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Master's Thesis

# Supporting Quality Assessment in Systematic Literature Reviews

Author:

Yusra Shakeel

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Advisors:

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil. Gunter Saake,  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Leich,  
Dipl.-Inform. Ivonne von Nostitz-Wallwitz,  
M.Sc. Jacob Krüger

Otto-von-Guericke-University Magdeburg

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# Abstract

The amount of empirical studies published in the field of computer science is rapidly increasing, resulting in an increase in the number of literature reviews. Researchers have been conducting systematic literature reviews to summarize the existing evidence regarding a research area or topic of interest, identify gaps in the current research and build new research activities. Despite of their usefulness, executing a systematic literature review requires considerable amount of time and effort. Thus, apart from conducting, researchers are constantly proposing semi-automated approaches to support different stages of the review process. The most laborious and error-prone step during execution of a systematic literature review process is the selection of primary studies. Therefore, within the scope of present work, a systematic literature review is conducted to analyze existing strategies proposed by software engineering researchers to support the selection of primary studies. Based on the findings, a semi-automated approach is presented to assist reviewers with this essential step during the review process. The strategy is implemented prototypically to examine the validity based on performance measures, such as, accuracy, precision and recall. The results show that through the proposed approach, selection and quality assessment of primary studies during the review process can be partially automated. However, there are certain limitations for the approach that must be further investigated to obtain more promising results.



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# List of Acronyms

CMM	Capability Maturity Model
CS	Computer Science
EC	Exclusion Criteria
GSD	Global Software Development
IC	Inclusion Criteria
IR	Information Retrieval
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
KDD	Knowledge Discovery In Databases
PDF	Portable Document Format
PEX	Projection Explorer
RQ	Research Question
SCAS	Score Citation Automatic Selection
SE	Software Engineering
SLR	Systematic Literature Review
VTM	Visual Text Mining



# 1. Introduction

Originating from the medical domain, systematic literature reviews (SLRs) became an important research method in software engineering (SE) to summarize existing evidence [Babar and Zhang, 2009; Kitchenham et al., 2004; Webster and Watson, 2002]. SLRs provide information to help researchers identify areas for improvement in the current research and appropriately position new research activities [Kitchenham and Charters, 2007]. As a result, the number of SLRs have rapidly increased over the last years [da Silva et al., 2011; Kitchenham et al., 2009; Verner et al., 2012]. Due to their usefulness and significant features, SLRs have been adopted by many other domains, for instance software engineering, criminology, social policy, economics, infrastructure and nursing [Kitchenham et al., 2004, 2009].

The concept of evidence-based software engineering was introduced as a useful research approach by Kitchenham et al. [2004]. Since their first introduction in 2004, SLRs have gained significant attention from researchers of the SE community. The number of SLRs reported in the field of computer science (CS) further increased after the first adapted guidelines for undertaking systematic reviews in SE were published by Kitchenham and Charters [2007]. The volume of research that needs to be considered by SE researchers is constantly expanding, making it difficult to manually read, critically evaluate, and synthesize the state of current knowledge. Hence, SE researchers have been conducting and reporting more and more SLRs on diverse topics, such as, agile software development, regression testing, process modeling, variability management, cost estimation, organizational motivators for Capability Maturity Model (CMM)-based process improvement, and statistical power [Babar and Zhang, 2009]. Still, despite their value in SE, conducting SLRs remains a time consuming and difficult task [Felizardo et al., 2011; Hassler et al., 2016]. In particular, tools to conduct SLRs more efficiently and semi-automatic may support different steps but are often limited or even missing.

## 1.1 Motivation

The number of empirical studies reported in SE have significantly increased since 2004, but there are some problems associated with them. The implementation of SLRs encounter difficulties due to shortcomings in reporting empirical studies, for example, the approach used to conduct the study is not clearly explained, conclusions are incomplete or questionable [Brereton et al., 2007]. Hence, SE researchers, apart from conducting and reporting SLRs, also focus on improving the SLR methodology and quality. For example, providing techniques to assess the quality of the reported primary studies included in an SLR [Zhang and Babar, 2013]. Although SLRs have proved to be an important research methodology for evidence-based software engineers, the SLR process can be very time consuming and difficult [Felizardo et al., 2011].

To perform the SLR process more efficiently and effectively, SE researchers are proposing semi-automated approaches to assist various aspects of an SLR. Adequate tool support for different stages reduce the effort and time required to conduct an SLR [Hassler et al., 2016]. The review process usually involves a large volume of potentially relevant literature regarding the topic of interest. Hence, one of the most laborious step while conducting an SLR is to identify and select suitable primary studies [Felizardo et al., 2011; Schröter et al., 2017a]. In their study, Hassler et al. [2016] also identified that tool support for this task is one of the most desired ones by the community. Thus, it would be advantageous for researchers to design approaches that accelerate the execution phase of an SLR [Moller and Benitti, 2012].

The conducting phase of an SLR aims at retrieving relevant primary studies with minimum bias and maximum validity. The quality of a literature review highly depends on the quality of the included primary studies hence, quality assessment is an important SLR activity [Brereton et al., 2007; Dybå and Dingsøy, 2008a]. In most cases, quality assessment checklists defined by the reviewers are used to manually determine quality of primary studies but that can be tedious and challenging [Kitchenham and Charters, 2007]. Therefore, any method to support reviewers with quality assessment of primary studies will be very useful [da Silva et al., 2011; Hassler et al., 2016]. The existing approaches, discussed later in Section 3.3, focus on obtaining articles based on their content and citation relationships. However, to ensure reliable SLR results, the selected relevant studies further need to be critically evaluated for validity. In this work, we extend the previous approaches and aim to obtain the most promising primary studies by scoring them based on defined quality criteria.

## 1.2 Goal of this Thesis

The challenges we describe above have an overall effect on the efficiency and validity of an SLR. The set of possibly relevant articles obtained after the search process must be assessed to identify those that satisfy the defined quality criteria. Therefore, the aim of this thesis is to develop an approach that will support evaluation of primary studies based on their content and quality. For this purpose, we analyze the existing



approaches that support the selection of primary studies in an **SLR**. We use the results to derive an approach that effectively performs the selection and quality assessment activity during an **SLR** process. Furthermore, we evaluate the proposed approach to investigate validity of the results.

In this work, we focus on reducing the time and effort required for an **SLR** by suggesting an approach that supports the selection activity. To achieve the goals of this thesis we work through the following steps:

- We conduct a literature review to identify and synthesize the current state-of-the-art on semi-automatic approaches for the selection of primary studies for **SLRs**. The aim is to study the methodologies proposed previously and identify areas that demand further research.
- Based on the findings, we propose an approach to retrieve relevant articles using specific parts of the content (title, abstract, keywords) and citation relationships. Furthermore, we assign a score to each article based on the defined quality criteria.
- Finally, we evaluate the proposed approach by using an example case study. We examine the primary studies selected by the example **SLR** conducted with the results we obtain through our approach. To investigate validity of the results and flexibility of the procedure, we determine performance measures, such as, accuracy, precision and recall.

Implementing these procedures will greatly support the **SLR** process aiding researchers to efficiently identify most relevant studies related to their topic of interest. Quality assessment along with content and reference relationship combined, will result in more reliable results obtained by conducting an **SLR**.

## 1.3 Structure of the Thesis

In **Chapter 2** we introduce the general concepts and background information regarding **SLRs**, text mining and information retrieval. We aim to describe the basis of our work in this chapter to assist readers unfamiliar with the topic.

We begin **Chapter 3** with a description of an **SLR** we conduct to analyze the existing approaches that support selection of primary studies for **CS** researchers. Further in this chapter we explain the complete research method for execution of the review and analysis of the results we obtain.

In **Chapter 4** we propose an approach to support efficient conduct of an **SLR**. We derive the approach using results obtained from the **SLR** elaborated in previous chapter. Later, we explain the methodology that we recommend in this thesis work to obtain the most promising studies relevant to a specific research topic or question.

Within **Chapter 5** we explain the implementation and evaluation of the proposed approach. We discuss the performance and validity of results by conducting an existing study using our approach.

In **Chapter 6** we discuss the conclusions and summary of the presented thesis. Furthermore, we explain the future work that is possible in this area of research.

## 2. Background

In this chapter we explain the background information regarding **SLRs** and data mining. We begin with the detailed description of the phases of an **SLR** process and the involved stages. Later on, we elaborate the concepts of text mining for a better understanding of the approaches to support an **SLR** that we discuss later in the next chapters. We discuss some specific text mining methods, such as, information extraction, automatic term recognition, document classification and clustering, along with the text analysis process.

### 2.1 Systematic Literature Review

An **SLR** is a research methodology used to identify, evaluate and interpret all the available studies relevant to a particular **research question (RQ)**, topic area or phenomenon of interest [Kitchenham, 2004]. The individual studies that contribute to a systematic review are called primary studies therefore, an **SLR** is a form of secondary study [Kitchenham, 2004]. An **SLR** summarizes the existing evidence regarding a research topic that helps identify any gaps for further improvement and provide a basis to appropriately position new research activities [Kitchenham and Charters, 2007].

To conduct research in any field of study, it is important to perform a literature review to build good understanding regarding the topic of interest. The main advantage of an **SLR** is that it follows a well-defined procedure to answer defined **RQs**, making the process transparent and repeatable up-to a certain degree [Boell and Cecez-Kecmanovic, 2015]. Another kind of literature review are the traditional narrative reviews that are informative but usually limited to a subset of studies in the chosen area, therefore can result in incomplete conclusions [Booth et al., 2012]. The **SLR** process differs from a conventional expert literature review in the following ways as indicated by Kitchenham and Charters [2007]:

- An **SLR** begins with defining a review protocol that specifies the **RQs** of interest and methods that will be used to perform the review.

- The search strategy is defined, to identify as much of the relevant literature as possible and ensure transparency of search process.
- To assess each of the potentially relevant primary studies, inclusion and exclusion criteria are stated.
- For evaluating each primary study, the quality criteria are specified.
- To extract the required information from relevant literature, data extraction forms are designed.

Therefore, the likelihood of selection bias is reduced by carefully defining the review protocol at the beginning of the SLR process [Booth et al., 2012]. The conclusions drawn from an SLR are more reliable and clear compared to a narrative review but successful completion of the SLR process can be challenging [Kitchenham and Charters, 2007]. Some level of expertise in the topic of interest is also advantageous for an effective SLR [Booth et al., 2012]. The RQs for the literature review should be focused on an issue which has not been addressed previously in order to avoid unnecessary effort. A good search strategy must be defined followed with an efficient study selection criteria to ensure valid results. The quality of an SLR highly depends on the quality of primary studies hence quality assessment must be performed for each of them [Dybår et al., 2007; Kitchenham and Charters, 2007].

The SLR methodology has been broadly adapted by the evidence based researchers of the SE community following the guidelines published by Kitchenham and Charters [2007]. The SLR process involves a number of discrete activities grouped into three main phases; planning the review, conducting the review, reporting the review. We summarize the three phases with their composite stages in Figure 2.1. Further in this section we provide a detailed explanation about each of the stages as published by Kitchenham and Charters [2007].

### 2.1.1 Phase 1: Planning

An SLR begins with the planning phase during which purpose of conducting research on a specific topic is defined. The review protocol that defines review procedures to be followed is carefully prepared as it is an essential part of the SLR process. In some situations, where the systematic reviews are commissioned, a commissioning document must also be prepared during this phase. The most significant activity involved in the planning phase is defining the RQs and preparing a review protocol. Before initiating the SLR process, reviewer must conduct a scoping review about the topic of interest to ensure if there is a need to address the particular issue. Furthermore, to conduct a secondary review it must be identified if there is sufficient information available related to the topic that can be used as primary studies. The process must not start if the RQ has been addressed previously or if there is not enough evidence available to support the research. As a result of planning phase, a review plan acting as a road map for the process is obtained which must be followed to conduct an SLR.

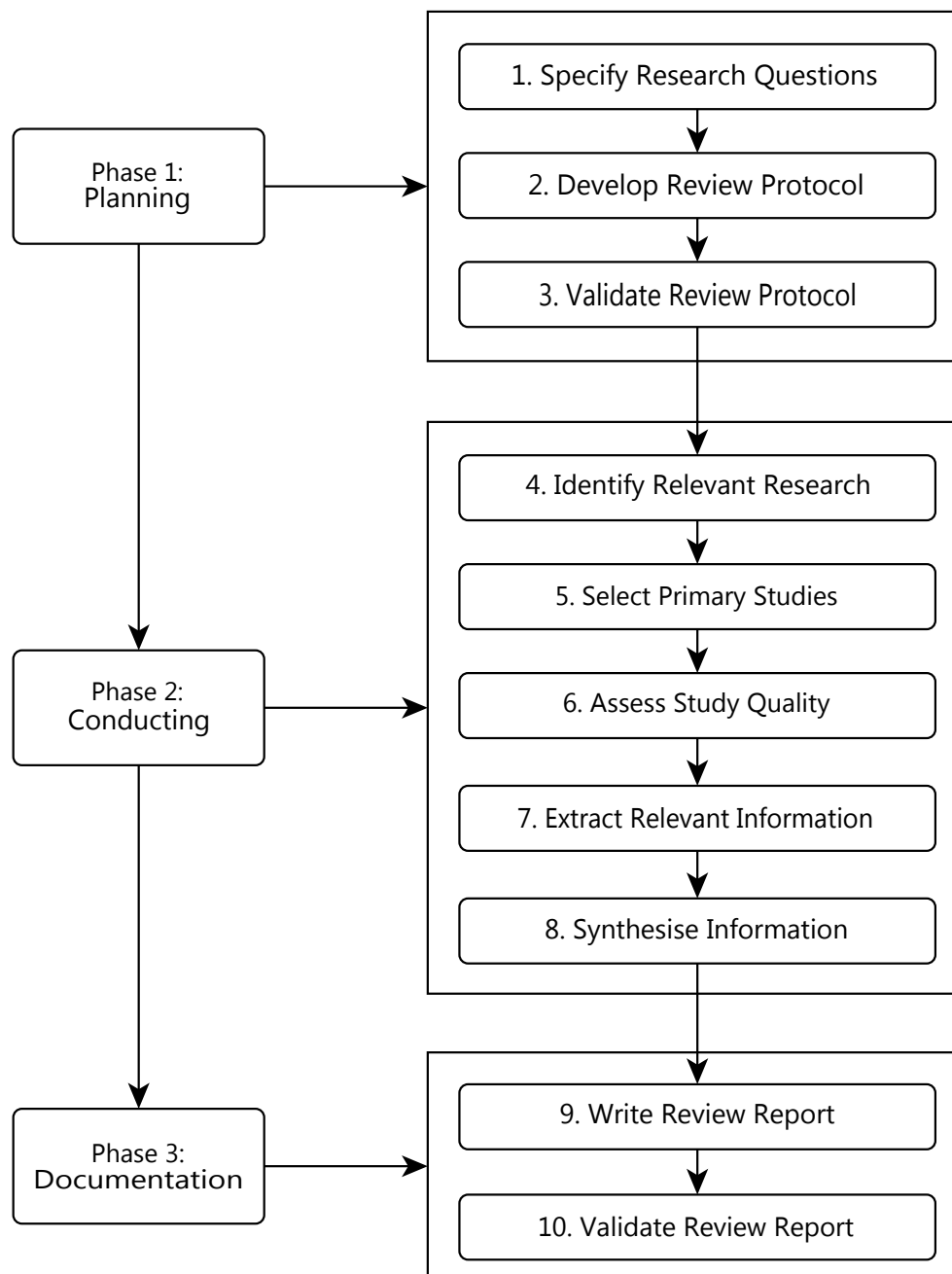


Figure 2.1: An SLR process, adapted from [Kitchenham and Charters \[2007\]](#).

### Specify RQs

The most important step during planning phase of an SLR is defining the RQs to be answered. The RQs must be meaningful and interesting for the researchers, aiming to either identify existing studies or build future research activities. The review questions form the foundation for an SLR, guiding the review process to identify relevant primary

studies and analyze information extracted from them [Dyb ar et al., 2007]. To formulate the RQs in a way that is clear and precise, a PICOC (Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Context) criteria is recommended for reviewers, explained as:

- **Population:** A question must define the specific population group, such as, researchers working in an application area or a category of software engineers, that will benefit from the study being conducted.
- **Intervention:** The software methodology, tool, technology, or procedure that addresses a specific issue is defined as the intervention.
- **Comparison:** For reviewing the interventions, it is required to define appropriate comparison of interest.
- **Outcome:** This component describes the relevant and quantifiable characteristics important to the practitioners, such as, improved reliability, or reduced time.
- **Context:** This is the context in which the comparison is performed, for instance, academic or industrial, the participants of the study and the tasks being performed.

### Develop a review protocol

Independent of the field of research, every SLR requires a detailed protocol to be prepared beforehand based on ideas from all members of the review team. The research protocol acts as a plan, describing the process and methods that will be applied throughout an SLR. It also contains some information regarding review team members and their roles during the process. The review team can also seek expert advice regarding the topic for a better understanding of their work. A pre-defined protocol reduces the possibility of researcher bias as it consists of all the information required to conduct next stages of an SLR. We discuss the components that must be part of review plan below:

**Background and rationale:** This section of the review protocol consists of a brief summary regarding current research about the topic of interest. Moreover, motivation of the reviewer to perform an SLR addressing the specific issue and the need for a solution must be stated.

**RQs:** RQs must be clearly defined in the plan, as it forms basis of the research being performed. The questions should be precise and focusing on a specific issue to limit scope of the review. PICOC criteria is recommended to structure the question(s), as any modification later can completely change purpose of the review being conducted.

**Search strategy:** The search method to retrieve primary studies including search terms and resources to be searched are defined in this component. RQs are used to extract keywords and generate a search query. It must include all possible synonyms of the keywords, their abbreviations and alternative spellings. Sophisticated search strings are then constructed using Boolean ANDs and ORs. The method that

will be used to search for relevant studies must be determined. The researchers should also justify the way specific searching methods, such as, manual searching, automated searching, snowballing and contacting key researchers are combined. For an automated search, the description of data resources and search query that will be used is specified in this section. If a manual search is planned, suitable journal and conference proceedings must be defined along with justification of the selection.

**Study selection criteria:** In this component of the review protocol, the researcher must specify the study selection criteria to determine whether a study should be included for an **SLR** or not along with the procedure that will be followed to apply the defined criteria. The **inclusion criteria (IC)** and **exclusion criteria (EC)** are formulated based on the defined **RQs** and searched studies need to be sorted in such a manner that only those fulfilling the **IC** are included as primary studies. The study selection criteria can be applied in different stages, initial decisions are usually based in specific parts of the paper, such as, title, abstract and keywords, to exclude the obvious irrelevant ones. Later on, the full-text of candidate papers are analyzed by the reviewers for a final decision regarding their inclusion. The restriction to the number of primary studies is specified to focus on the issue being addressed and make the **SLR** process practically manageable.

**Quality assessment checklist and procedures:** The review team must agree on quality assessment procedures to determine the quality of primary studies included in an **SLR**. The minimum acceptance criteria are specified in this component along with the procedure to assess all primary studies. The credibility of an **SLR** is assured by including valid and reliable primary studies. To perform quality assessment manually, reviewers must develop quality criteria checklists based on study type, for example, qualitative or quantitative study. Each article is scored according to their fulfillment of individual criteria, the total points are then assigned. The review team must also define methods to resolve conflicts between their decisions because the assessment is done manually by members, according to their individual expertise regarding the topic.

