

Exploration

My name is Michelle and I am a PhD-student.

While writing my Master's thesis, I initially spent quite some time mapping out my field of research.

This proved to be a good investment!

In the Orientation part you have learned how to clarify your assignment, and in this part you will learn how to map a research field.

You will do this by analysing results from a preliminary global search.

From the results of such a broad search you can already learn all sorts of things: Who are the most important authors? Which are the leading journals and research institutes?

You will also discover important articles and subjects, as well as any existing solutions to your research question.

The resulting map of your research field will help you find search terms and give you a good basis to judge results when you subsequently perform a literature search for your thesis.

One last thing: Make sure you always document your steps.

What did you do and how did you do it?

Write down search terms and results and also make lists of the authors, institutions, journals and topics you find.