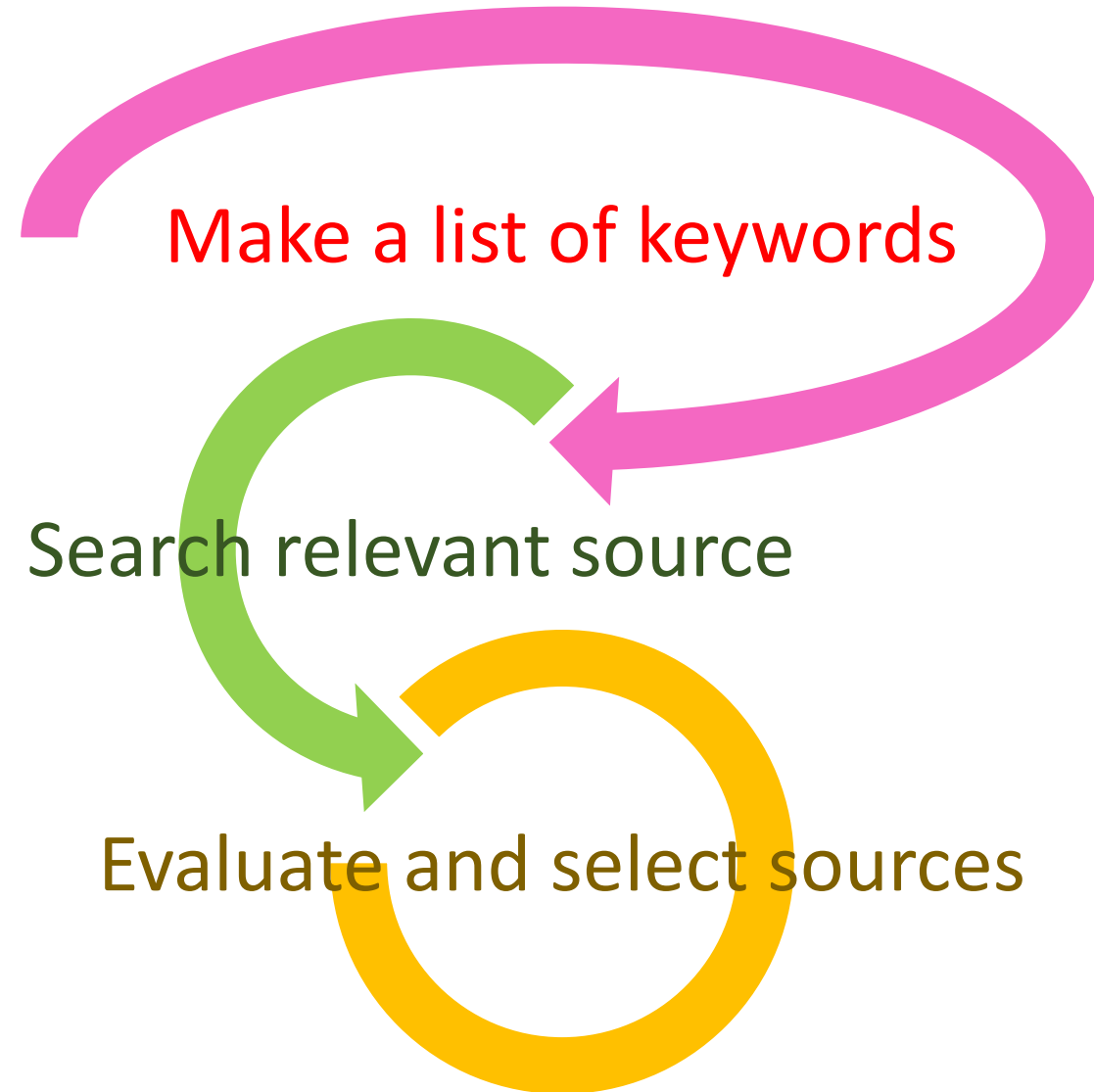
1. Identify and location of current (5 years) pertinent publication.
2. Summarizing and recording the contents of each publication.
3. Comparing and commenting on the merits and weakness of the various element, such as, theoretical perspective, definitions, research designs, methodology, instrumentation, data analysis, results, inferences, future recommendations