**Data extraction strategy:** After screening and quality testing of primary studies, data to be retrieved from the individual studies must be stated. The researchers must also define the procedures for performing the extraction and validation of the data. Reviewers are recommended to prepare data extraction forms for consistency in the extracted data. The format of these forms highly depend on the quantitative or qualitative nature of primary studies. Data to be stored for all the papers include their publication details along with information to be used for answering **RQs**. These forms are filled by review team members for each of the selected studies. Strategies to resolve conflicts between individual decisions must also be stated as part of this component.

**Data synthesis and aggregation procedure:** This part of the review protocol defines strategies to summarize, integrate, combine and compare findings from the primary studies selected for an **SLR**. For qualitative study type, synthesis is usually

an iterative process as authors might explain concepts differently from each other. The strategy to combine findings of multiple studies must be defined in a manner appropriate to answer the RQs.

**Strategy for knowledge translation:** It is important to note the target audience who would benefit from the results of SLR being conducted. The procedures used to spread the obtained information needs to be defined, usually researchers publish their findings as journal publications or conference articles.

**Project timetable:** The time frame for conducting an SLR must be decided according to the complexity of review. The work plan for each of the proposed steps must be determined to keep track of the process. To identify the time requirement for conducting an SLR, initial screening regarding the topic can be performed to determine its complexity.

### **Validate review protocol**

Review protocol is one of the most crucial part of an SLR hence, it must be evaluated to verify its rigor. In this step, the reviewers specify procedures to be used for validating the protocol. Both, internal and external validation is recommended as a complete procedure. Review team members validate specific aspects of the protocol, such as, the search strategy, data extraction forms as well as data synthesis procedures. External validation involves evaluation of the review plan by experts working in the research area of interest.

## **2.1.2 Phase 2: Conducting**

As a result of the planning phase, a well-prepared and verified review plan to conduct the SLR is obtained. Since the information required to perform stages of execution phase are part of the review protocol, reviewers must follow the plan to achieve results. The conducting phase involves identification of relevant research, selection and quality assessment of primary studies. Furthermore, data extraction and information synthesis are also part of this phase. The reviewer retrieves primary studies that answer the defined RQs as a result of this phase. We discuss each of the steps involved for executing an SLR further in this section.

### **Identify relevant research**

The conducting phase of an SLR begins with applying the search strategy defined in review protocol. The goal of an SLR is to retrieve as many relevant primary studies as possible to answer the RQs. The search strategy for an SLR must be unbiased to find maximum relevant papers from the resources used. Usually researchers prefer to perform automated search using resources, such as, digital libraries and indexing systems. Other searching methods include manual searching of selected journals and conference proceedings as well as snowballing methods. To identify all the relevant papers both, forward and backward snowballing is performed. The search strategy must combine the searching methods in such a way that an acceptable level of completeness is achieved. The reviewers must document their searches as efficiently as possible to assure



the repeatability and transparency of an **SLR**. The resources used to find candidate papers must be selected prior to execution phase. These usually include digital libraries, journal and conference proceedings and other resources such as books.

### Select primary studies

After performing search in selected search venues, potentially relevant candidate studies are obtained that need to be assessed for their actual relevance to the defined **RQs**. The study selection criteria identify primary studies that provide direct evidence about the research topic under observation. Researchers review specific parts of the articles, such as, title, abstract, keywords for the first stage of screening. To finally decide whether the study is to be included or not, full-text of the candidate papers must be analyzed. To minimize the probability of bias, selection criteria are defined in the review protocol but can be refined during the search process as well. The **IC** and **EC** must be appropriate to retrieve all relevant studies from the data sources. Some generic **IC** such as language, year range of publication, field of interest can already be defined when searching in the electronic libraries.

### Assess study quality

To determine the validity of results obtained through the search process, quality assessment is performed. Along with **IC** and **EC**, quality assessment criteria are also defined in the review protocol. The quality of individual primary studies is assessed according to a defined quality assessment criteria checklist. Quality scores are used to determine the importance of individual studies when interpreting the findings of an **SLR**. Based on the quantitative or qualitative nature of the studies, quality criteria checklists are prepared. Assessing the quality of included studies is a challenging task, as there is no standard definition of study quality present in literature. Many of the guidelines and procedures recommended by researchers for assessing study quality, indicate that quality refers to the extent to which the design and execution of an **SLR** minimizes bias and maximizes validity. The assessment is usually performed manually by the individual reviewers, each study is scored against each criteria. If the opinions of members differ then the methods defined to resolve issues are followed to find unbiased results.

### Extract relevant information

After the studies are finally selected, the next step during execution phase of an **SLR** is to extract relevant information from them. The data extraction forms are designed to accurately retrieve data required to answer defined **RQs**. To reduce the opportunity for bias, data extraction forms and procedures are usually specified in the review protocol. The design of data extraction forms must be appropriate for the study type included in an **SLR**. Information to be recorded in the forms include standard publication details, such as, name, date, year, author, publisher, space for additional notes, along with other data to answer the **RQ**. For qualitative studies, extracted data is usually in textual form whereas for quantitative study type, numerical data is extracted. The researchers fill the forms for each primary study either individually or in groups. The extracted data must be then compared and disagreements, if any, should be resolved either by consensus among researchers or arbitration by an external independent researcher.

### **Synthesize information**

The last step of conducting phase of an [SLR](#), involves applying methods to combine and summarize results of the primary studies. The data synthesis procedure is defined in the review protocol. Similar to the previous steps, the data synthesis approach is also based on the quantitative or qualitative nature of the primary studies. Using statistical techniques to obtain a quantitative synthesis is referred to as *meta-analysis*. Quantitative synthesis requires extracted data to be stored in a way that allows data from different studies to be compared, such as, tables. On the other hand, qualitative synthesis involves integrating results and conclusions explained in natural language. For [SE](#) domain, primary studies are more likely to provide qualitative results hence, qualitative synthesis is usually performed. The researchers might use terms and concepts with different meanings in their study [[Schröter et al., 2017b](#)]. Therefore, the synthesis of textual data must be performed carefully by the reviewers to answer the [RQs](#).

### **2.1.3 Phase 3: Reporting**

The final phase of an [SLR](#) involves documentation of the results and distribution of knowledge to the intended audience in an appropriate manner. It is important for the researchers to precisely describe their contribution to a specific research area and summarize their findings with valid justifications. As mentioned previously, an [SLR](#) can be reported in many different ways, such as, technical report, conference paper, journal paper or thesis chapter. The complete details regarding research process, outcomes of each stage and the overall findings must be included while reporting an [SLR](#). As part of the reporting phase, the steps to be followed include, planning and writing a review report as well as validating the report.

#### **Planning and writing review report**

This step involves specifying the intended audience who would benefit from conducted research and the most suitable method for distributing knowledge. The potential audience of an [SLR](#) include both, practitioners and researchers. Practitioners may be more interested in the practical implications of the review for their own practice, while researchers find the details of methodology and questions arising for future research more interesting. Therefore, it is important to communicate the results of an [SLR](#) effectively, the researchers usually plan the final reports during the preparation of review protocol. The reporting of an [SLR](#) includes sufficient details regarding the research method employed, so that other researchers may replicate results by following the same procedure as described. Structure of the report is usually well-defined but there may be some variations according to the study conducted. The most common outline includes the abstract, introduction, background of the topic, research method employed, the execution of review plan, results obtained and the analysis performed. Furthermore, the discussion about results and final conclusion drawn are also an important section of the review report.

#### **Validate review report**

After the research process used to conduct an [SLR](#) is documented, the report must be

evaluated to ensure validity of the method. The review team members must review the reporting of an SLR, to verify that the RQs are clearly specified, the complete research methodology is correctly reported, appropriate data extraction and synthesis procedures are performed. Moreover, it must be verified that results and conclusions are described clearly to answer the RQ. If an expert opinion was asked regarding the review protocol earlier, then the same expert panel could be requested to evaluate the SLR report. It is also possible that other researchers working in the specific research area or SLR methodology review clarity and consistency of the report.

The SLR phases and their stages we describe above are based on the first adapted guidelines by Kitchenham and Charters [2007] for SE researchers to conduct an SLR. Majority of the systematic reviews reported follow these guidelines for planning, conducting and reporting.

## 2.2 Text Mining for Article Selection

*Knowledge Discovery in Databases (KDD)* refers to the overall process of discovering high-level, potentially useful knowledge from low-level data [Keim, 2002]. The process involves using database along with any required selection, pre-processing, sub-sampling, transformation, applying data mining methods to enumerate patterns and interpretation/evaluation of results obtained through the mining algorithms. The complete KDD process is summarized in Figure 2.2.

*Data Mining* is one of the components of KDD process, for extracting new, important, valid and potentially useful information from data [Witten et al., 2011]. It transforms the extracted information into an understandable structure for further use. The idea is to build computer programs that explore large amounts of data and discover interesting patterns within them [Kroeze et al., 2003]. As shown in Figure 2.2, data mining consists of applying data analysis and discovery algorithms to produce a particular enumeration of patterns over the data.

*Text mining* is similar to data mining, the major difference is that it focuses on extracting small pieces of information from natural language text instead of structured data, to identify relevant and previously unknown knowledge [Hearst, 1999; Kroeze et al., 2003]. It aims to enable users to collect, interpret, curate, and efficiently discover knowledge required for education or research [Thomas et al., 2011]. Text mining is the process of automatically retrieving useful information from unstructured or semi-structured text through identification and exploration of patterns [Gupta and Lehal, 2009; Mooney and Nahm, 2005]. The input text is structured to derive patterns within the structured data as well as interpretation and evaluation of the output [Witten, 2011]. The process comprises of activities such as, information retrieval to retrieve text relevant to the user's query, lexical analysis to study word distributions, pattern recognition, information extraction to identify and extract fragments of text related to the query, data mining techniques to identify links among the pieces of extracted information and visualization of the information [Thomas et al., 2011].

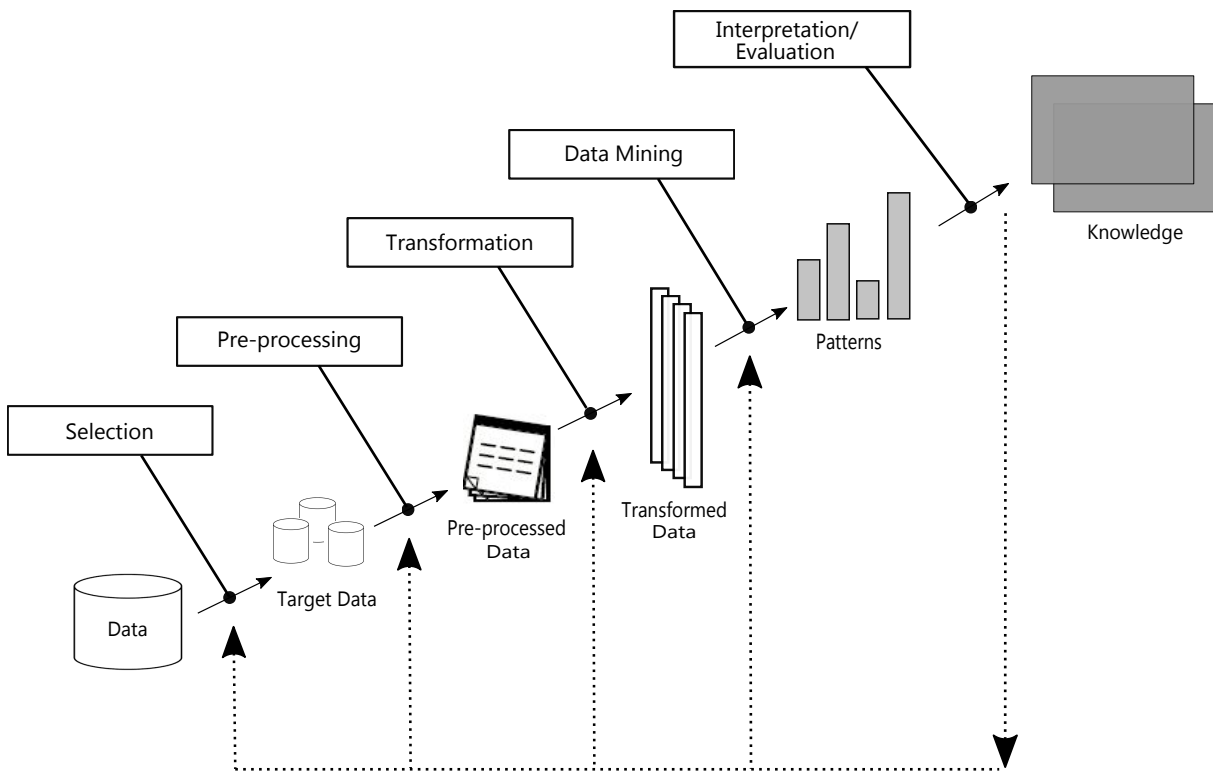


Figure 2.2: Overview of the steps constituting the KDD process based on [Fayyad et al. \[1996\]](#).

Text Mining allows large volumes of diverse information to be merged and managed efficiently [\[Witten, 2011\]](#). Therefore, significant amount of research regarding text analysis have been conducted by [SE](#) researchers to design strategies that support various stages of an [SLR](#), such as, selection of primary studies, quality assessment and data extraction [\[Felizardo et al., 2012; Kitchenham and Brereton, 2013\]](#). Hence, in this section we will discuss some text mining concepts useful for designing efficient methods to summarize the data about a topic of interest.

### 2.2.1 Text Mining Methods

For an [SLR](#), large amounts of information must be evaluated to draw relevant conclusions. There are many text mining methods and related tasks that allow efficient analysis of text documents. In this section, we discuss some of the most important methods that support identification of relevant studies in the [SLR](#) process. For instance, information extraction, automatic term recognition, document classification/categorization, clustering, information visualization, and text summarization are described below.

#### Information Extraction

The analysis of unstructured text to automatically extract structured information, such as entities, relationships between entities and attributes describing entities, is referred to as information extraction [\[Fan et al., 2006\]](#). The process involves identification of

certain small-scale structures or patterns in the text and the relationships between them [Piskorski and Yangarber, 2013]. Once the software infers relationships between the identified patterns, meaningful information is provided to the user. Most of the text mining softwares use information extraction as the basis for many other text mining technologies. This technology is useful for exploring large amounts of text, such as, for an SLR and provide relevant information for further usage [Fan et al., 2006].

### Automatic Term Recognition

SLRs are mostly focused on one or more topic areas that can be summarized based on a network of concepts and associations. These concepts can be acquired from the text as technical terms to classify specialized knowledge [Thomas et al., 2011]. Automatic term recognition automatically identifies and extracts keywords within the text and display to the user in a meaningful manner [Ananiadou and Nenadic, 2006]. Keywords are a set of significant words in an article that gives high-level description of its contents to the user [Gupta and Lehal, 2009]. Identification of keywords enables the user to manipulate large volume of text efficiently. This technique is useful for robust processing as it provides the ability to handle unknown words, build lexical and knowledge resources as well as maintain consistency avoiding terminological confusion [Hadjitofallis, 2010]. The automatically generated terms usually correspond to domain concepts which are found in thesauri, controlled vocabularies, and ontologies [Thomas et al., 2011].

There are different methods for automatic term recognition, for example, rule-based approach, dictionary-based, statistical, and machine learning techniques, as discussed by Ananiadou and Nenadic [2006]; Krauthammer and Nenadic [2004]. These methods include the recognition of boundaries of multi-word terms, handling of term variations, such as, acronyms and orthographic variants, to improve the results obtained using these techniques [Thomas et al., 2011].

### Document Classification/Categorization

Automatic document classification aims to identify the main theme of a document based on its underlying patterns and distinguishing features, to make them part of a defined group or class [Ananiadou et al., 2009; Yang and Pedersen, 1997]. Using this information, each new document is assigned to the known classes. Categorization counts only words that appear in the text to identify the main topic discussed in the document [Fan et al., 2006]. The classification often relies on a thesaurus for which topics are predefined and relationships are identified based on broad terms, narrower terms, synonyms and related terms. This method can reduce the time required by the user to identify and filter articles relevant to a specific query during an SLR [Thomas et al., 2011].

### Clustering

The goal of document clustering is to assign documents to groups based on conceptual similarities [Ananiadou et al., 2009; Fan et al., 2006]. The groups or clusters are generated based on the content and underlying themes shared by all the documents included in that group. A basic clustering algorithm use the words of the documents and their frequencies of occurrence to create a vector of topics for each document. The docu-

ment similarities are calculated based on the generated document vectors [Ananiadou et al., 2009]. Automatic clustering works better with larger document collections, such as, for an SLR, allowing for a more complete view of the domain. Some approaches also provide meaningful labels to the clusters allowing users to efficiently narrow the documents by identifying topics relevant to the search [Thomas et al., 2011].

### Information Visualization

The basic idea of data visualization is to present large data sets in some visual form, allowing the user to get an insight into the data, draw conclusions and directly interact with the data [Keim, 2002]. Visual Text Mining (VTM) puts large textual sources in a visual hierarchy or map and provides browsing capabilities to support efficient exploration of documents. For an SLR, visualization tools are used for applying text mining algorithms and methods combined with interactive visualizations to help user select the relevant studies without actually reading their complete text [Malheiros et al., 2007]. For example, a 2D document map shown in Figure 2.3, represents the documents by circles that are placed in a way that similar documents are close together while the ones not similar are placed apart from each other [Felizardo et al., 2011].

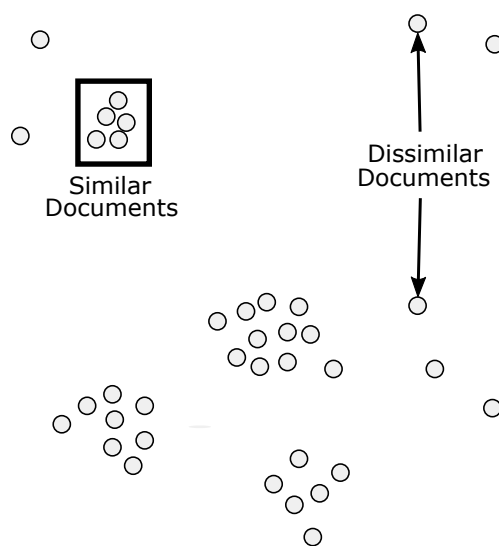


Figure 2.3: 2D document map based on Felizardo et al. [2011].

### Text Summarization

The goal of text summarization is to reduce the length and detail of a document while retaining its main points and overall meaning [Fan et al., 2006]. Automatic text summarization is a technique that generates a summary for a document by extracting the most salient information from it [Mani, 2001]. The output of text summarization is intended to be human-readable, allowing the user to determine the relevancy of a document and whether it must be read completely. To develop a software that could automatically analyze semantics and interpret meaning is the main challenge for text mining application developers. One of the strategies commonly used by text summarization tools is

*sentence extraction*, where important concepts are extracted from the text based on the assumption that a human reader splits each sentence into a set of information fragments to which the sentence refers [Radev and McKeown, 1998]. These information fragments are mutually independent and each of them has an importance score [Thomas et al., 2011]. Summarization tools can also search for specific terms, headings and other markers of subtopics in order to identify the document's key points [Fan et al., 2006]. Many text summarization tools also allow users to choose the percentage of the total text to be extracted as a summary of the document [Witten, 2011].

## 2.2.2 Text Analysis Process

For applying text mining techniques, the semi-structured/unstructured text must be processed into an acceptable form for efficiently determining the information presented in the document [Gupta and Lehal, 2009]. The collection of documents are pre-processed to a unified format that can be transformed into vector representation [Weissi et al., 2010]. Process starts with the collection of studies, each of them is retrieved and checked for its format using a text mining tool. The required information is extracted using text analysis techniques and placed in a management information system. Each of the steps in a text mining process are further explained below according to [Weissi et al., 2010]:

### **Document collection and standardization:**

To undergo mining procedures the user must collect the data first. As the documents are selected from different sources, their format can vary. Hence, all the documents must be converted into a standard form for processing. The raw ascii version of the articles are further processed to build numerical vectors, the later steps are discussed further.

### **Tokenization:**

During this step, the unstructured text is examined to identify useful features. Firstly, the character stream is split into words which are called *tokens*. This step is significant to extract higher-level information from the working text. Every single token is a part of a category called "type", so certainly the frequency of number of tokens is much higher than the frequency of types. This process is complicated for a computer program as it does not understand the language structure in a way that human does. Therefore, various conditions and situations are defined for the computer program in order to treat characters as tokens or delimiters. In order to attain optimum results it is better to customize the tokenizer for the working text. This should be noted that the tokenization process is language dependent, therefore the general procedures will remain the same but the details will differ according to the language used.

### **Lemmatization:**

After the process of tokenization, the next step is standardization of tokens that is usually referred as lemmatization or stemming. The goal of stemming is to reduce inflectional and derivational variant forms of a word to a common base form [Goldsmith et al., 2001]. It is an optional but beneficial step for document classification, as it reduces

the number of distinct type in a text corpus and increases the frequency of occurrence of some individual types. For example, an instance “cars” will be reduced to the stem “car” and would be counted as an instance of that type. To perform stemming there are two possibilities and can be selected based on the application.

1. Inflectional Stemming; in English and many other languages, words exist in texts in more than one form. Inflectional stemming is the normalization of these forms on the basis of grammatical variants such as singular/plural and present/past.
2. Stemming to a Root; for some cases of text-processing applications, more intensive stemming is beneficial where the intend is to reach a root form with no inflectional or derivational prefixes and suffixes. For instance, “denormalization” is reduced to the stem “norm”. Through such aggressive stemming, the number of types in a text collection is reduced drastically, therefore making distributional statistics more reliable.

### Vector Generation (Categorization):

Tokens or words are the main characteristic features for categorizing a document. Without reading the complete content, documents can be described by features that represent the most frequent tokens. The collective set of features is known as *dictionary* that contains words or tokens corresponding to the document collection and forms the basis for constructing a numeric data collection. With the help of this data model, the presence of a word from the dictionary can be checked in a document. This data model can also work along with predictive methods. Frequency information on the word counts improve the predictive performance for some methods. The most frequent but not interesting words, known as “stopwords”, are often removed from the text before determining the frequency counts. The counts are then modified by the perceived importance of each word by computing weightings for words using the “tf-idf” formulation.

As shown in Equation 2.1, the tf-idf weight assigned to word  $j$  is the term frequency (i.e., the word count) modified by a scale factor for the importance of the word. The scale factor is called the *inverse document frequency* and is given in Equation 2.2. It simply checks the number of documents containing word “ $j$ ” (i.e.,  $df(j)$ ) and reverses the scaling. Thus, when a word appears in many documents, it is considered unimportant and the scale is lowered, perhaps approximately zero. Whereas, if the word is relatively unique and appears in few documents, the scale factor zooms upward because it appears important. As a result, positive scores replace the simple frequency counts which are then transformed into sparse vectors.

$$tf, idf(j) = tf(j) * idf(j), \quad (2.1)$$

$$idf(j) = \log\left(\frac{N}{df(j)}\right) \quad (2.2)$$



**Parsing:**

The most sophisticated type of text processing, is producing a full parse of a sentence. Parsing, also known as syntax analysis, is the process of analyzing a string of symbols in natural language, conforming to the rules of formal grammar. The parsing rule is a set of instructions defined by the user to extract relevant data from the text documents. Through this step, the relation and function (e.g. subject, object, etc.) of each word in a sentence with the others is determined. There are different kinds of parsing methods, each associated with linguistic theory of languages.

**Feature Generation:**

This method is to identify features that can be useful for text mining. Feature generation is accomplished through contextual analysis of the text documents. A feature generator analyzes the documents and maps them onto appropriate ontology concepts, which in turn induce a set of generated features [Gabrilovich and Markovitch, 2005]. In this step, the goal is to reduce the dimensionality and improve accuracy of determining the information present in the text. Through feature generation, it can be determined how well the features depend on the type of object to be classified and also how such features can be obtained.



## 3. Literature Review

This chapter describes the implementation of an SLR that forms the basis for further work. We conduct the study to identify existing approaches that support the selection activity of an SLR in the field of SE. The goal is to summarize existing approaches to support the SLR process. In particular, we focus on semi-automatic techniques for the selection of primary studies. Through this study, we summarize the existing approaches and identify gaps in the current research. The methodology and execution of the SLR is discussed below. Based on them, we evaluate the results obtained to answer the defined RQs.

### 3.1 Research Method

We follow the guidelines proposed by Kitchenham and Charters [2007] to conduct an SLR, the steps are summarized in Figure 2.1. To assure transparency and repeatability of the study, we document the complete research process. We define the RQs, search strategy and selection criteria during the planning phase. In the conducting phase, we identify all the available relevant studies and evaluate them against certain selection criteria. We critically analyze the selected studies to find the most relevant and valid primary studies. Finally, we synthesize information extracted from the selected studies to answer the previously defined RQs.

#### 3.1.1 Research Questions

The systematic review process begins with the construction of the RQs that serves as a basis for the study being conducted [Boell and Cecez-Kecmanovic, 2015; Kitchenham, 2004; Kitchenham et al., 2015]. It is the most important step in the planning phase of an SLR, as discussed in Section 2.1.1. The aim of this SLR is to summarize methodologies proposed by SE researchers to support the primary study selection activity in an SLR. Thus, the following RQs are of interest:

**RQ1: Which approaches to assess the quality of primary studies have been proposed?**

At first, we aim to provide an overview on approaches for semi-automatically assessing the quality of primary studies. Here, we summarize these approaches and describe different aspects, such as, the underlying technique, conducted evaluation, and results. Thus, we support practitioners and researchers that search for an approach to apply or scope a new one.

**RQ2: Which underlying techniques are used for this assessment?**

For this RQ, we will examine the underlying techniques in more detail. We identify the inputs, processing, and outputs of each identified technique to compare them. Thus, it is possible to identify the techniques that may be more suitable for certain use cases or can be combined with each other.

Overall, we provide a detailed overview on semi-automatic approaches to assess the quality of primary studies in SLRs through this study.

### 3.1.2 Search Strategy

After formulating the RQs, we define a search strategy to identify all the relevant literature. The strategy includes identifying the keywords for the search and using them to construct search strings. The search process followed for this SLR is an automated keyword search followed with forward and backward snowballing. To increase the chances of obtaining maximum relevant studies, we select primary sources of scientific papers in SE community as the data sources. The search strategy followed for conducting the review is as follows:

**Search Terms** In order to obtain as many relevant literature as possible, generic and broad search terms are extracted from the review questions. Hence, the main keywords identified in the defined RQs are: “systematic literature review”, “literature quality”, “quality assessment”, “data mining”, “recommender system”, “relevancy categorization”.

**Search String** To construct the search strings we identify the synonyms, variations and related words for the defined keywords. The search query is a combination of the keywords using the logical operator AND with the synonyms, variations and related terms using the logical operator OR. Using the appropriate boolean expressions the following search string is produced for the review to obtain maximum possible relevant results:

(approach OR support OR method) AND (“systematic literature review” OR “systematic review” OR “systematic literature reviews” OR “systematic reviews” OR SLR) AND (“quality assessment” OR “literature quality”) AND (“data mining” OR “recommender system”) AND (“relevance categorization” OR “relevant study”)

**Data Sources** After defining the search strings, we select search venues for the SLR. Electronic databases with a large number of SE publications are chosen. Table 3.1 gives the list of data sources we use to identify studies for the review. Furthermore, we carefully study the resulting articles and filter them according to the defined study selection criteria. Finally, we perform forward and backward snowballing to identify studies that might have been overlooked in the initial search.

Database	URL
ACM Digital Library	<a href="http://portal.acm.org">http://portal.acm.org</a>
IEEE Explore	<a href="http://ieeexplore.ieee.org">http://ieeexplore.ieee.org</a>
ScienceDirect	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com">http://www.sciencedirect.com</a>
SpringerLink	<a href="http://www.springerlink.com">http://www.springerlink.com</a>

Table 3.1: Data sources for the SLR.

### 3.1.3 Study Selection Criteria

To identify relevant primary studies to address the review questions, we define the study selection criteria. We use the IC and EC to select papers from the search results of the data sources as explained in Section 2.1.2. The IC and EC defined for the literature review we conduct are listed below:

#### Inclusion criteria

- The study must address an approach focusing on quality assessment or relevancy categorization in the SLR process.  
Different automated approaches have been proposed by researchers to support the stages of an SLR. This review will focus on methods that assist selection and quality assessment of primary studies.
- Article elaborates the methodology used to support the approach.  
Sufficient information for the reader to clearly understand the steps followed for achieving the results is provided in the study.
- Study is conducted between 2007 to 2016.  
The guidelines to lead an SLR in SE were proposed by Kitchenham and Charters [2007]. This review targets articles that are published after these guidelines and until the time we conduct the review.
- Paper reviewed and officially published in a journal/workshop/conference.  
To ensure good quality results, the proposed approach must be reviewed prior to the publication.

- Articles related to [SE](#) domain.  
[SLRs](#) have been widely used as a research method in other domains such as medicine and social sciences. This criteria is to limit our focus on studies conducted in the [CS](#) domain.

### Exclusion criteria

- Papers not written in English.  
A standard language is selected as a means of representing information.
- Abstracts and Power Point presentations.  
To obtain detailed description of the proposed approach, complete text file of the study is preferred that provides the required amount of data.
- Technical reports and Bachelor/Master/PhD theses.  
The articles published by experts in the field of [CS](#) are more likely to be detailed and reviewed.
- Articles with unknown publication type or publisher.  
To obtain better quality results, articles with incomplete information regarding authors or publishers are excluded.

### 3.1.4 Quality Assessment

We assess the selected primary studies based on defined quality criteria to increase reliability of the results. We use the guidelines suggested by [Kitchenham et al. \[2015\]](#) and [Kitchenham and Charters \[2007\]](#) for performing rigorous quality assessment of the selected papers. To assess the selected articles manually, the quality criteria checklist contains the following questions:

- Q1* Is there a clear statement defining the objective and aim of the research?  
The goal of research carried out in the study must be clear, if there are unclear descriptions the paper is given a score 0=No, while if there is only partial description of the objectives the score given is 0.5=Partial, otherwise the score is 1=Yes.
- Q2* Is there an adequate description justifying the choice of research area?  
Studies with an explanation to support selection of the topic for research are assigned a score 1=Yes, if not 0=No.
- Q3* Is the research method appropriate to address the aims of the research?  
The authors must explain clearly and completely the proposed strategy. This includes elaboration of all the intermediate steps and their purpose. If relevant, clear and adequate descriptions are provided the paper is given a score 1=Yes, while for partial and unclear descriptions the scores given are 0.5=Partial and 0=No respectively.

Q4 How feasible is the method followed to achieve results?

The results of the feasibility study conducted represent how promising the proposed approach would be. The limitations to the approach, if any, must be identified by the researchers. If the proposed approach is useful for the purpose the score 1=Yes is assigned, while if the approach is partially useful then 0.5=Partial is assigned.

Q5 Is there clear and coherent reporting of the findings?

The paper must provide valid results obtained by applying the proposed strategy. If a relevant feasibility study is described by the researchers to evaluate the proposed approach the score assigned is 1=Yes. If there is no study performed to evaluate the proposed strategy the assigned score is 0=No.

Q6 Is the study of value for research and practice?

Studies summarizing whether the findings of the study can benefit SE researchers in practice are assigned a score 1=Yes, otherwise 0=No.

The quality assessment criteria we list above cover four main areas of empirical research as explained by [Dybbå and Dingsøy](#) [2008b]:

- *Reporting*: criteria Q1 and Q2 relate to the quality of reporting an empirical study based on the aims and description,
- *Rigor*: criteria Q3 and Q4 address how appropriate and thorough the applied research design is for achieving valid results,
- *Credibility*: criteria Q5 focus on assessing the reliability of findings concluded through the study,
- *Relevance*: criteria Q6 concerns the relevancy of the study for the research community.

For assessing quality, we carefully analyze the selected primary studies. We assign each primary study a score according to the above mentioned quality criteria. For each of the quality criteria the scores are given on the scale of 0 to 1 with maximum score representing the best quality paper. We discuss the scores assigned to each of the primary studies for this review in [Section 3.2.3](#).

### 3.1.5 Data Extraction and Data Synthesis

After the selection and quality assessment of primary studies, we extract relevant information from them to answer the defined RQs. Through this step, we aim to acquire data from individual primary studies and synthesize in a manner appropriate for our study. We design the data extraction forms to accurately record the information obtained from the primary studies. In addition to including the RQs and study selection criteria, we record the following standard information for each paper, as suggested by [Kitchenham and Charters](#) [2007]:

- Primary study ID.
- Author(s).
- Title.
- Publisher.
- Year of publication.
- Publication details (volume and issue).
- Page numbers.

Furthermore, we extract the primary study specific data for each paper to answer the review questions. To keep the extracted information consistent, we collect the following information for each primary study:

- Summary of aims of the study.
- Name and description of the method proposed.
- Explanation of methodology used to achieve the defined goals.
- Summary of findings.
- Results of evaluation, if performed, for the proposed strategy.

We study each of the primary articles carefully to identify the basic concepts, methodology followed and conclusions drawn regarding the proposed approach. We synthesize the data extracted from the primary studies to answer both of the defined RQs, discussed later in [Section 3.3](#).

## 3.2 Conducting the Review

After the planning phase, we conduct the review following the defined methodology. We obtain the review plan to perform the SLR as a result of first phase. The conducting phase involves identification of relevant research, selection of primary studies and quality assessment. In the next part of this section we discuss each of the stages involved to execute the SLR:

### 3.2.1 Identifying Relevant Research

The conducting phase begins with identifying relevant studies from the selected data sources. The search results retrieve a total of 3,196 potentially relevant articles for the search query. The [Table 3.2](#) shows the number of articles we initially obtain from each of the selected data sources. The results obtained through the initial search can be found in [Section A.1](#).



Data Source	Search Result
ACM Digital Library	2076 articles
IEEE Xplore	31 articles
Science Direct	474 articles
SpringerLink	615 articles

Table 3.2: Search results of the selected data sources.

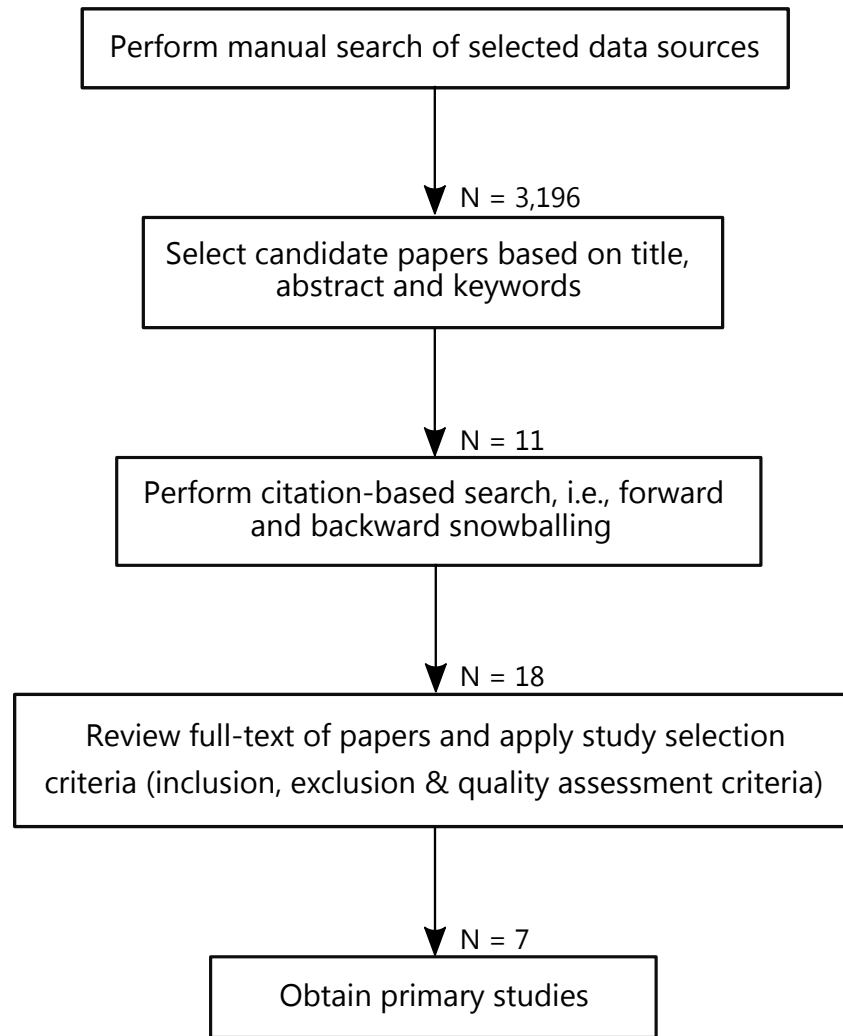
### 3.2.2 Selection of Primary Studies

We screen the search results obtained from the selected data sources based on title, abstract and keywords for each paper. For a secondary review, the selection is related to primary studies hence, any secondary or tertiary study are excluded during the initial screening [Octaviano et al., 2015]. The primary studies we select to answer the defined RQs are listed in Table 3.3.

Year	Title	Library	Cited as
2007	A Visual Text Mining approach for Systematic Reviews	IEEE Xplore	[Malheiros et al., 2007]
2011	Linked Data approach for Selection Process Automation in Systematic Reviews	IEEE Xplore	[Tomassetti et al., 2011]
2011	Using Visual Text Mining to Support the Study Selection activity in Systematic Literature Reviews	IEEE Xplore	[Felizardo et al., 2011]
2015	Applying Information Retrieval Techniques to Detect Duplicates and to Rank References in the Preliminary Phases of Systematic Literature Reviews	SemanticScholar	[Abilio et al., 2015]
2015	Semi-automatic Selection of Primary studies in Systematic Literature Reviews: is it reasonable?	SpringerLink	[Octaviano et al., 2015]
2016	Improvements in the StArt Tool to better Support the Systematic Review Process	ACM	[Fabbri et al., 2016]
2016	PaperQuest: A Visualization Tool to Support Literature Review	ACM	[Ponsard et al., 2016]

Table 3.3: Selected primary studies.

To obtain relevant primary studies we prepare an outline of the required steps, given in Figure 3.1. We initiate the search and selection process by screening the title, abstract and keywords of the 3,196 potentially relevant studies. After obtaining a set of 11 selected candidate papers, we perform forward and backward snowballing. As a result, we retrieve 18 studies and analyze their full-text based on the study selection criteria. Finally, we select 7 primary studies to answer the defined RQs.



N = Number of studies

Figure 3.1: Procedure followed for identifying primary studies.

### 3.2.3 Quality Assessment

The last step of the conducting phase is the quality assessment of selected primary studies. Using the checklist defined in [Section 3.1.4](#) we assign scores to each primary study. We assign scores separately for every quality criteria and then combine them to form the final score. The scores given to the selected relevant studies are shown in [Table 3.4](#).