# Reading the literature

- Must have sufficient basic knowledge on the research topic
- Strong background information
  - Supervisors
  - Experts
  - Seniors in same lab
  - Textbooks
  - Review articles



## 2. Search for relevant literature





Make a list of keywords

Make a list of keywords



# Scholarly Search Engines

Your university's library online database

# Google Scholar

Articles  Case law

## Recommended articles

- ☆ A microfluidic colorimetric biosensor for in-field detection of Salmonella in fresh-cut vegetables using thiolated polystyrene microspheres, hose-based microvalve and ...  
Y Man, M Ban, A Li, X Jin, Y Du, L Pan  
Food Chemistry - 6 days ago HTML
- [More articles from 6 days ago](#)
- ☆ A sensitive label-free photoelectrochemical aptasensor based ...



# Research more, search less

## Explore Entity Analytics



252,801,111  
Publications



262,802,789  
Authors



717,689  
Topics



4,527  
Conferences



49,007  
Journals



26,905  
Institutions

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Both concepts    AND    intitle Telediabetes

Intervention    OR

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- web based    mobile phone
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Problem    OR

RESULTS    MESSAGES <sup>1</sup>    QUERY

PubMed results are displayed in a separate tab  
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**Tips** ✕

- Double click anywhere to enter terms
- Drag and drop terms to create groups (or use the context menu)
- To change an operator (e.g. AND → OR), double click it
- Terms on the canvas are ANDed by default
- Use ADJn to express proximity, e.g. A ADJ3 B
- Use the context menu to:
  - \* change layout
  - \* cut, copy or paste items
  - \* negate items (i.e. apply the 'NOT' operator)
  - \* disable or enable items
  - \* Add field tags to items

For further tips and help, see the [tutorial videos](#) and the [FAQ](#)





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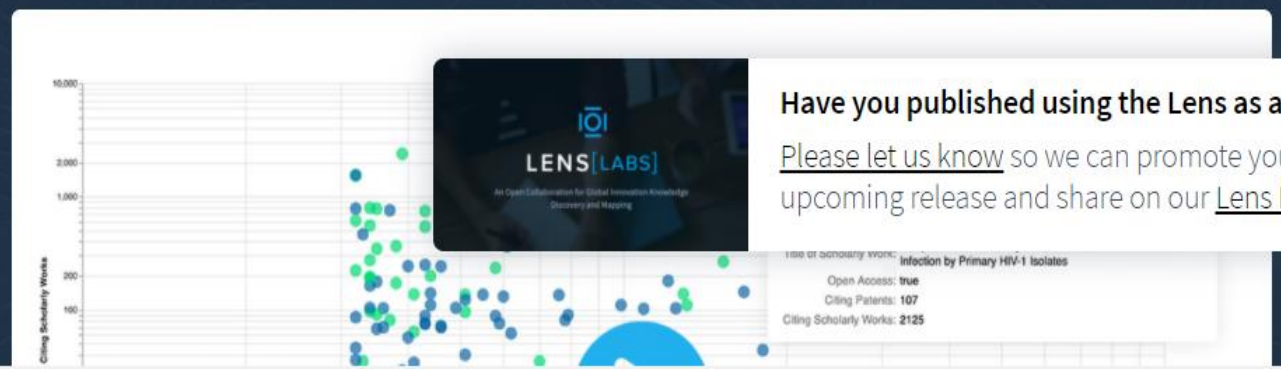
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displaying databases filtered by Online Databases >> view all types expand all descriptions

- ACM Digital Library
  - American Chemical Society Journals (ACS)
  - American Society of Civil Engineers Journals
  - Anatomy TV
- Note:** Recommended browser : Internet Explorer & Safari
- Human Anatomy & Physiology (25 concurrent users)

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### Key to Icons

- [Green Virus Icon] = Covid-19 Special Collection
- [Blue 'NEW' Icon] = New Databases

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cancer biosensor



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Cancer cells targeted visible light and alkaline Phosphatase-Responsive TiO2/Cu2+ carbon Dots-Coated wireless electrochemical biosensor

Chemical Engineering Journal, 3 March 2021, ...