We score each of the quality assessment criteria according to the procedure followed in [Kitchenham et al. \[2009\]](#). The scoring procedure is 1=Yes, 0.5=Partial, 0=No. We sum the individual score for the studies and assign on the scale of 6.

Primary Study	Quality Assessment						Score (/6)
	QC 1	QC 2	QC 3	QC 4	QC 5	QC 6	
[Malheiros et al., 2007]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	5.5
[Felizardo et al., 2011]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	5.5
[Abilio et al., 2015]	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	5.5
[Tomassetti et al., 2011]	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	5.0
[Octaviano et al., 2015]	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	5.0
[Fabbri et al., 2016]	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	5.0
[Ponsard et al., 2016]	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	5.0

Table 3.4: Quality assessment of primary studies.

Observing the assigned scores in Table 3.4, we conclude that all the strategies proposed by SE researchers to support primary study selection activity only partially satisfy Q4. The feasibility study performed to evaluate the proposed strategies indicate some limitations, discussed by the researchers as threat to validity. For example, Malheiros et al. [2007] and Felizardo et al. [2011] perform the case study with a limited article sample, hence their strategy could not be validated for real SLRs. Also, the participants involved in the experiment are limited and results are influenced by their individual level of expertise.

The strategy proposed by Tomassetti et al. [2011] involves construction of an initial set of relevant papers based on researcher’s previous knowledge regarding the topic, hence causing subjective bias. Moreover, this initial set of papers represents only a small part of literature available regarding the topic of interest. As a result, automatic classification could potentially discard resources not part of the initial set. Furthermore, a construct threat in the Linked Data enrichment step and a conclusion threat in the Naïve Bayes classification are also possible drawbacks of the proposed approach.

Similarly, the strategies recommended by Octaviano et al. [2015] and Abilio et al. [2015] analyze part of content for scoring the articles; title, abstract and keywords. The strategies are not evaluated to analyze full-text of papers to confirm their reliability. The Score Citation Automatic Selection (SCAS) strategy proposed by Octaviano et al. [2015], implemented in the StArt tool discussed by Fabbri et al. [2016] considers an article with a high score, assigned based on comparison of search string terms with the text, receiving at least one citation as an included primary study. There could be a possibility that a recent relevant paper not cited, is excluded from the study according to the SCAS recommendation. Furthermore, the search queries need to be constructed carefully to obtain reliable results for the proposed approaches.

Ponsard et al. [2016] present a visualization tool to support efficient reading decisions, not formally evaluated. The algorithm employed considers citation links of the papers as the only criteria for determining relevancy.

### 3.3 Results

In the following section of this chapter we discuss results obtained from the SLR conducted. We answer each RQ based on our findings from the selected primary studies given in Table 3.3.

#### **RQ 1) Which approaches to assess the quality of primary studies have been proposed?**

As a result of the SLR we obtain 7 primary studies, suggesting approaches to support the selection of primary studies. Most of the approaches are based on *VTM technique*, using supporting tools, such as, *Projection Explorer (PEX)* and *ReVis* for the implementation.

Furthermore, one of the approach is based on *Linked Data and Text Mining technique*. It uses Naïve Bayes classifier to filter potentially relevant articles that can be examined by researchers for the final selection.

*Information Retrieval (IR) technique* to rank references for an SLR is also proposed by researchers. The ranking is based on relevance between the defined search query and specific parts of text.

Finally, to determine the relevancy of a study their *Citation Links* are suggested as a connectedness measure. The citation relationships of relevant papers are sorted to support efficient reading decisions by the reviewer.

We summarize the approaches, tools used, study type, context and main results in Table 3.5.

#### **RQ 2) Which underlying techniques are used for this assessment?**

The different approaches identified in the previous RQ to support selection of primary studies in an SLR are elaborated to answer the second RQ. We describe the techniques based on their usage by the proposed strategies.

##### **Visual Text Mining**

Text Mining is a commonly used practice to extract patterns and non-trivial knowledge from unstructured or text documents written in natural language. Interactive visualizations combined with text mining algorithms and methods, support efficient exploration of a large set of documents.

*Input:* Full text of articles obtained through the search query and converted into raw ascii text format. Additionally, researchers define the exploration strategies to identify relevant documents from the visual representations.

*Processing:* The *VTM* tool provides methods to calculate document similarities, following are most likely to be used:

Study	Name	Study Type	Approach	Tools used	Study context and Main results
[Malheiros et al., 2007]	VTM-Based Systematic Review	Exp.	VTM	PEX	Three researchers study 100 articles, participants B and C used VTM 2D document maps, while A did not. Using an oracle of 40 papers: A found 8.67 articles/h, B and C found 24.49 and 23.53 articles/h, with a precision of 82.8% (A), 81.28% (B) and 92% (C).
[Tomassetti et al., 2011]	N/A	CS	Linked Data; Text Mining	DBpedia; OpenCalais Web; Naïve Bayes	Researchers report a process that supports the second phase of data selection based on keywords and a Naïve Bayes classification process. The process was trailed on part of a large cost estimation SLR and amount of papers needing manual review reduced by 20%.
[Felizardo et al., 2011]	SLR-VTM	Exp.	VTM	ReVis	Four PhD students: two participants use VTM diagrams (document map, edge bundle, citation network) had better performance and more reliable outcomes selecting primary studies compared to the two who read the abstracts manually.
[Abilio et al., 2015]	N/A	Exp.	Information Retrieval	Vector Model	Two strategies to rank references are implemented on two real datasets; one of the strategy presented 50% of precision and 80% of recall.
[Octaviano et al., 2015]	SCAS	CS	VTM	StArt;ReVis	Three existing manually conducted SLRs are selected for implementing SCAS strategy to automate initial selection of primary studies. Result: average effort reduction was 58.2% and percentage error was 12.98%.
[Fabbri et al., 2016]	StArt	Features	SCAS	StArt	Researchers implement the SCAS strategy in StArt to semi-automate the selection of primary studies and improve the support provided by the tool for conducting an SLR.
[Ponsard et al., 2016]	PaperQuest	Tool	Citation Links	PaperQuest; Google Scholar	A visualization tool is described that supports efficient reading decisions, by only displaying information useful at a given step of the review. The suggested algorithm will find and sort papers that are likely to be relevant to users, based on papers they have already expressed interest in and their citations.

Exp.= Experiment, CS = Case Study, N/A = Not Available.

Table 3.5: Summary of the proposed approaches supporting primary study selection.

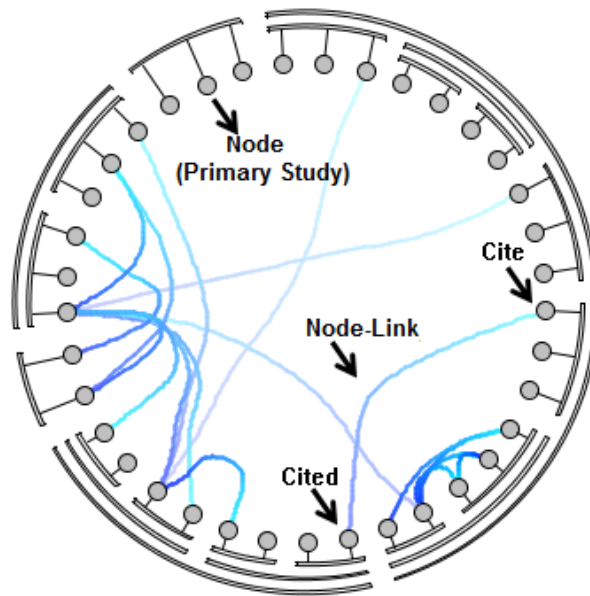


Figure 3.2: Edge Bundle [Felizardo et al., 2011].

- i. A vector space model of ascii documents is built from the selected terms. The document x term matrix is filled with 'term frequency, inverse document frequency' measure. The similarity between two documents is then computed as cosine distance between their vectors.
- ii. The document x document distance matrix is produced for all raw ascii files. This method is based on Normalized Compression Distance, which is the approximation of conditional Kolmogorov complexity.

*Output (a):* The VTM tool presents visual representations, such as, 2D document map discussed in Section 2.2.1 (Figure 2.3), edge bundle as in Figure 3.2 and citation network shown in Figure 3.3 to help the user effectively explore a collection of documents without actually reading all of them.

*Output (b):* Using the combination of two VTM tools to classify primary studies based on relevance of content and citation relationships. The categorization is performed into three categories and four quadrants as shown in Figure 3.4.

### Linked Data approach and Text Mining

To assess the similarity of documents and categorize them, automatic text classification technique can be applied. It involves assigning a text document to a category automatically using a machine learning technique. The classification is usually performed based on significant words or features extracted from the text.

*Input:* An initial set of relevant documents is required as an input along with a set of candidate papers obtained after applying the search query.

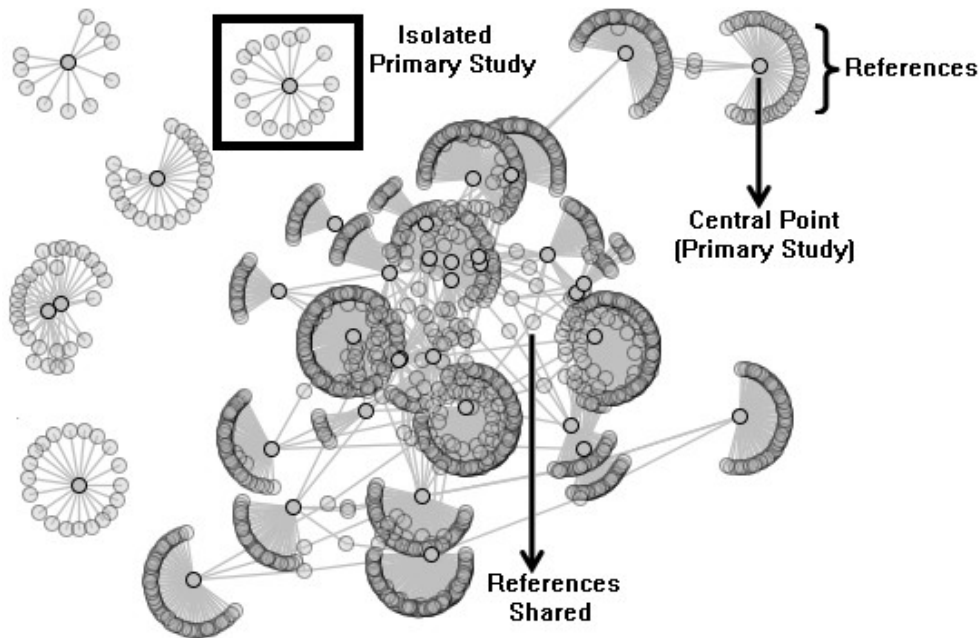


Figure 3.3: Citation Network [Felizardo et al., 2011].

*Processing:* The pre-processing steps applied to the text documents include removal of stop words and stemming. The processing then involves the following steps:

1. Using the set of documents, feature extraction is applied to identify important words or features in the text document. Features or attributes usually mean significant words, multi-words or frequently occurring phrases indicative of the text category. Mostly, a bag of words model based on specific parts of content is built to make comparisons between the initial set of relevant papers and the candidate papers.
2. After feature selection, the text document is represented as a document vector, and an appropriate machine learning algorithm is used to train the text classifier. Naïve Bayes, Decision Tree, Neural Network, Support Vector Machine and Hybrid approach are a few text classifiers that can be used.
3. Linked Data approach is used for the enrichment of papers, which are then compared with the defined model. The initial set of included papers used to build the model changes after some papers are added to this set as a result of the manual review hence, the model must be re-build.

*Output:* Text documents classified in the set of relevant papers are then read manually for the final selection as included or excluded.

### IR techniques

IR deals with the representation, storage, organization and access to information, such

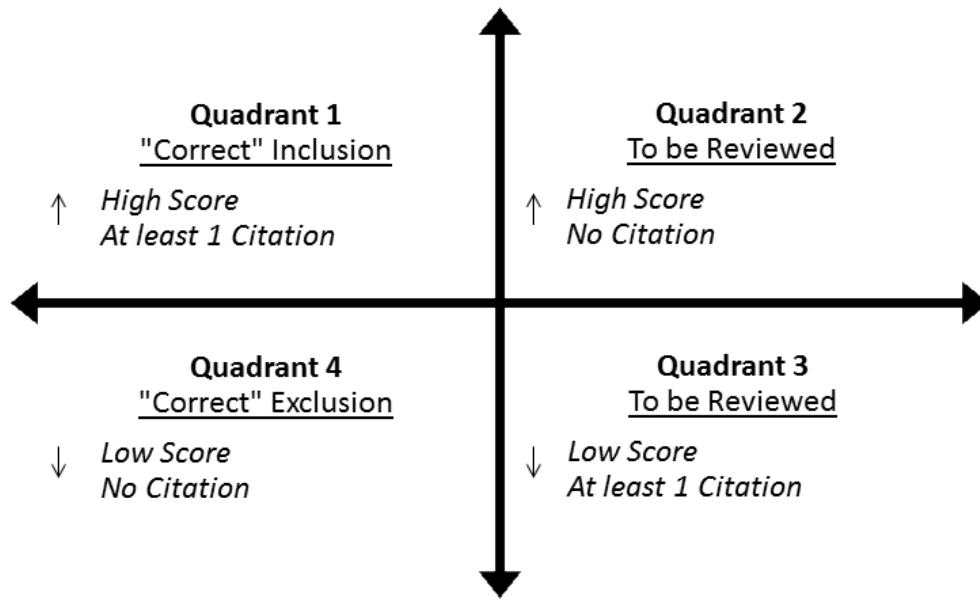


Figure 3.4: Classification of primary studies in SCAS based on [Octaviano et al. \[2015\]](#).

as documents, web pages, on-line catalogs, structured and semi-structured records and multimedia objects. The Vector Model is a classic algebraic model of IR that represents documents and queries as vectors in  $t$ -dimensional space (where,  $t$  is the number of distinct terms). Aiming to minimize the effort required to manually perform selection of primary studies in an SLR, IR techniques are employed.

*Input:* A set of references to be analyzed and a search query is given as input. The search query can be treated in two ways:

- i. The partial contribution of each query term is considered, where all terms are treated in the same way regardless whether they are synonyms or not. The duplicated terms and connectors, AND and OR, are also ignored.
- ii. To simulate boolean expression of search string, the terms are organized in groups that aggregate a term and its synonym using OR connector. These groups are then connected by the AND connector.

*Processing:* After the pre-processing of the text; removal of stop words, punctuation, symbols and conversion of letters to lowercase, the processing of the input involves the following steps:

1. Distinct token from the articles are inserted into an inverted index structure composed of key-value pairs. Each pair consists of the key as a distinct token and the value as a list of occurrences containing, for each document in which the token occurs, its frequency of occurrence and identification of document.



2. The occurrence of each token of query in the inverted index is verified and weight of each token of query/group in the document is calculated. The similarity of the document with defined query is then determined.

*Output:* Similarity calculated for each of the corresponding documents are inserted in a list that is sorted in descending order and returned to user.

### **Citation Links (Information Visualization)**

The relevance of an article can be determined by its citation links to articles that the user found interesting. One of the fundamental fact of scientific literature is that authors build their research upon previous works. Hence, by interpreting these citations as links in network, the relatedness between studies can be determined.

*Input:* A few seed papers that user found relevant to the topic of interest and their citations are used to discover more relevant papers.

*Processing:* The space of previously published papers regarding a topic is divided into the following subspaces;

- a. Core: papers already read, upon which the user builds their understanding.
- b. Fringe: papers a researcher has access to because they are referred or cited by some papers from the Core.
- c. To Read List: articles the user found interesting from the Fringe but not read yet.
- d. Unknown: all the other papers that are not related to the ones found interesting.

A connectedness measure is computed for each paper in the Core, Fringe and To Read List as weighted sum of all links between the paper under observation and all the other papers found interesting. This connectedness measure and citation count from an external library are combined, then normalized to determine the relevance score of an article.

*Output:* Results obtained through the processing are displayed as a list with a top-down reading order according to their relevance score.

### **3.3.1 Threats to Validity**

In this section, we discuss factors that can effect reliability of the study we conduct. The limitations on the validity of an SLR are expressed as threats to validity [Kitchenham et al., 2015]. Factors that may effect validity of the study may arise in the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of an SLR. The following are four major forms of threats to validity that may effect results of the study we perform:

#### **Construct Validity**

The construct validity is concerned with how well results of the study are linked to the

concepts and theory behind it. We formulate the RQs to focus on primary studies that address approaches supporting conducting phase of an SLR. Hence, we conduct this study in general following the review protocol we define earlier to obtain the results.

### **Internal Validity**

The internal validity identifies factors during the execution, that might cause some degree of bias in overall process. The study we perform targets literature available in selected libraries, published in the field of CS during a specific time range. Hence, there can be a certain degree of limitation to internal validity of the SLR we perform, which could not be completely eliminated.

### **Conclusion Validity**

This validity focuses on factors that can effect analysis of the selected primary studies. We analyze each study carefully to draw meaningful and valid conclusions. Results obtained through the search string are reviewed individually by more than one reviewer to minimize errors.

### **External Validity**

The external validity is concerned with how well conclusions from the study may be generalized. The study we perform describes the current state of research. Hence, results we obtain are valid to a limited extent, especially as properties of search engines change rapidly over time and cannot be avoided.

Overall, there are some limitations to the validity of results obtained through the SLR we conduct. However, these are only limited and partly intended for this investigation.

## **3.4 Summary**

This chapter describes an SLR we conduct to analyze the existing approaches supporting the selection of primary studies and quality assessment. The study we perform provides the current state of research to support the SLR process. In this study we discuss 7 primary studies that propose different methods to semi-automate the primary study selection activity during an SLR. We identify a variation in the approaches but overall text mining techniques prove to be useful for accelerating the SLR process. However, we conclude that reliability of the approaches must be further investigated. Most of the approaches perform content analysis based on only specific parts of the text hence, researchers must aim for strategies to analyze the full text of papers for improved ranking. The quality of primary studies define the quality of secondary study being conducted and to achieve reliable results of an SLR, quality assessment of included papers is an important step. The approaches we discuss to answer the RQs focus on selection of primary studies but assessing them for validity lacks tool support. Therefore, in the next chapter we aim to present a methodology that supports quality assessment together with selection of primary studies.

## 4. Methodology

As we discuss in the previous chapter, existing approaches to semi-automate the conducting phase of an SLR focus mainly on analyzing the documents based on content and citation relationships. In this chapter, we propose an approach to support the selection of primary studies based on quality assessment along with relevancy of the content. We begin with an explanation of requirements for the approach and further on explain the methodology. Furthermore, we discuss some limitations of our approach and the possible solutions to overcome them.

### 4.1 Prerequisite for the Approach

To support the reviewers efficiently conduct an SLR, we propose an approach to semi-automate the selection and quality assessment of primary studies. For our approach, the first and third phase of an SLR remain exactly the same as described by Kitchenham and Charters [2007] and explained earlier in Section 2.1. We modify the second phase of the process and the most important requirement for our approach is the planning stage. In Figure 4.1 we summarize the prerequisite stages and highlight the steps that our approach aims to support during the second phase of an SLR.

#### 4.1.1 Phase 1: Plan the review

Following the steps described in Section 2.1.1, a review protocol is prepared in the planning phase. The reviewers specify the need to perform a review in the specific research area during this phase. The RQs, search strategy and study selection criteria must be defined before conducting an SLR. Constructing clear and meaningful RQs is one of the most essential requirement for identifying relevant primary studies. Also, to ensure that an SLR focuses on a specific issue, careful formulation of RQs is necessary [Dyb ar et al., 2007].