Nguyen Ngan Giang, Hyun Jeong Won, ... Sung Young Park

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# Web of Science



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Search within results for...

Filter results by:

Open Access (1,176)

Sort by: Date Times Cited Usage Count Relevance More

1 of 506

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1. **Micro/nanodevices for assessment and treatment in stomatology and ophthalmology**  
By: Sheng, An'an; Lin, Long; Zhu, Jia; et al.  
**MICROSYSTEMS & NANOENGINEERING** Volume: 7 Issue: 1 Article Number: 11 Published: DEC 29 2021

[Free Full Text from Publisher](#) [View Abstract](#)

2. **Intracellular arginine-dependent translation sensor reveals the dynamics of arginine starvation response and resistance in ASS1-negative cells**  
By: Rogers, Leonard C.; Zhou, Jing; Baker, Adriana; et al.  
**CANCER & METABOLISM** Volume: 9 Issue: 1 Article Number: 4 Published: DEC 21 2021

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- Since 2021
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- include patents
- include citations

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[HTML] Recent advances in **biosensor** development for the detection of **cancer** biomarkers [HTML] sciencedirect.com

VSA Jayanthi, [AB Das](#), [U Saxena](#) - Biosensors and Bioelectronics, 2017 - Elsevier  
**Cancer** is the second largest disease throughout the world with an increasing mortality rate over the past few years. The patient's survival rate is uncertain due to the limitations of **cancer** diagnosis and therapy. Early diagnosis of **cancer** is decisive for its successful ...  
☆ [Cited by 192](#) [Related articles](#) [All 7 versions](#)

Point-of-care **biosensor** systems for **cancer** diagnostics/prognostics [HTML] sciencedirect.com

[SA Soper](#), [K Brown](#), [A Ellington](#), [B Frazier](#)... - Biosensors and ..., 2006 - Elsevier  
With the growing number of fatalities resulting from the 100 or so **cancer**-related diseases, new enabling tools are required to provide extensive molecular profiles of patients to guide the clinician in making viable diagnosis and prognosis. Unfortunately with **cancer**-related ...  
☆ [Cited by 374](#) [Related articles](#) [All 10 versions](#)

[HTML] Reduced graphene oxide modified smart conducting paper for **cancer** **biosensor** [HTML] sciencedirect.com

[S Kumar](#), [S Kumar](#), [S Srivastava](#), [BK Yadav](#)... - Biosensors and ..., 2015 - Elsevier  
We report results of the studies relating to the fabrication of a paper based sensor comprising of poly (3, 4-ethylenedioxythiophene): poly (styrenesulfonate)(PEDOT: PSS) and reduced graphene oxide (RGO) composite. The effect of various solvents like methanol ...  
☆ [Cited by 106](#) [Related articles](#) [All 7 versions](#)

Aptamer- nanoparticle strip **biosensor** for sensitive detection of **cancer** cells [HTML] acs.org

[G Liu](#), [X Mao](#), [JA Phillips](#), [H Xu](#), [W Tan](#)... - Analytical ..., 2009 - ACS Publications  
We report an aptamer- nanoparticle strip **biosensor** (ANSB) for the rapid, specific, sensitive, and low cost detection of circulating **cancer** cells. Known for their high specificity and affinity

FILTER BY: ⓘ

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1988-2021 ▾

🧪 Top Topics

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- Nanotechnology
- Biosensor
- Materials science
- Cancer
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Result accuracy: ☆☆☆☆

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### 📄 Multiplexed electrical detection of cancer markers with nanowire sensor arrays.