Based on the defined RQs, keywords are determined to generate a search query. The extracted search terms are the basis for identifying relevant primary studies. All the

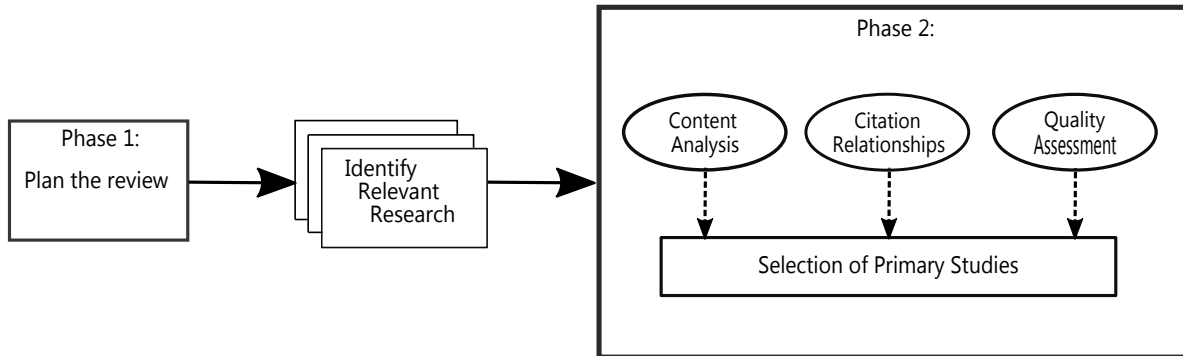


Figure 4.1: Summary of steps based on the approach.

related terms and synonyms of the keywords must be specified to determine all the potentially relevant studies. The search query is structured using the boolean operators, AND and OR to obtain results from the selected data resources.

During the planning phase, the study selection and quality assessment criteria must also be defined. Some of the general criteria such as language, year range, and field of interest can be defined during the search in selected data resources. The other defined IC and quality assessment criteria are applied later in the conducting phase to select the most relevant primary studies. For quality scoring of the articles, we define certain criteria for our approach which is discussed later in this section.

### 4.1.2 Identify Relevant Research

After planning phase, the review protocol needs to be followed for performing search in the selected data resources. All the available evidence regarding the topic of interest is obtained by applying the search query to the digital libraries, such as, ScienceDirect, ACM, and IEEE Xplore. For our approach, it is required to export the citations and abstract of search results. We export the *BibTeX file format* to obtain bibliographic meta data and abstract of each article.

The most commonly used bibliographic modeling approaches include, BibTeX, EndNote and RIS file formats. Many popular digital libraries and scholarly search engines support exporting citations in these format. BibTeX uses a style-independent text based file format for the bibliographic entries, such as articles, in-proceedings, books, and theses [MacGillivray and Jim Pitman]. The bibliographic information is represented in JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) form that is more compact and can be easily loaded in JavaScript. This data can be shared between web applications to efficiently make better use of the data. The file stores entries in a way similar to a database, consisting of records and fields. Each BibTeX record holds the bibliographic information for a single bibliographic entry [Wenneker, 2010]. Figure 4.2 shows how a bibliographic record would be entered into a BibTeX file. The records begin with an “@” symbol,

followed by the entry type and, in braces, a comma-separated list of entries of the form “fieldname = value”, where the ‘fieldnames’ are components of the bibliography entry, such as, author, title, etc.

```
@article{Eadie2012390,  
title = "Recommendations for research design and reporting in computer-assisted diagnosis to facilitate  
meta-analysis ",  
journal = "Journal of Biomedical Informatics ",  
volume = "45",  
pages = "390 - 397",  
year = "2012",  
doi = "https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbi.2011.07.009",  
url = "http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1532046411001274",  
author = "Leila H. Eadie and Paul Taylor and Adam P. Gibson",  
keywords = "Computer-assisted diagnosis",  
keywords = "Radiological imaging",  
abstract = "Computer-assisted diagnosis (CAD) describes a diverse, heterogeneous range of applications  
rather than a single entity. The aims and functions of CAD systems vary considerably and comparing  
studies and systems is challenging due to methodological and design differences. In addition, poor study  
quality and reporting can reduce the value of some publications."  
}
```

Figure 4.2: An example of a BibTeX entry.

## 4.2 Approach for Selection and Quality Assessment

We propose an approach to support the selection of relevant, most promising primary studies for an SLR. As we discuss earlier in Section 2.1.2, manual selection of relevant studies from a large collection of documents requires a lot of time and effort. Therefore, the focus of our approach is to allow reviewer to efficiently select relevant primary studies. We alter the conducting phase of an SLR, an overview of our methodology and details follow in the next subsections. Figure 4.3 summarizes the steps of our approach during conducting phase.

For the approach, user provides keywords for the SLR and search results initially obtained from the data resources. To analyze the content relevancy, title, abstract and keywords of each article is used to determine the frequency count of terms. Furthermore, by exploring citation relationships of the papers, we aim to identify any relevant study that might have been overlooked during the initial screening of articles. The final step during processing is assigning scores to each selected article based on quality assessment criteria. As a result, the list of selected articles with their assigned scores are displayed to the reviewer. The approach we propose is presented in context of the guidelines recommended by Kitchenham and Charters [2007] for SE researchers, however, it can also be applied isolated or together with an SLR in different scientific disciplines to obtain most relevant promising studies.

### Input Keyword and Search Results

The web-tool we design to implement our approach requires user to initialize the process by providing keywords. These search terms are used for content analysis of the articles. Each keyword and the related terms are defined individually to count their occurrences in the title, abstract and keywords of each study.

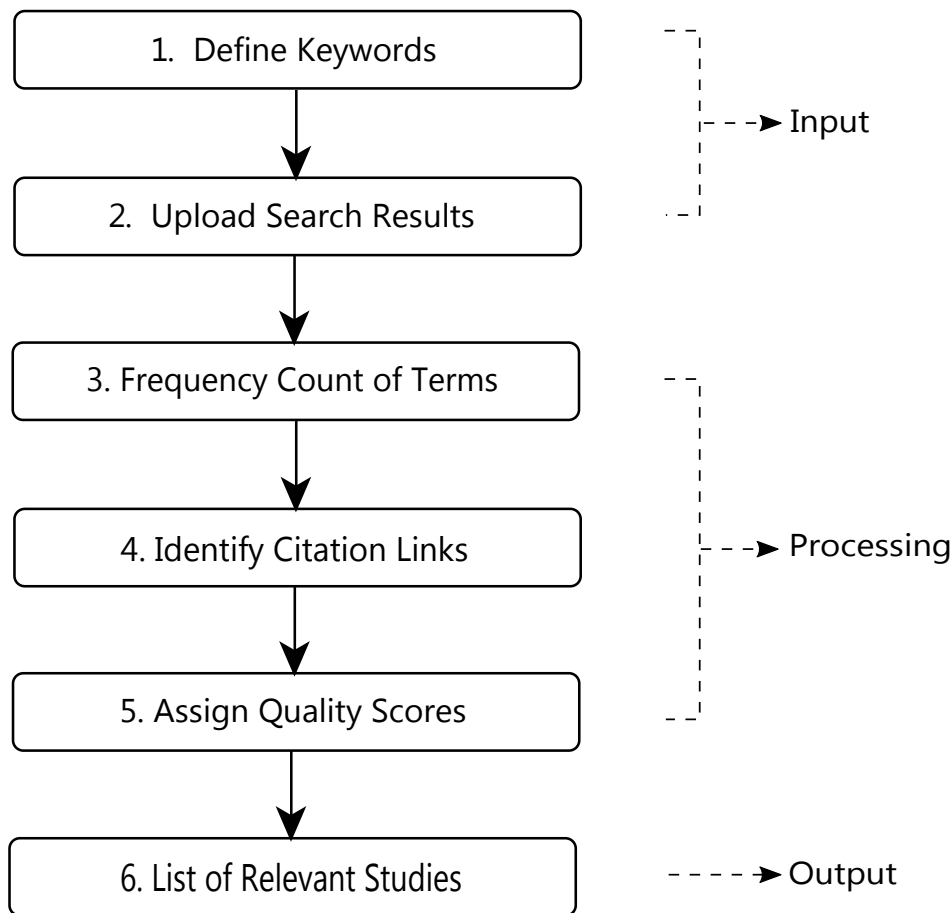


Figure 4.3: Overview of the approach for selection of primary studies.

Moreover, initial search results obtained from the data sources and stored as BibTeX file format need to be uploaded by the user. Bibliographic meta data and abstracts of documents are represented in a form shown in Figure 4.2. The JSON format is text only, that can easily be sent to and from a server using any programming language [W3Schools]. To identify the most relevant primary studies, a text file containing the bibliographic information is loaded in the tool.

### 4.2.1 Content Analysis

The first phase of our approach involves identification of studies based on their titles, abstracts and keywords. We use *BibTeX parsing* to organize the field names and their values for the entries in a structured format. Each field name is comma separated and their values are present in quotes. The entry type and field names are considered as columns while the values are stored as rows. Once the bibliographic information is organized in a database, we extract the most occurring words and frequency count of defined keywords. Prior to the text analysis, irrelevant terms are removed to reflect meaningful terms present in each document. Thus, the pre-processing involves removal of stop words, such as, conjugations, articles and prepositions.

Each article is evaluated to determine frequency count of the defined keywords and top ten most frequently occurring terms in the text. Analysis of the textual information we propose is outlined in Figure 4.4. The two matrices are displayed to the user to give a good insight about each document. Screening the titles and frequency counts would enable the reviewer to make effective decision regarding their relevancy with the topic under observation.

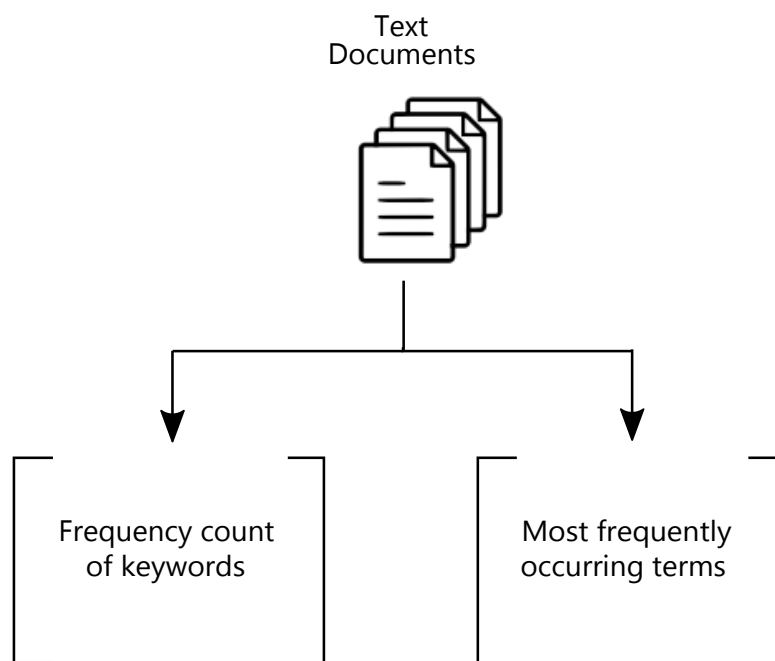


Figure 4.4: Analysis of textual information for content analysis.

### 4.2.2 Citation Relationships

After performing the content-based selection of articles, the next step of our approach is to determine their related articles as demonstrated in Figure 4.5. Through this step, we aim to identify relevant articles that might have been overlooked during the initial selection. The referred and cited-by articles can be recognized using “doi” and “url” of the selected ones. Using JavaScript, we aimed to access the related articles automatically but due to restrictions imposed by the digital libraries, this remained impossible. Thus, the approach requires reviewer to manually perform backward and forward snowballing. The meta data and abstracts of articles identified through citation relationships need to be uploaded by the user as previously done for the search results. This bibliographic information is stored in a structured form, similar to the first phase, to be used later on for assigning quality scores of the articles.

### 4.2.3 Quality Scoring

The final stage in processing involves assigning scores to each article based on a set of defined quality criteria. The meta data and abstract of selected articles are analyzed

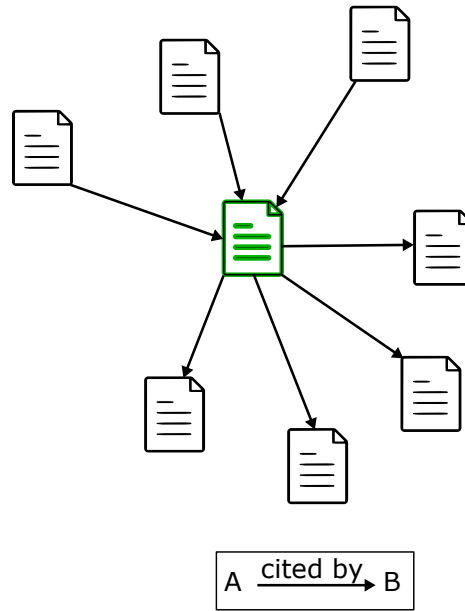


Figure 4.5: Identify related articles, adapted from Lausberger [2017].

to determine the individual scores for each criteria. These are then combined to assign a final score of each study. Some of the quality scoring criteria that we define for our approach are assigned values after *normalization* of the actual value to obtain results between 0 and 1. The equation we use to normalize the values is given in Equation 4.1. To obtain the normalized value, we divide the original value of the score with the maximum score assigned.

$$value_{norm}(j) = \frac{value_{original}(j)}{value_{maximum}} \quad (4.1)$$

For our approach we define the following quality scoring criteria:

- QC1. How relevant is the information present in a study to the topic under observation? Based on titles, abstracts and keywords of studies, frequency counts of the user defined terms are determined to analyze the relevancy of the content. Articles with frequent occurrences of keywords are considered relevant to the topic area of interest. The retrieved frequency counts of each study are normalized and studies with less relevancy are assigned scores closer to 0 while relevant studies have higher scores.
- QC2. How credible are the findings of an author performing research in a specific area? To determine the quality of a study, it is important to perceive the level of expertise of the authors. Higher contribution of a researcher in a specific research area indicates an expert level. Thus, authors publishing more papers based on the topic of interest are assigned higher scores as their findings are more likely to be



valid. For our approach, the author count is normalized to assign scores between 0 and 1.

QC3. Is the study peer-reviewed and officially published?

Studies that are officially published are reviewed prior to their publication. Hence, their findings are most likely to be accurate and reliable. Articles published in sources, such as, journal, conference or workshops are assigned 1=Yes, while other research articles not officially published, such as, study thesis, are given a 0=No.

QC4. What is the impact of the findings of a study on the overall research being performed?

Since, publication types, such as, book chapter and journal papers, have a greater impact on the overall research being performed, they are considered to be of better quality compared to other types, such as, conference or workshops. Hence, we define the following strategy to score the published articles:

- a. Journal publications and book chapters are assigned a score 1.
- b. Other officially published articles, such as, conference and workshop are assigned a score 0.5.
- c. Remaining unofficially published articles are assigned a score 0.

QC5. Is sufficient information present in the study for clear understanding of readers?

For a clear and adequate explanation about the study, the length of document increases. If the article is short then probably the descriptions provided about the study is brief while detailed explanation requires more number of pages. Hence, for our approach we adopt the following scoring criteria:

- a. Number of pages greater than 6, assigned a score 1.
- b. Number of pages between 4 and 6, assigned a score 0.5.
- c. Number of pages less than 4, assigned a score 0.

QC6. Does the abstract of the paper give a clear idea about the study conducted?

Structured abstracts provide a clear description of the content present in a study. Usually beginning with a brief description about the purpose of the study and background. Followed by an outline of the methodology and summary of results. We assign scores to the studies based on the following:

- a. Studies with structured abstracts, given a score 1
- b. Studies with clear but unstructured abstracts, given a score 0.5.

QC7. How frequently is the study referred to by other research work?

Studies that provide useful and valid findings are usually cited-by other researchers for their work. Hence, we use the cited-by count of the papers to determine the most reliable ones. We normalize the counts to obtain values between 0 and 1. Assigning the most frequently referred study a score 1 while, papers with least counts have scores closer to 0.

### 4.2.4 Results

As the result of our approach, we display a list of selected articles with their assigned scores for individual quality criteria as well as their combined final scores. The reviewer can analyze all of the determined scores and according to the importance of each quality criteria, perform the final selection of primary studies.

To simplify the representation of results, we summarize each quality criteria with a specific term and assign the scores for each paper. Table 4.1 represents each quality criteria and their corresponding term:

Quality Criteria:	QC1	QC2	QC3	QC4	QC5	QC6	QC7
Short Terms:	Keyword	Abstract	Author	Pages	Type	Publisher	Cited-by

Table 4.1: Defined quality criteria with corresponding short representations.

## 4.3 Threat to Validity

For our approach, we realize certain shortcomings that can influence the results provided by the implemented tool. This includes a limitation during the first step, where we define the search terms individually without any consideration of Boolean operators. Since, for every study, the occurrence of each keyword is determined independently, regardless whether they are synonyms or not, this might effect the frequency count analysis to determine the relevancy of papers. For a more accurate content analysis, related terms or synonyms can be grouped together and an occurrence of any one of the terms is treated as a count for the entire group.

Furthermore, to conclude regarding the content relevancy of a paper we only analyze specific parts of the text, that includes, title, abstract and keywords. Although, for an improved content analysis we made an attempt to upload the full text but remained unsuccessful because uploading and parsing of [portable document formats \(PDFs\)](#) is possible but complex task [Laskov and Šrندیć, 2011]. Hence, we use only specific parts of studies for the content analysis. Due to this limitation with loading the full text of articles, we also limit quality scoring criteria to the meta data and abstract of articles. For more efficient scoring, quality assessment criteria that analyze complete content of the papers would be beneficial.

Through our approach, we aimed to automate the process of identifying related articles through reference and citation relationships of the selected ones. However, due to certain restrictions imposed by the digital libraries, we could not access the related articles automatically. Hence, for our tool, the user is required to manually identify the referred and citing articles. After identification, the user must upload the meta data and abstracts of these articles to be examined for quality assessment stage.

Even though these limitations exist, our approach proved to be promising since the goal is to support the user in the selection process as much as possible. Some human effort is

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still needed to obtain accurate results but the time and effort required for the tasks to be performed entirely manually would surely be reduced using the proposed approach.

## 4.4 Summary

In this chapter, we described an approach we propose to semi-automate the selection and quality assessment of primary studies for an [SLR](#). We elaborate the fundamental concepts of our approach, including explanation about the input, processing and output of the implemented tool. To initiate our approach, the user uploads search terms and initial set of identified studies. Later on, the identified literature is analyzed based on content relevancy. We suggest to perform backward and forward snowballing to further identify the related articles. Finally, our approach provides the quality scores assigned to each articles based on the set of defined criteria. We concluded the chapter with a discussion regarding some limitations of our approach. To evaluate the validity of results obtained through our approach, we perform a case study that is described in the next chapter.



# 5. Evaluation

As we described in the previous chapter, our approach must be evaluated to verify its significance for researchers conducting literature reviews. For this, we implement our approach into a web-based application and use a case study for the evaluation. We begin this chapter with a description of the SLR procedure followed by Zahedi et al. [2016], that we select as our case study. Later, we discuss the primary study selection process applied in the case study and repeat the search procedure to obtain results using our approach. To investigate the validity of results obtained through the tool, we perform comparisons with the primary studies selected by Zahedi et al. [2016]. Finally, we discuss some limitations of the implemented web-based application and problems that may arise during the steps.