2,838 citations\*

2005 NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY

Gengfeng Zheng, Fernando Patolsky, Yi Cui, Wayne U Wang, Charles M Lieber  
Harvard University

🧪 Biosensing Techniques   🧪 Biosensing Techniques / methods

🧪 Biosensing Techniques / instrumentation \*   🧪 Cancer   View More (38+) ▾

We describe highly sensitive, label-free, multiplexed electrical detection of cancer markers using silicon-nanowire field-effect devices in which distinct nanowires and surface receptors are incorporated into arrays. Protein markers were routinely detected at femtomolar concentrations with high sele... View Full Abstract ▾

🧪 cancer   🧪 biosensing techniques ("biosensor")   📄 📑 📂 “

### 📄 Bioassay of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) using

1,299 citations\*

### 🧪 Cancer



A disease resulting from uncontrolled growth and division of abnormal cells.

#### PARENT TOPICS

🧪 Internal medicine   🧪 Genetics

#### CHILD TOPICS

🧪 Breast cancer   🧪 Carcinoma

🧪 Radiation therapy   View More (97+) ▾

#### RELATED TOPICS

🧪 Neoplasm   🧪 Chemotherapy





# Boolean Expressions for Search Engines

- Boolean expressions can be used with any search engine, not just Google. They enable very specific results. Below are some examples of Boolean expressions and how they can be used

# Boolean operators to help narrow down your search

- **And** to find sources that contain more than one keywords (biosensor AND cancer)
- **Or** to find sources that contain one of a range of synonyms (biosensor OR sensor)
- **Not** to exclude results containing certain terms ( Apple NOT fruit)



## .....Boolean operators to help narrow down

- **Quotation Marks " "**..whenever your keyword consists of more than a single word. AND means you are searching for documents that contain BOTH keywords (Starbucks, "latte macchiato").
- **Parentheses ( )**.. (children OR kids) AND nutrition. Notice that the OR links two synonyms. (elderly OR "older adults") AND (computers OR technology) You can use two or more sets of parentheses. ((teenager OR teen OR adolescent) AND media) NOT television.
- **The asterisk \***.. is a commonly used wildcard symbol that broadens a search by finding words that start with the same letters. Use it with distinctive word stems to retrieve variations of a term with less typing



ScienceDirect

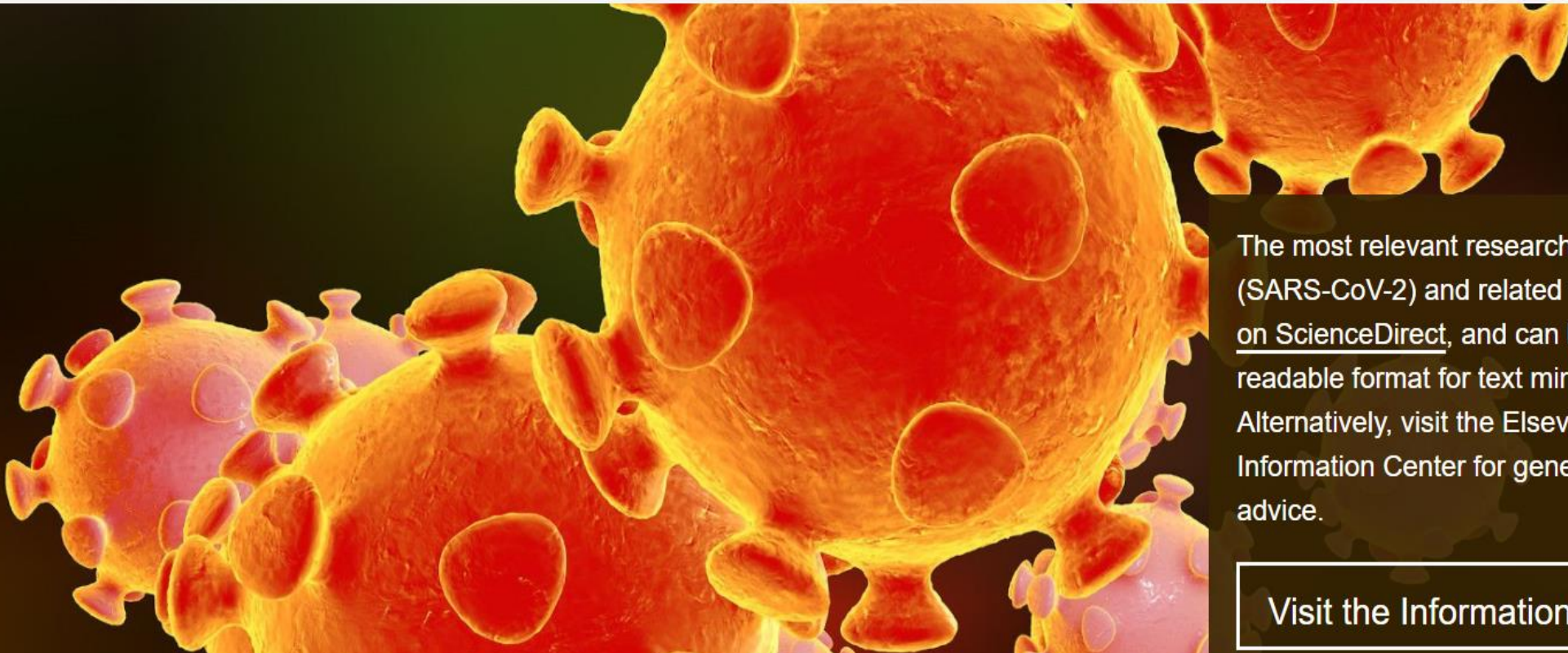
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Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis, 27 November 2020, ...