## 5.1 Systematic Review Case Study

To explore the possible contribution of our tool for performing more effective systematic reviews, we choose a specific research topic and perform a case study. By evaluating the number of studies correctly selected by our approach we determine its validity. We choose the study performed by Zahedi et al. [2016] for the evaluation. The objective of the chosen SLR was to systematically identify and synthesize knowledge sharing challenges and practices. The reviewers aimed to classify the recurrent challenges and most frequently reported practices in different contextual settings.

Zahedi et al. [2016] performed an SLR for reviewing studies published in the Global Software Development (GSD) literature over a span of years 2000-2014. This study was conducted in September, 2014 following the guidelines published by Kitchenham and Charters [2007] for applying the research method that involves three main phases: defining a review protocol, conducting the review, and reporting the results. The review protocol consisted of these elements: (i) RQs, (ii) search strategy, (iii) inclusion and exclusion criteria, (iv) study selection, (v) study quality assessment, and (vi) data

extraction and synthesis. We use the following information to replicate the study and find the results through our approach:

### RQs

The study performed by [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#) aimed at gaining an understanding of knowledge sharing challenges, and practices reported by empirical studies in GSD, and identify the contextual settings from which the challenges and practices are found. Thus, the RQs of interest and their respective motivations are briefly described below:

#### **RQ1: What are the knowledge sharing challenges in GSD?**

Through the first RQ, reviewers aim to get an overview of the different types of knowledge sharing challenges reported in GSD and identify the challenges that are most frequently reported in the context of GSD.

#### **RQ2: What are the knowledge sharing practices in GSD?**

The second RQ focuses on the retrieving appropriate information to gain an understanding of the knowledge sharing practices implemented in GSD.

#### **RQ3: In what contextual settings (i.e.,research methodology and organizational context) are challenges and practices reported?**

As a result of the last RQ, the reviewers intend to understand the methodological and organizational contextual settings from which challenges and practices have been reported. Such information can help a reader to better understand the reported research.

### Search String

We use the same search strategy as defined by [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#) for identifying the relevant literature. The search string is formulated based on the three compartments shown in [Table 5.1](#).

Category	Description
A	“Global Software Development” and all synonyms
B	“Knowledge Management” OR “Knowledge Sharing” OR “Knowledge Transfer” with all synonyms
C	“Challenges” OR “Solutions” with all synonyms

Table 5.1: Structure of search string based on [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#).

Based on the keywords, the following search string was constructed by the reviewers:

*TITLE-ABS-KEY* (“global software development” OR “collaborative software development” OR “global software engineering” OR “distributed software development”

OR “distributed software engineering” OR “offshore software development” OR “offshore software engineering” OR “geographically distributed software development” OR offshor\* OR “software outsourcing” OR “software outsource” OR “globally distributed software development” OR “offshore outsourcing” OR “Dispersed teams” OR “distributed teams” OR “virtual teams” OR “globally distributed work” OR “global software teams” OR outsour\*)

AND (“knowledge transfer” OR “knowledge shift” OR “knowledge exchange” OR “knowledge distribution” OR “tacit knowledge” OR “explicit knowledge” OR “knowledge transfer process” OR “knowledge flow” OR “organizational knowledge” OR “knowledge acquisition” OR “knowledge management” OR “knowledge creation” OR “knowledge sharing” OR “knowledge retention” OR “knowledge valuation” OR “knowledge use” OR “knowledge application” OR “knowledge discovery” OR “knowledge integration” OR “knowledge theory” OR “knowledge engineering” OR “experience transfer” OR “technology transfer”)

AND (risk\* OR challenge\* OR tool\* OR method\* OR problem\* OR challeng\* OR barrier\* OR “best practices” OR model\* OR techniq\* OR strateg\* OR approach\* OR process\* OR solution\* OR obstacle\* OR “risk analysis” OR effect\* OR “risk factors” OR selection\* OR mechanism\* OR assessment\* OR “evaluation process” OR practice\* OR mitigate\*))

## Data Source

Zahedi et al. [2016] applied the search query on the Scopus indexing system to identify an initial set of potentially relevant studies. The reviewers made this decision based on successful experiences of other researchers with using Scopus [Daneva et al., 2014; Kitchenham et al., 2010]. Burnham [2006] describe some features of Scopus that attract the searchers to use it as a data resource for identifying relevant literature. Scopus facilitates formulating a single and complex search query, as well as track a large number of journals and conferences in CS and SE [Burnham, 2006; Daneva et al., 2014]. Moreover, in their study, Kitchenham et al. [2010] compare results of Scopus with a manual search and observed that Scopus output covered all the relevant papers that used appropriate terminology and published in popular SE literature venues.

Furthermore, Zahedi et al. [2016] selected Scopus as the only means of collecting data because during their pilot search with directly using digital libraries (such as, Springer Link, Wiley Inter Journal Science, IEEEXplore), it was revealed that a number of restrictions are placed by them on large-scale searches on the meta-data of the published papers. Moreover, it was necessary to modify the search string for each single digital library that might result in errors being introduced. Therefore, selecting Scopus helped the reviewers to keep the search string constant while retrieving focused hints that are mostly relevant. Table 5.2 provides the settings that Zahedi et al. [2016] used for applying the search string. In addition to CS, other relevant subject areas, such as, business management, decision science, and economics, are also chosen that may have the potential to publish related studies, especially from the knowledge management perspective.

Digital Library	Scopus
Years	2000-2014
Language	English
Run on	Title/Abstract/Keyword
Subject Areas	“Computer Science”, “Business Management and Accounting”, “Decision Sciences”, “Economics, Econometrics and Finance”
Date of running search string	7th September 2014
Number of Hints	1,320

Table 5.2: Details of the search string applied by [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#).

### Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To select the relevant studies and answer the RQs, the reviewers define certain IC. The inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied to all of the retrieved studies from Scopus database. The criteria defined for including/excluding papers were as follows:

- C1 Peer-reviewed papers included only and excluded editorials, position papers, keynotes, reviews, tutorial summaries, panel discussions and short papers (i.e. less than 6 pages).
- C2 GSD context—Different collaboration models of GSD such as offshore outsourcing, offshore-insourcing, and near-shore are included.
- C3 Included studies reporting empirical research using methods such as case studies, survey, experiments, and ethnographical studies.
- C4 The studies based on students’ data were included only if they were reporting findings that were expected to contribute to the RQs. If the studies were only from educational perspective (e.g., how to run GSD courses) they were excluded.
- C5 Extended papers—If two papers from the same research on the same topic were published in different venues (e.g., a conference and a journal), only the journal paper was included.
- C6 All duplicated studies found from different sources were detected and removed.

#### 5.1.1 Case Study: Procedure

The number of studies selected at each stage of the selected case study is shown in [Figure 5.1](#). Based on the applied search settings given in [Table 5.2](#), the search in Scopus returned 1,320 results which the reviewers filtered by reading their title and abstract.



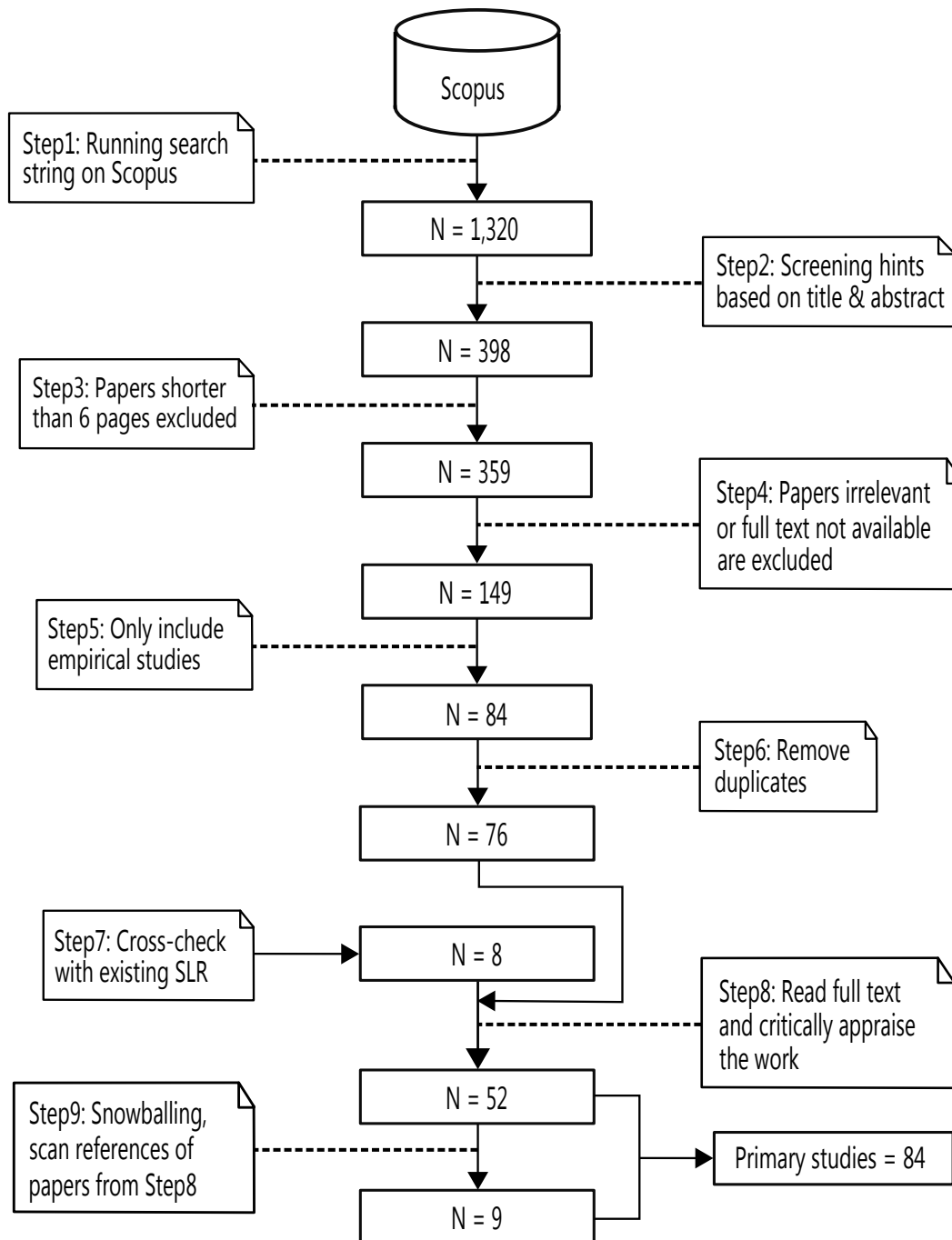


Figure 5.1: Study selection process followed by Zahedi et al. [2016].

The papers that could not be decided upon by reading the titles and abstracts, were retained for the next round of inspection. Articles shorter than 6 pages, duplicates, viewed as irrelevant, or whose full text was not available were excluded. Since, the researchers were interested in empirical studies, papers that were not supported with empirical data were also excluded. Furthermore, those papers that had reported research involving software teams in any type of distributed arrangement were included. At the end of step 6, Zahedi et al. [2016] found 76 papers that met all the IC.

After the list of primary studies was obtained, reviewers performed a crosscheck with the primary studies included in a relevant study conducted previously by Nidhra et al. [2013]. The list of studies found were compared with primary studies included by Nidhra et al. [2013] and 8 studies were added which were either not found by the search or had been excluded based on title/abstract reviews. In the eighth step of selection process, 84 papers (i.e., the total papers selected by Zahedi et al. [2016] and the ones added based on study by Nidhra et al. [2013]) were distributed between two first authors to filter the papers by reading their full text. As a result, 52 studies were selected as primary studies. Then a snowballing technique was followed to scan the references of these 52 selected papers and 181 potentially relevant papers were found. Later, step 2 to step 8 were applied on these papers and finally, 9 of them were included as primary studies. Thus, Zahedi et al. [2016] retrieved 61 primary studies for their study.

## 5.2 Approach: Collecting Data

For our approach, it was required to provide the initial set of papers obtained from the selected data resource, using the search query defined by Zahedi et al. [2016]. The web-based application expects as input, the initial search results and search terms to process the results. Hence, we obtain the first set of potentially relevant papers from Scopus, using the same search strategy as applied in the case study. Table 5.3 provides the search results we retrieved through our search.

Digital Library	Scopus
Date of running search string	28th September 2017
Number of Hints	1,191

Table 5.3: Details of the search string applied for our approach.

For identifying literature from Scopus, we apply the same refinements as done in the case study. Including, language, year range, subject areas and search categories, as given in Table 5.2. However, number of hints are lesser than that found by Zahedi et al. [2016] for the search. The reason for this could be the difference in execution date of search, there are rapid changes over time in the properties of any digital library due to which there is a possibility to find varying results using the same search query and search refinements [Kitchenham et al., 2015]. Therefore, we continue with this initial set of 1,191 results for further processing and evaluation of our approach.

## 5.3 Results

As we have discussed previously in [Section 4.2](#), the search terms along with meta data and abstract of identified articles must be provided to the web-based application for processing. Hence, to begin with, we upload the required input, the number of entries inserted in the database were 1,091. We observe that a number of entries could not be stored into the database because of some problems with them. For example, information, such as, author, was missing for some entries or there were duplicate entries. At this point, we decide to overlook such entries as including such results might effect negatively on the quality of our study. Hence, the number of articles to be examined for the next step of the tool were less than the initial number of hints we obtain from Scopus.

Once the meta data and abstract of the articles are loaded, we determine the frequency counts based on titles, abstracts and keywords. We then select the potentially relevant articles by analyzing their titles and keywords frequency counts. Through this first screening, we obtain 455 results from the initial set of 1,091 articles to be processed further. Before proceeding with the next stages of our approach, we remove articles that were shorter than 6 pages, as agreed by [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#). As a result, we obtain 420 results to be examined for the next step. As we mention earlier in [Section 4.2.2](#), the tool expects to receive bibliographic information of references and citations, that must be identified by manually performing forward and backward snowballing for the selected papers. However, performing this step for a large collection of articles demanded a lot of time and due to time constraints in our work we decide to skip this step for future analysis. Thus, to evaluate our approach, we continue with the process to achieve quality scores of papers selected based on content (title, abstract and keyword). We obtain the score for each quality criteria defined previously in [Section 4.2.3](#), the complete set of 420 results we obtain from the tool are given in [Section A.2](#).

### 5.3.1 Case Study: Results

We retrieve the primary studies selected in the case study from the complete collection of 420 results achieved from the tool, and eventually realize that out of the 52 selected studies, we find only 46 of them. To investigate reasons for these missing results, we further analyze the set of articles in the previous steps and notice that these results are not removed during the screening process instead they were not present in the initial set of papers we load as input. Hence, we overlook these missing entires and evaluate the scores obtained for the identified primary studies selected by [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#).

[Table 5.4](#) enlists the papers included in the case study with their corresponding scores assigned through our approach. We sort the results in descending order of the final score for further analysis. The tool provides values for the unique identifiers (P\_ID) that represent their entry number in the initial set of papers. To draw valid conclusions we first calculate the average of the final scores of the papers. For the complete collection of 420 results, we determine that:

$$\overline{finalscore} = 3.32$$

Table 5.4: Quality scores of primary studies selected by Zahedi et al. [2016].

P-ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
		Keyword	Abstract	Author	Pages	Type	Publisher	Cited-by	Final
152	An empirical study on improving shared understanding of requirements in GSD	0.004	1	0.67	1	1	1	0.01	4.68
44	Knowledge transfer planning and execution in offshore outsourcing: An applied approach	0.028	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.01	4.54
718	Explaining variations in client extra costs between software projects offshored to India	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.65	4.18
590	Offshore-onsite subgroup dynamics in globally distributed teams	0.023	1	0	1	1	1	0.03	4.05
49	Managing knowledge on communication and information flow in global software projects	0.038	0.5	0.33	1	1	1	0.01	3.88
60	Towards an understanding of enabling process knowing in global software development: A case study	0.045	0.5	0.67	1	1	0.5	0	3.72
989	Embedded knowledge and offshore software development	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.2	3.72
26	Knowledge sharing for common understanding of technical specifications through artificial culture	0.031	0.5	0.67	1	1	0.5	0	3.7
955	Knowledge transfer in virtual systems development teams: An exploratory study of four key enablers	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.18	3.69
160	Spatial knowledge creation and sharing activities in a distributed agile project	0.012	0.5	0.67	1	1	0.5	0	3.68
730	Knowledge transfer and organizational learning in IS offshore sourcing	0.007	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.16	3.67
588	Use of collaborative technologies and knowledge sharing in co-located and distributed teams: Towards the 24-h knowledge factory	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.11	3.63
23	Knowledge transfer in offshore outsourcing software development projects: An analysis of the challenges and solutions from German clients	0.082	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.62
725	A US Client's learning from outsourcing IT work offshore	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.1	3.62
835	Globally distributed component-based software development: An exploratory study of knowledge management and work division	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.09	3.61
15	Knowledge transfer in IT offshoring relationships: The roles of social capital efficacy and outcome expectations	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.58
265	Knowledge sharing practices and the impact of cultural factors: Reflections on two case studies of offshoring in SME	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.05	3.57
850	Traceability-based knowledge integration in group decision and negotiation activities	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.57
132	Knowledge sharing barriers in global teams	0.036	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.56
34	Integration by communication: Knowledge exchange in global outsourcing of product software development	0.039	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
621	Seeing remote team members as leaders: A study of US-Scandinavian teams	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
		Keyword	Abstract	Author	Pages	Type	Publisher	Cited-by	Final
251	Managing meta-learning in offshore software development environments	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
363	"Path to "Stardom" in Globally Distributed Hybrid Teams: An Examination of a Knowledge-Centered Perspective using Social Network Analysis"	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.53
452	Operational and strategic learning in global software development	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.53
498	Exploring the media mix during IT-offshore project	0.033	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
48	Managing Knowledge in Global Software Development Projects	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
210	Knowledge management initiatives in offshore software development: Vendors' perspectives	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
401	A task-driven approach on agile knowledge transfer	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
529	Transactive memory and the transfer of knowledge between onsite and offshore IT outsourcing teams	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
52	The knowledge-bridging process in software offshoring from Japan to Vietnam	0.006	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
711	Mind the gap! Understanding knowledge in global software teams	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
762	Collaboration patterns and the impact of distance on awareness in requirements-centred social networks	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.13	3.15
770	Of deadlocks and peopeware - Collaborative work practices in global software development	0.037	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.07
225	Knowledge management in distributed agile software development	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.04	3.06
291	Architectural knowledge management practices in agile global software development	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.05
316	An understanding of the role of trust in knowledge seeking and acceptance practices in distributed development teams	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.05
614	Breaching the knowledge transfer blockade in IT offshore outsourcing projects - A case from the financial services industry	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.05
785	Managing offshore outsourcing of knowledge-intensive projects a people centric approach	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.05
783	Piloting knowledge transfer in it/is outsourcing relationship-towards sustainable knowledge transfer process learnings from Swiss financial institution	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
522	Workgroup structures in offshore software development projects: A vendor case study	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
665	Storytelling - A method to start knowledge transfer in offshore software development teams - research in progress paper	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
73	The four 'W's of face-to-face - Suggesting an enriched perspective on nearshoring relationship management	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01
324	An experience base with rights management for global software engineering	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01
896	Can distributed software development be agile?	0.038	0.5	0	0	1	1	0.33	2.87
564	Communication, knowledge and co-ordination management in globally distributed software development: Informed by a scientific software engineering case study	0.041	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.02	2.06
566	Which groupware tool is the most suitable for this group?	0.014	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01

### 5.3.2 Analysis

In the Venn-diagram shown below, Figure 5.2, we represent the distribution of results provided by the tool. From an entire collection of 420 papers, we observe that 46 primary studies are selected by Zahedi et al. [2016]. Among these selected papers, the tool assigns 15 of them a score below the average final score (false negatives). Furthermore, we also determine that out of the 374 not selected studies, 227 of them have scores higher than the average final score (false positives).

The last 15 papers listed in Table 5.4 have a final score less than the average. We observe that, most of them are conference papers hence, for the case study, type of publication (journal or conference) was not a very significant factor while assessing the studies. Although for our approach, we define low scores for publication types other than journal articles according to QC4, resulting in an overall lower score. We also notice that, few false negatives occur because some papers were included by Zahedi et al. [2016], from a previously conducted study. Therefore, we conclude that the selection process followed by the researchers in the case study is also not perfect, so there can be some deviations in the results.

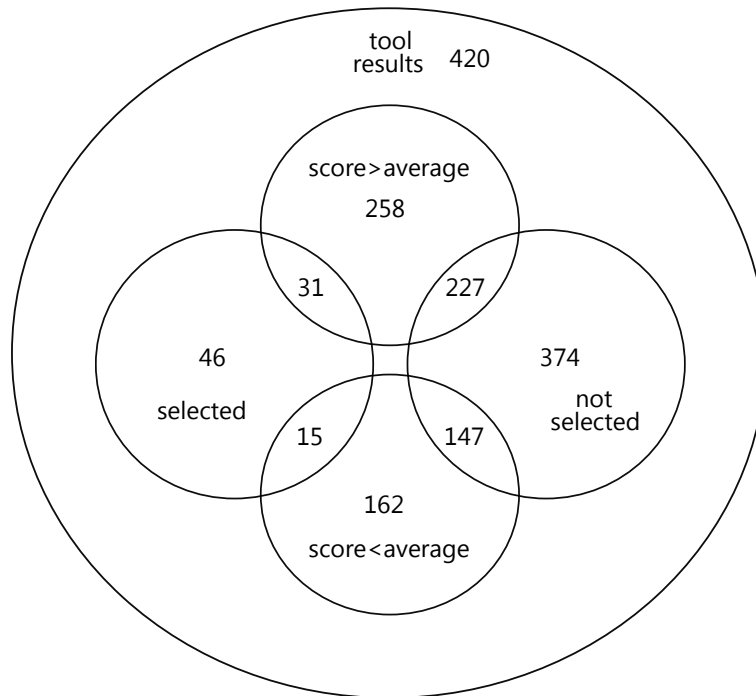


Figure 5.2: Venn-diagram representing results.

Similarly, we also investigate the large number of false positives for our approach. Analyzing the results, we realize that some papers with higher final scores, although have high keyword frequency counts but do not provide direct evidence to answer the defined RQs. As we mentioned earlier that in our approach, we perform the content analysis based on only specific parts of the content and not the entire text hence, reducing the

possibility to retrieve very precise results and increasing the possible occurrence of false positives. On the other hand, we also notice that some papers fulfill the content criteria but do not completely satisfy the criteria defined by Zahedi et al. [2016] for inclusion. Further examining the results, we recognize that a full text analysis is specifically significant to determine regarding the IC C3 and C4, listed in the first section of this chapter.

Moreover, we also realize that the implemented tool is not perfect in every aspect at the moment, so there are possible variations in the results. We determine quality scores of the papers, based on a limited set of assessment criteria analyzing only the meta data and abstracts. However, as quality assessment criteria are individually defined by researchers conducting an SLR, we must consider the fact that reviewers might assess the quality of papers in a manner different from our approach. For instance, in the case study we select for evaluating our approach, the researchers do not specify the quality assessment criteria applied to analyze the papers. Hence, we are unable to define the significance of individual quality scoring criteria considered in our approach. For example, we obtain some results with low keyword counts satisfy the quality scoring criteria (QC2 - QC7) and obtain an overall higher score. Therefore, we consider these limitations the reason for deviation in results obtained from the tool.

### 5.3.3 Discussion of Results

To determine the performance of our approach, we use the *confusion matrix* as shown in Table 5.5. We summarize the results in this form to measure the accuracy, recall and precision of our approach. These are the most commonly used performance measures to verify the efficiency of a document retrieval approach. We compute each of them for our approach, further in this section.

True Positives (TP) = 31	False Positives (FP) = 227
False Negatives (FN) = 15	True Negatives = 147

Table 5.5: Confusion matrix.

#### Accuracy

To determine the closeness of results obtained from the tool with those of the case study, we measure the accuracy using Equation 5.1. We achieve 42.3% accuracy for our approach, that means based on the entire data collection of 420 papers, 178 of them have been correctly categorized.

$$accuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \quad (5.1)$$

$$accuracy\% = 42.3\%$$

### Recall

To measure the number of positives retrieved using the approach, we calculate recall using Equation 5.2. Recall is also referred to as the true positive rate, for determining the correct papers retrieved successfully. For our approach, the recall is calculated to be 67.4%.

$$recall = \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \quad (5.2)$$

$$recall_{\%} = 67.4\%$$

### Precision

To conclude regarding the number of correct results from the entire collection, we calculate the precision using Equation 5.3. Due to a large number of false positives, the precision of our approach is found to be 12.0%.

$$precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (5.3)$$

$$precision_{\%} = 12.0\%$$

Through our experimental evaluation, we observe that although the manual effort for performing selection and quality assessment of articles is reduced, the precision of our approach is 12.0% with an accuracy and recall of, 42.3% and 67.4% respectively. The high number of false positives obtained through the tool are mainly due to the fact that, our approach performs analysis using only meta data and abstract. It is most likely that, if the full-text of papers is analyzed, the results obtained will be more precise. However, the overall calculated accuracy and recall indicate that our approach improves the article selection step, reducing the required amount of time and effort.

## 5.4 Threat to Validity

In this section, we discuss some limitations of the study performed. Firstly, the case study we select for evaluating our approach is conducted by researchers working in the specific field. While, we replicate the study with limited expertise and previous knowledge about the topic. Hence, there are possibilities of errors while screening of results based on titles and keyword counts. Furthermore, we evaluate the approach using only a single data resource, but analyzing a larger dataset from different resources would be beneficial.

The deviations of results, found from our approach, with the case study is also because we analyze only the meta data and abstract of papers. An analysis of complete content would most likely result in higher precision and efficiency. Further, we also skipped the



step of manually identifying the related articles and uploading them. As a result, a reduced number of primary studies are retrieved using the tool (i.e., 46 out of 52).

Additionally, there are some limitations to the quality scoring procedure we follow. As we mention earlier, the lack of a standard procedure for quality assessment of papers urge the researchers to define their own set of criteria according to the topic under observation. For the selected case study, the reviewers did not specify the criteria followed to assess the quality of results. Hence, the set of quality criteria defined for our approach may differ from the preferences of reviewers while conducting the study.

## 5.5 Summary

In this chapter, we performed the evaluation of our approach using the study conducted by [Zahedi et al. \[2016\]](#). We began with defining the objectives and search strategy followed in the case study. Later, we explained the procedure followed to replicate the study and the results obtained from the tool. We analyzed the results retrieved from our approach with the primary studies of the case study to draw meaningful conclusions. We concluded the chapter with a discussion about some limitations of our study.



## 6. Conclusion

SLRs are one of the most important techniques to synthesize relevant evidence related to a particular research area or topic [Kitchenham and Charters, 2007]. During the SLR process, selection of primary studies is the most crucial stage, which if performed manually, can be very time consuming. Hence, SE researchers are interested in applying an approach to semi-automate this step [Hassler et al., 2016]. In this work, we begin with analyzing the existing approaches proposed by researchers of the CS domain to aid reviewers during the selection of primary studies. Based on the findings, we conclude that there is some research conducted in this regard but quality scoring of articles is still usually performed manually. Therefore, we propose an approach to efficiently retrieve most promising primary studies to answer the defined RQs.

Through our approach, we aim to reduce the effort and time required to identify the most relevant results for an SLR. The method we proposed is based on text mining techniques, specifically, information extraction, term recognition and categorization. In our approach, the selection is performed based on the content analysis. Presently, we consider only the title, abstract and keywords of the papers to determine their relevancy. Further, to identify related articles our approach uses the citation links of papers, including both references and cited-by papers. The last stage of our approach, involved quality scoring of the papers based on certain criteria. Once the final scores are assigned, the list of articles with their corresponding scores is displayed to the user.

To evaluate the proposed approach, we selected a case study performed by Zahedi et al. [2016]. We execute the initial stages of the SLR process similar to the procedure followed in the study. Later on, instead of performing the selection process manually we use a web-based application implemented based on our approach. After obtaining the results, we determined the efficiency of our approach using the performance measures. The accuracy of our approach is calculated to be 42.3% with a recall of 67.4%. Based on these results, we think that our approach proves to be suitable for supporting the selection of primary studies for an SLR. However, to improve the validity of results,

we recommend some future improvements in the next chapter. We concluded our work with an explanation of the limitations of our approach and suggest procedures that could be followed to overcome them.

## 7. Future Work

During our work, we identify several aspects of our approach that require further improvements in future. The most significant requirement for improving the precision of results is to consider the full-text of papers for content analysis and quality scoring. We believe that, by incorporating this in our approach, the selection and quality assessment step during the [SLR](#) process could be performed more efficiently and also improve the reliability of obtained results.

Currently, our approach treats the defined search terms individually without consideration of the Boolean operators. To initiate the process, the user provides each term separately regardless of being related or synonyms. For a more effective procedure, the related terms must be grouped to determine the frequency counts. As a result, if any of the synonyms are found in the content, frequency count for the entire group will be increased.

Furthermore, we suggest to incorporate a method to semi-automate the step of identifying the papers related to the selected ones (i.e., citations and references). At present, our approach requires to perform this step manually which is quite time consuming. Apart from that, for evaluation of our approach the selected case study considers Scopus as the only data source. However, for further investigation more data resources can be used to examine a larger set of initial results.

We also suggest to improve the quality scoring procedure proposed in our approach. For the present work, we define some specific quality criteria based on meta data and abstract of papers, although researchers usually assess articles based on criteria appropriate to the study being conducted. Hence, further research must be performed to determine the factors considered most important by researchers for assessing studies, based on which a significance factor can be assigned to each of the criteria defined in our approach. In this way, it is possible to obtain more accurate results with reduced amount of manual effort.



# A. Appendix

## A.1 Search results of the SLR.

Title	Year
SESRA: A Web-based Automated Tool to Support the Systematic Literature Review Process	2015
A Visual Analysis Approach to Update Systematic Reviews	2014
Characterizing Software Requirements Elicitation Processes: A Systematic Literature Review	2016
A Survey on Aims and Environments of Diversification and Obfuscation in Software Security	2016
A Survey of Formal Methods in Self-adaptive Systems	2012
Usability of Requirements Techniques: A Systematic Literature Review	2016
A Systematically Conducted Literature Review: Quality Attribute Variability in Software Product Lines	2012
A Systematic Literature Review of Traceability Approaches Between Software Architecture and Source Code	2014
Energy-Efficient Networking Solutions in Cloud-Based Environments: A Systematic Literature Review	2015
Environment Modeling in Model-based Testing: Concepts, Prospects and Research Challenges: A Systematic Literature Review	2015
Guidelines for Snowballing in Systematic Literature Studies and a Replication in Software Engineering	2014
A Systematic Literature Review on the Description of Software Architectures for Systems of Systems	2015
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A Framework for Supporting User-centric Collaborative Information Seeking	2011
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A Survey of Handoff Schemes for Vehicular Ad-hoc Networks	2010
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Monitoring and Information on Skills Development at University: A Multiple-case Study	2016
Analyzing Technology-enhanced Knowledge Practices in an Engineering Course	2009
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Bi2SoN: A Digital Library for Supporting Biomedical Research	2012
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Development of Indian Weighted Diabetic Risk Score (IWDRS) Using Machine Learning Techniques for Type-2 Diabetes	2016
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A Fast Runtime Fault Recovery Approach for NoC-Based MPSoCS for Performance Constrained Applications	2014
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An UML-based Approach to Software Development Cost Estimation	2014
Prediction of Meteorological Parameters: A Semantic Kriging Approach	2016
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Planning for the Unknown: Lessons Learned from Ten Months of Non-participant Exploratory Observations in the Industry	2015
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A Histogram-based Technique for Automatic Threshold Assessment in a Run Length Smoothing-based Algorithm	2010
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A Quantitative Study of Accuracy in System Call-based Malware Detection	2012
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Correlational Analysis Between School Performance and Municipal Indicators in Brazil Supported by Linked Open Data	2016
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Level-set-based Partitioning and Packing Optimization of a Printable Model	2015
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An Online Approach to Dynamic Channel Access and Transmission Scheduling	2015
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Behavioral Game Theoretic Models: A Bayesian Framework for Parameter Analysis	2012
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Measuring Coherence Between Electronic and Manual Annotations in Biological Databases	2009
Quantifying Deception: A Case Study in the Evolution of Antimicrobial Resistance	2016
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Learning Biological Networks via Bootstrapping with Optimized Go-based Gene Similarity	2010
A Localized and Distributed Channel Assignment Framework for Cognitive Radio Networks	2007
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Outlier Ensembles	2013
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A Hybrid Model for Task Completion Effort Estimation	2016
Re-engineering Relational Databases: The Way Forward	2011
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Effective Keyword-based Selection of Relational Databases	2007
Population Restarting: A Study Case of Feature Extraction from Remotely Sensed Imagery Using Textural Information	2010
Citations and Annotations in Classics: Old Problems and New Perspectives	2013
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Theory and Algorithms for Hop-count-based Localization with Random Geometric Graph Models of Dense Sensor Networks	2012
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A Query Substitution-Search Result Refinement Approach for Long Query Web Searches	2009
So Many Topics, So Little Time	2009
Efficient Pruning Algorithm for top-K Ranking on Dataset with Value Uncertainty	2013
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Theorem-based, Data-driven, Cyber Event Detection	2013
Increasing Robustness of Multimodal Interaction via Individual Interaction Histories	2016
A UML Profile for Dependability Analysis of Real-time Embedded Systems	2007
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Uncertainty in Spatial Trajectories	2011
Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines in SemanticCT	2014
A Critical Analysis of EU-Funded eParticipation	2012
Introduction to High-Dimensionality	2015
Dark scenarios	2010
The Added Value of Argumentation	2013
Deception detection: dependable or defective?	2014
Strengthening Web Based Learning through Software Quality Analysis	2009
A Short Survey on Online and Offline Methods for Search Quality Evaluation	2016
Coopetitive Data Warehouse: A Case Study	2013
On the role of semantics in automated requirements tracing	2015
From misuse cases to mal-activity diagrams: bridging the gap between functional security analysis and design	2014
On Intertext in Chemotherapy: an Ethnography of Text in Medical Practice	2016
Vision and Evolution: State of the Art	2016
Algorithm Selection for Combinatorial Search Problems: A Survey	2016
Dark Web Attribute System	2012
Machine Learning Methods in Automatic Image Annotation	2010
Technology Roadmap Development for Big Data Healthcare Applications	2015
On eliciting requirements from end-users in the ICT4D domain	2011
Emotions in autonomous agents: comparative analysis of mechanisms and functions	2012
A Study in Empirical and 'Casuistic' Analysis of Ontology Mapping Results	2007
Introduction and Challenges of Environment Architectures for Collective Intelligence Systems	2015
Implications of an ethic of privacy for human-centred systems engineering	2008

Title	Year
Identifying Illegal Cartel Activities from Open Sources	2016
The Virtuous Circle of the Quantified Self: A Human Computational Approach to Improved Health Outcomes	2013
Data Driven Governments: Creating Value Through Open Government Data	2016
Nativised, Playfully Aetiologised Literary Zoonyms, III: Abdim's Stork. Substituted Eponym, Dense Cultural Rewiring, Ethics	2014
On the Complexity of Requirements Engineering for Decision-Support Systems: The CID Case Study	2015
A vision towards Scientific Communication Infrastructures	2013
Combining formal concept analysis and translation to assign frames and semantic role sets to French verbs	2014
Graffiti: graph-based classification in heterogeneous networks	2012
The MACS Project: An Approach to Affordance-Inspired Robot Control	2008
A Facet-Based Methodology for the Construction of a Large-Scale Geospatial Ontology	2012
A High-Throughput Bioinformatics Platform for Mass Spectrometry-Based Proteomics	2007
Introduction	2010
Experiences and Lessons Learned with the Development of a Source Code Search Engine	2013
Is Knowledge Power? The Role of Knowledge in Automated Requirements Elicitation	2013
Domain Specific Search	2014
The Nature and a Process for Development of Enterprise Architecture Principles	2015
Healthcare Knowledge Management: The Art of the Possible	2008
The Name and Nature of Software Engineering	2008
Trust in Computing	2013
The Generation of Experimental Data for Computational Testing in Optimization	2010
Hybrid genetic algorithm for dual selection	2008
Configuring latent Dirichlet allocation based feature location	2014
From Sensor Readings to Predictions: On the Process of Developing Practical Soft Sensors	2014
Web Engineering at the Frontier of the Web 2.0: Design Patterns for Online 3D Shared Spaces	2009
Exploring Training Issues in Healthcare: Towards Identifying Barriers to Increase Electronic Medical Records Adoption by Healthcare Professionals	2011
Analysing Incomplete Consumer Web Data Using the Classification and Ranking Belief Simplex (Probabilistic Reasoning and Evolutionary Computation)	2010
Development of an Augmented Feedback Application to Support Motor Learning after Stroke: Requirement Analysis	2011
A sparse kernel relevance model for automatic image annotation	2014
Lean Software Development in Action	2014
Controlled experiments on the web: survey and practical guide	2009
Group Types in Social Media	2015
Simulating Simple and Fallible Relevance Feedback	2011
Assessing Medical Treatment Compliance Based on Formal Process Modeling	2011
Context Dependency Management in Ontology Engineering: A Formal Approach	2007
IT Artifact and IS Development	2013
TCO Evaluation in Physical Asset Management: Benefits and Limitations for Industrial Adoption	2014
Three Cases of Feature-Based Variability Modeling in Industry	2014
Best practices for learning video concept detectors from social media examples	2015
Field Experiments in HCI: Promises and Challenges	2009
Empirical Paradigm – The Role of Experiments	2007
Ontologies for Cultural Heritage	2009
Identifying and addressing problems in object-oriented framework reuse	2007
Modeling Control Objectives for Business Process Compliance	2007
Simulation	2014
The SmarterContext Ontology and Its Application to the Smart Internet: A Smarter Commerce Case Study	2013
Combining Traditional Cyber Security Audit Data with Psychosocial Data: Towards Predictive Modeling for Insider Threat Mitigation	2010
Cognition or Affect? - Exploring Information Processing on Facebook	2011
Mapping Dark Web Geolocation	2008
The Importance of Architectural Knowledge in Integrating Open Source Software	2011
Characterization of Cyber-Foraging Usage Contexts	2015
A Process Model of KMS Adoption and Diffusion in Organization: An Exploratory Study	2011
Advanced CBR Elements	2013
Naming the pain in requirements engineering	2016
Unintended Consequences of Class-Based Ontological Commitment	2011
Web Search Tailored Ontology Evaluation Framework	2007
Genetic operators for combinatorial optimization in TSP and microarray gene ordering	2007
7 Requirements Modeling for Embedded Realtime Systems	2010
When Cutting Edge Technology Meets Clinical Practice: Ethical Dimensions of e-Health	2014
Personalized and Adaptive Serious Games	2016
On Significance of Ontology Quality in Ontology-Driven Web Search	2008
The differentiation of the strategic profile of higher education institutions. New positioning indicators based on microdata	2008
Most Relevant Explanation: computational complexity and approximation methods	2011
Spatial Game Analytics	2013
Developer initiation and social interactions in OSS: A case study of the Apache Software Foundation	2015
Context and Fusion: Definitions, Terminology	2016
Apogee: Application Ontology Generation with Size Optimization	2015
Model-based engineering for change-tolerant systems	2007
New forms of interaction and knowledge sharing on Web 2.0	2009
Using 'core documents' for detecting and labelling new emerging topics	2012
Evaluation of visual video summaries: user-supplied constructs and descriptions	2011
Topic-based ranking in Folksonomy via probabilistic model	2011
Interaction and User Interfaces	2012
Content-Based Audio Retrieval	2015
Research profiling for 'standardization and innovation'	2011