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Cancer cells targeted visible light and alkaline Phosphatase-Responsive TiO2/Cu2+ carbon Dots-Coated wireless electrochemical biosensor

Chemical Engineering Journal, 3 March 2021, ...

Nguyen Ngan Giang, Hyun Jeong Won, ... Sung Young Park

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Biosensor-based diagnostic approaches for various cellular biomarkers of breast cancer: A comprehensive review

Analytical Biochemistry, 17 October 2020, ...

Pushpesh Ranjan, Arpana Parihar, ... Raju Khan

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Ultrasensitive electrochemical biosensor for detection of microRNA-155 as a breast cancer risk factor

Analytica Chimica Acta, 28 August 2020, ...

Fatemeh Hakimian, Hedayatollah Ghourchian

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Photonic crystal **biosensor** for refractive index based cancerous cell detection

Optical Fiber Technology, 22 January 2020, ...

Abinash Panda, Pukhrambam Puspa Devi

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Book chapter

32: Nanotechnology-based **biosensors** in drug delivery

Nanoengineered Biomaterials for Advanced Drug Delivery, 26 June 2020, ...

Mohsen Khodadadi Yazdi, Payam Zarrintaj, ... Mohammad Reza Saeb

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A label-free immunosensor for sensitive detection of RACK 1 **cancer** biomarker based on conjugated polymer modified ITC electrode

Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis, 1 August 2020, ...

Elif Burcu Aydın, Muhammet Aydın, Mustafa Kemal Sezgintürk

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A DNA rolling motor for photoelectrochemical biosensing of oral cancer overexpressed 1

Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical, 5 February 2020, ...

Fangjing Mo, Min Chen, ... Yingzi Fu

Book chapter

22: Nanoparticulate systems for dental drug delivery

Nanoengineered Biomaterials for Advanced Drug Delivery, 26 June 2020, ...

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Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy, 24 August 2020, ...

Mohsen Jafari, Mohammad Hasanzadeh

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Author, Journal, Year, Vol. Issue, page	Title	Problem Statement	Definition of concept	Theories and assumptions	Research Methods/designs	Data collection instrument	Data Analysis	Recommendation for future work	Missing data/limitation

Reviewing Literature is not simply listing the publications of primary literature about the topic.....

We make general and leading statement about the concept, and generate research questions



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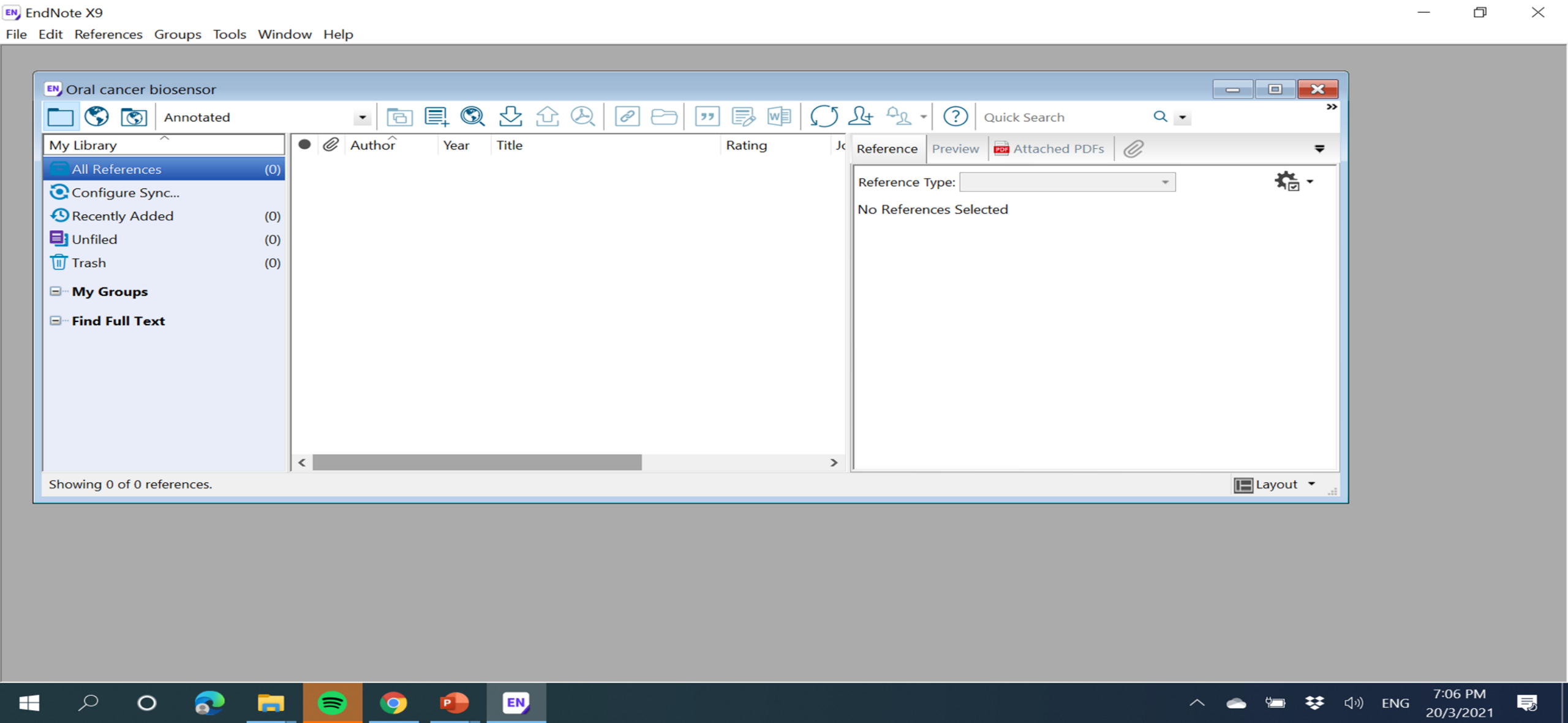
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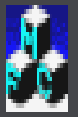
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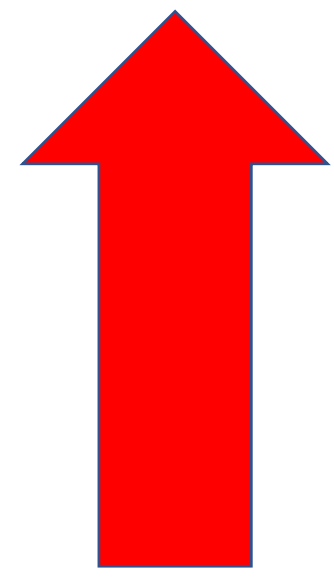


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Ehtesabi, H.	2020	Carbon nanomaterials for sali...		S
Ghosh, G...	2020	Early detection of cancer: Foc...		M
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Poovizhi, P.  
Antinate, S. Shilpa  
Hikku, G. S.  
Jeyasubramanian, K.  
Murugesan, R.

**Year**  
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**Title**  
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**Journal**  
Photodiagnosis and Photodynamic Therapy

**Volume**  
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**Keywords**

- Gold nanoparticles
- Functionalization
- Cancer detection
- Color change
- Colorimetric sensor
- Biosensor

**Abstract**

The chances of curing and reducing the adverse effect of cancer partly lie in early detection. Colorimetric sensor-based technique show promising results since the target is detected with high sensitivity but without the use of advanced/costly techniques through a simple visual color change. In most cases, gold nanoparticles (Au Nps) functionalized with biomolecules complementary to target analyte are used for colorimetric detection. The interaction of functionalized Au Nps with target analytes induce aggregation or dispersion where the color of the solution changes from red to blue or blue to red respectively, which can be visualized by the naked eyes. Such a facile technique has a high commercial viability and therefore, understanding its concept is essential. Here, some of the reported studies are discussed technically for better understanding about the invitro colorimetric detection of cancer.

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Review

### Bioconjugated gold nanoparticles as an efficient colorimetric sensor for cancer diagnostics

K. Akshaya<sup>a,1</sup>, C. Arthi<sup>a,1</sup>, A.J. Pavithra<sup>a</sup>, P. Poovizhi<sup>a</sup>, S. Shilpa Antinate<sup>a</sup>, G.S. Hikku<sup>a,\*</sup>, K. Jeyasubramanian<sup>b</sup>, R. Murugesan<sup>c</sup>

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**ARTICLE INFO**

*Keywords:*  
 Gold nanoparticles  
 Functionalization  
 Cancer detection  
 Color change  
 Colorimetric sensor  
 Biosensor

**ABSTRACT**

The chances of curing and reducing the adverse effect of cancer partly lie in early detection. Colorimetric sensor-based technique show promising results since the target is detected with high sensitivity but without the use of advanced/costly techniques through a simple visual color change. In most cases, gold nanoparticles (Au Nps) functionalized with biomolecules complementary to target analyte are used for colorimetric detection. The interaction of functionalized Au Nps with target analytes induce aggregation or dispersion where the color of the solution changes from red to blue or blue to red respectively, which can be visualized by the naked eyes. Such a facile technique has a high commercial viability and therefore, understanding its concept is essential. Here, some

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K. Akshaya<sup>a,1</sup>, C. Arthi<sup>a,1</sup>, A.J. Pavithra<sup>a</sup>, P. Poovizhi<sup>a</sup>, S. Shilpa Antinate<sup>a</sup>, G.S. Hikku<sup>a,\*</sup>,  
 K. Jeyasubramanian<sup>b</sup>, R. Murugesan<sup>c</sup>

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1. Overview

In the present decade, intensive research has been carried out globally for early detection of cancer. Cancer is a disease of abnormal cell division or growth which may occur in almost every part of the human body [1–3]. Cancer/tumor is normally of 2 types; the first one is solid tumours (organ tumours) and the later is liquid tumours (blood cancer) where both types are characterised by abnormal growth [4,5]. Depending upon the nature of spread, tumour may sometimes also be classified as benign or malignant [6]. A benign tumour will remain confined to its original location; it does not invade surrounding tissue or spread to distant organs but still may need to be treated due to local signs and symptoms [7]. In contrast, malignant tumour invades nearby tissue and may spread throughout the body by a process termed me-

[10]. Also, it is estimated by WHO that 70 % of cancer occurrence is targeted to low- and middle-income countries. Depending on various parameters such as size, rate of growth, origin of spread, etc. the cancer can be differentiated into different stages such as stage I, stage II, stage III and stage IV [11]. The early diagnosis is vital to survival from cancer since the 5-year survival rate often depends on the stage at which the cancer is diagnosed [12].

Even though, there are many existing techniques available for cancer detection, they have their own inherent drawbacks such as false-positive/false-negative result, radiation exposure, delayed interpretation, cost and availability. [33,34]. Some of the existing cancer detection methods are tabulated in Table 1 Developing facile and quick respons methods especially sensor devices for identifying cancer is in its initial stage. However, the current methods adopted are bulky, complex and they require various units such as transducer, processing unit,



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