Title	Year
Multidimensional networks: foundations of structural analysis	2013
Cognitive computing and proposed approaches to conceptual organization of case law knowledge bases: a proposed model for information preparation, indexing, and analysis	2016
Ambient Intelligence and Smart Environments: A State of the Art	2010
Towards Identifying the Business Value of Big Data in a Digital Business Ecosystem: A Case Study from the Financial Services Industry	2016
Harvesting and analysis of weak signals for detecting lone wolf terrorists	2013
Evaluating Citation Functions in CiTO: Cognitive Issues	2014
Assessment of Online PPGIS Study Cases in Urban Planning	2012
Chapter 3. Selected Design Issues	2010
Early warning analysis for social diffusion events	2012
The Organization of Knowledge	2015
Extracting and quantifying eponyms in full-text articles	2014
Retrieval Effectiveness of Cross Language Information Retrieval Search Engines	2011
Research on Chinese negation and speculation: corpus annotation and identification	2016
Lest we forget	2011
Value Added by Interoperable Information Systems in Spread Production Networks	2010
Learning to suggest questions in social media	2015
Topic-based heterogeneous rank	2015
Deliberation dialogues for reasoning about safety critical actions	2012
Can Shared-Neighbor Distances Defeat the Curse of Dimensionality?	2010
Faster issue resolution with higher technical quality of software	2012
Drafting a Composite Indicator of Validity for Regulatory Models and Legal Systems	2014
Managing dimensionality in data privacy anonymization	2016
Models for Network Graphs	2009
Reconciling Theories with Design Choices in Design Science Research	2013
The Bologna reform at the department of library and information science and book studies, university of Ljubljana	2009
Integrating a Bottom-Up and Top-Down Methodology for Building Semantic Resources for the Multilingual Legal Domain	2010
Integrating Medical Scientific Knowledge with the Semantically Quantified Self	2016
Collaborative video searching on a tabletop	2007
Understanding Understandability of Conceptual Models – What Are We Actually Talking about?	2012
KIPO: the knowledge-intensive process ontology	2015
Pattern-Based Specification of Crowdsourcing Applications	2014
The Three Steps of Clustering in the Post-Genomic Era: A Synopsis	2011
Social Knowledge Management in Practice: A Case Study	2009
State of Online Privacy: A Technical Perspective	2012
Supporting Business Processes for Collaborative Alliances of Software Service Providers	2015
Games for Health	2016
The THESEUS Use Cases	2014
Dark Web Research Overview	2012
Market Engineering: A Research Agenda	2008
Ontological Knowledge Maintenance Methodology	2008
Discovering Low Overlapping Biclusters in Gene Expression Data Through Generic Association Rules	2015
The Digital Coral: Infrastructuring Environmental Monitoring	2015
Evaluation of Hospital Portals Using Knowledge Management Mechanisms	2007
Evolution styles: foundations and models for software architecture evolution	2014
Developing a prototype information system framework to handle pedagogical knowledge in a secondary school modern foreign languages department	2008
Predicting Customer Loyalty Labels in a Large Retail Database: A Case Study in Chile	2010
Introduction	2010
Combining Textual and Visual Information for Semantic Labeling of Images and Videos	2008
Discourse Coherence: Lexical Chain, Complex Network and Semantic Field	2013
Task Analysis for Behavioral Factors Evaluation in Work System Design	2011
Modeling the Web of Data (Introductory Overview)	2011
A visual digital library approach for time-oriented scientific primary data	2011
Video personalization in heterogeneous and resource-constrained environments	2011
Deciding to Adopt Requirements Traceability in Practice	2007
FURIA: an algorithm for unordered fuzzy rule induction	2009
Measuring KM Success and KM Service Quality with KnowMetrix – First Experiences from a Case Study in a Software Company	2009
Analysis of attribute weighting heuristics for analogy-based software effort estimation method AQUA+	2008
Eradicating root causes of aviation maintenance errors: introducing the AMMP	2014
Informative Value of Individual and Relational Data Compared Through Business-Oriented Community Detection	2013
Stacking Label Features for Learning Multilabel Rules	2014
Breaking the Recursivity: Towards a Model to Analyse Expert Finders	2015
Curiosity, Creativity, and Surprise as Analytic Tools: Grounded Theory Method	2014
Cyber-physical-social-thinking space based science and technology framework for the Internet of Things	2015
Neurocognitive Approach to Clustering of PubMed Query Results	2009
From knowledge-based to data-driven fuzzy modeling	2015
Teaching Information Visualization	2008
Realizing the Innovation Potentials from Open Data: Stakeholders' Perspectives on the Desired Affordances of Open Data Environment	2016
Native and Multiple Targeted Mobile Applications	2015
Towards Management of the Data and Knowledge Needed for Port Integration: An Initial Ontology	2014
Two Step graph-based semi-supervised Learning for Online Auction Fraud Detection	2015
Towards Bottom-Up Decision Making and Collaborative Knowledge Generation in Urban Infrastructure Projects Through Online Social Media	2015
The pursuit of academic excellence and business engagement: is it irreconcilable?	2013

Title	Year
Formal Methods as a Link between Software Code and Legal Rules	2011
Finding Repeated Patterns in Music: State of Knowledge, Challenges, Perspectives	2014
A Cognitive Support Framework for Ontology Mapping	2007
Applications of Multilingual Information Access	2012
Exploring mindlessness as an explanation for the media equation: a study of stereotyping in computer tutorials	2009
SHIRAZ: an automated histology image annotation system for zebrafish phenomics	2011
The GRIFFIN Collaborative Virtual Community for Architectural Knowledge Management	2010
Designing Consumer Health Information Systems: What Do User-Generated Questions Tell Us?	2011
Similarity measures for OLAP sessions	2014
Tailoring Interface for Spanish Language: A Case Study with CHICA System	2009
Syntactic sentence compression in the biomedical domain: facilitating access to related articles	2007
Creating Realistic Topics for Image Retrieval Evaluation	2010
Geometry and Orientation of the Single Image	2016
Networked Intelligent Retrieval System Based on Semantic	2013
Learning-Based Interactive Retrieval in Large-Scale Multimedia Collections	2013
From Water Music to 'Underwater Music': Multimedia Soundtrack Retrieval with Social Mass Media Resources	2016
Introduction	2011
Human Computation and Crowdsourcing	2013
An Empirically Informed Taxonomy for the Maker Movement	2016
Performance Effects of Positive and Negative Affective States in a Collaborative Information Seeking Task	2014
Decisions and Knowledge	2008
Real-World Applications of Multiobjective Optimization	2008
Whistle for music: using melody transcription and approximate string matching for content-based query over a MIDI database	2007
Improving Medical Information Retrieval with PICO Element Detection	2010
Evolutionary Algorithm Parameters and Methods to Tune Them	2012
Multi-Agent Fuzzy-Based Control Architecture for Autonomous Mobile Manipulators: Traditional Approaches and Multi-Agent Fuzzy-Based Approaches	2013
Measuring gene similarity by means of the classification distance	2011
Staff	2014
Complex Values-Based Approach for Multidimensional Evaluation of Landscape	2014
Introduction: What Landmarks Are, and Why They Are Important	2014
Technology and Care for Patients with Chronic Conditions: The Chronic Care Model as a Framework for the Integration of ICT	2012
Inferring Phylogenetic Trees Using a Multiobjective Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm	2012
Investigating Translator-Information Interaction: A Case Study on the Use of the Prototype Biconcordancer Tool Integrated in CASMACAT	2016
Adapting Progress Feedback and Emotional Support to Learner Personality	2016
Interactive Decision Aids	2012
ICT Services for open and citizen science	2015
Case-Based Decision Making	2007
Learning Theory and Algorithmic Quality Characteristics	2016
Infosel++: Information Based Feature Selection C++ Library	2010
Multimodal biomedical image retrieval using hierarchical classification and modality fusion	2013
Knowledge Intensive Business Processes: A Process-Technology Fit Perspective	2010
A Facet-Based Methodology for Geo-Spatial Modeling	2011
Internet practice and professional networks in Chilean science: Dependency or progress?	2009
Modeling fitting-function-based fuzzy time series patterns for evolving stock index forecasting	2014
IaaS Adoption Determinants in Enterprises	2010
End Users Programming Smart Homes – A Case Study on Scenario Programming	2013
Quantum Information, Games and Computation	2010
A core ontology on events for representing occurrences in the real world	2012
Senior citizens and the ethics of e-inclusion	2009
Advances in computational facial attractiveness methods	2016
Beyond Concept Learning	2012
Sequential and Parallel Variable Neighborhood Search Algorithms for Job Shop Scheduling	2008
Recent progress and challenges in exploiting graphics processors in computational fluid dynamics	2014
From enterprise architecture to business models and back	2014
Modelling collective decision making in groups and crowds: Integrating social contagion and interacting emotions, beliefs and intentions	2013
A Taxonomy of Asymmetric Requirements Aspects	2007
Rosso Tiziano: A System for User-Centered Exploration and Discovery in Large Image Information Bases	2008
Analyzing the Accuracy of Calculations When Scoping Product Configuration Projects	2012
Optimization Problems	2011
An ontology-based evidential framework for video indexing using high-level multimodal fusion	2014
Ontology Engineering – The DOGMA Approach	2009
A Pool of Topics: Interactive Relational Topic Visualization for Information Discovery	2010
Introduction	2014
Analyzing Medical Processes	2011
An Organizational Model for Digital Library Evaluation	2011
Performance evaluation of incremental training method for face recognition using PCA	2007
Achieving Maturity: The State of Practice in Ontology Engineering in 2009	2009
Little Design Up-Front: A Design Science Approach to Integrating Usability into Agile Requirements Engineering	2009
Making Computer Learning Easier for Older Adults: A Community Study of Tuition Practices	2010
What Methodology Attributes Are Critical for Potential Users? Understanding the Effect of Human Needs	2011
An Open Data Approach for Clinical Appropriateness	2015
Using Mobile Devices in Supervision of Graduate Research in Distance Education: A Personal Journey	2015
Social Signal Processing: The Research Agenda	2011
Innovative Integrated Architecture for Educational Games: Challenges and Merits	2011

Title	Year
Designing Enterprise System Information Architecture Using Task Data	2015
A web-based platform for biosignal visualization and annotation	2014
Computational Intelligence in Economics and Finance: Shifting the Research Frontier	2007
VML* – A Family of Languages for Variability Management in Software Product Lines	2010
Assessing the Scholarly Impact of ImageCLEF	2011
Discussion on the Challenges and Opportunities of Cloud Forensics	2012
Methodologies and tools for audio digital archives	2009
Towards a Service-Oriented Methodology: Business-Driven Guidelines for Service Identification	2007
Knowledge Audit on Special Children Communities	2009
“Machine Beauty” – Should It Inspire eHealth Designers?	2014
Analyzing Learning Flows in Digital Learning Ecosystems	2015
A Video Summarization Method Based on Spectral Clustering	2013
Category-Specific Video Summarization	2014
Empirical Evidence for Context-aware Interfaces to Pedestrian Navigation Systems	2014
Event-Oriented Semantic Data Generation for Medical Guidelines	2014
The design of smart educational environments	2016
An optimization methodology for machine learning strategies and regression problems in ballistic impact scenarios	2012
Supporting Citizen Inquiry: An Investigation of Moon Rock	2013
Preliminary numerical investigations of conformal predictors based on fuzzy logic classifiers	2015
Finding top cliques for keyword search from graphs in polynomial delay	2015
Sources of World Knowledge	2012
Strategic Sourcing of R&D: The Determinants of Success	2010
Graphical Modelling in Genetics and Systems Biology	2015
Comfort as a Multidimensional Preference Model for Energy Efficiency Control Issues	2012
Towards a Reference Mission Map for Performance Measurement in Humanitarian Supply Chains	2010
Lessons Learnt in Providing Product Designers with User-Participatory Interaction Design Tools	2009
Introduction	2016
An Interactional View of Context in Business Processes	2014
A Semantic Model for Enhancing Network Services Management and Auditing	2011
Chapter 6. Implementation Aspects	2010
Coastal Monitoring: A Methodological Proposal for New Generation Coastal Planning in Apulia	2015
The Impact of Parameterized Complexity to Interdisciplinary Problem Solving	2012
Evaluation of Collaborative Enterprises Networks: Case Study of Brazilian Virtual Enterprises	2010
Efficient supervised and semi-supervised approaches for affiliations disambiguation	2013
Effectiveness and efficiency of a domain-specific language for high-performance marine ecosystem simulation: a controlled experiment	2016
Comprehending a Service by Informative Models	2016
The Impact of Organizational Learning on Innovativeness in Spanish Companies	2009
Evaluation Measures for TCBR Systems	2008
Evaluation Constructs for Visual Video Summaries	2010
Abstraction and Generalization in Reinforcement Learning: A Summary and Framework	2010
Link Analysis and Web Search	2012
Key Performance Indicators in Data Warehouses	2016
Low reciprocity rates in acquaintance networks of young adults: fact or artifact?	2014
Bidirectional Transformations: A Cross-Discipline Perspective	2009
Morphological mismatches in machine translation	2008
Acceptance of Mobile Entertainment by Chinese Rural People	2009
Reaping the benefits of big data in telecom	2016
Ontological reasoning for improving the treatment of emotions in text	2010
A Mobile Course Coordinator System	2011
Automatic Morphological Query Expansion Using Analogy-Based Machine Learning	2007
Finding related sentence pairs in MEDLINE	2010
Chapter 8: Multimedia and Multimodal Information Retrieval	2010
Ontological Reasoning to Configure Emotional Voice Synthesis	2007
A parallel evolutionary algorithm for technical market indicators optimization	2013
Personalizing Web Search Results Based on Subspace Projection	2014
Educational Ergonomics and the Future of the Mind	2016
Coupled Evolution of Software Metamodels and Models	2014
Towards Value-Oriented Use of Social Media for Knowledge Management in SME	2013
Integrating User Experience into a Software Development Company – A Case Study	2009
Role of informatics in the ecologization of society	2012
On the dataset shift problem in software engineering prediction models	2012
“No shit” or “Oh, shit!”: responses to observations on the use of UML in professional practice	2014
Studying Evolving Software Ecosystems based on Ecological Models	2014
Contract Clarity and Usability through Visualization	2013
SVI: A Simple Single-Nucleotide Human Variant Interpretation Tool for Clinical Use	2015
Website Credibility, Active Trust and Behavioural Intent	2008
Computer Forensics and Culture	2008
Multi-hierarchy Information Visualization Research Based on Three-Dimensional Display of Products System	2009
A Structural Equation Model of Knowledge Management Practices and Library Users’ Satisfaction at Malaysian University Libraries	2014
Digital Geometry and Its Applications to Medical Imaging	2009
Coupling Surveys with GPS Tracking to Explore Tourists’ Spatio-Temporal Behaviour	2016



## A.2 Results of the tool for SLR case study.

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
		Keyword	Abstract	Author	Pages	Type	Publisher	Cited-by	Final
162	Kaiwa: Towards a method for knowledge transfer in the transition phase of Offshore outsourced projects	0.035	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.01	4.55
39	Exploring storytelling as a knowledge transfer technique in offshore outsourcing	0.04	0.5	1	1	1	1	0	4.54
98	An integrated model of success in IT outsourcing relationships: Implications for the public sector	0.028	0.5	1	1	1	1	0	4.53
175	From research to practical application: Knowledge transfer planning and execution in outsourcing	0.025	0.5	1	1	1	1	0	4.53
16	IT outsourcing in the public sector: A conceptual model	0.01	0.5	1	1	1	1	0.01	4.52
1041	Gaining from vertical partnerships: Knowledge transfer relationship duration and supplier performance improvement in the U.S. and Japanese automotive industries	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	1	4.52
1073	The impact of knowledge sharing organizational capability and partnership quality on IS outsourcing success	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.98	4.49
740	Global outsourcing of back office services: Lessons trends and enduring challenges	0.026	1	0	1	1	1	0.21	4.24
159	Knowledge sharing in offshore software development a vendor perspective	0.037	0.5	0.67	1	1	1	0.01	4.22
43	Methodology fit in offshoring software development projects	0.014	0.5	0.67	1	1	1	0	4.18
147	Knowledge transfer challenges and mitigation strategies in global software development - A systematic literature review and industrial validation	0.053	1	0	1	1	1	0.06	4.11
978	IT outsourcing success: A psychological contract perspective	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.59	4.11
997	IT outsourcing strategies: Universalistic contingency and configurational explanations of success	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.57	4.1
569	A business process outsourcing framework based on business process management and knowledge management	0.039	1	0	1	1	1	0.05	4.09
938	A comparison of leadership roles in internal IT projects versus outsourcing projects	0.015	1	0	1	1	1	0.07	4.09
264	Security risks in service offshoring and outsourcing	0.044	1	0	1	1	1	0.04	4.08
572	Knowledge work productivity in distributed teams	0.015	1	0	1	1	1	0.06	4.08
1058	Knowledge integration in virtual teams: The potential role of KMS	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.55	4.08
135	Empirical studies on the use of social software in global software development-A systematic mapping study	0.021	1	0	1	1	1	0.05	4.07
823	The use of knowledge management in software acquisition	0.046	1	0	1	1	1	0.02	4.07
842	Empirical study of interactions between knowledge management activities	0.013	1	0	1	1	1	0.05	4.06
25	Knowledge4Scrum a novel knowledge management tool for agile distributed teams	0.049	1	0	1	1	1	0	4.05
442	Offshore supplier relations: knowledge integration among small businesses	0.03	1	0	1	1	1	0.02	4.05
626	Outsourcing as a mode of organizational learning	0.015	1	0	1	1	1	0.03	4.05
714	Benchmarking knowledge gaps through role simulations for assessing outsourcing viability	0.039	1	0	1	1	1	0.01	4.05
744	The distributed team members' explanations of knowledge they assume to be shared	0.02	1	0	1	1	1	0.02	4.04
901	Outsourcing of public services and implications for managerial knowledge and careers	0.02	1	0	1	1	1	0.01	4.03
6	Vendors' team performance in software outsourcing projects: From the perspective of transactive memory systems behavioral characteristics	0.021	1	0	1	1	1	0	4.02
85	Outsourcing of knowledge processes: A literature review	0.02	1	0	1	1	1	0	4.02
482	How knowledge and technology relate in creating value: An Italian case of technology outsourcing	0.018	1	0	1	1	1	0	4.02
843	Under what conditions do subsidiaries learn?	0.019	1	0	1	1	1	0	4.02
121	Establishing trust in Offshore software outsourcing relationships: An exploratory study using a systematic literature review	0.03	0.5	0.33	1	1	1	0.04	3.9
692	Exploring the effects of trust, task interdependence and virtualness on knowledge sharing in teams	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.37	3.9
30	Messy talk in virtual teams: Achieving knowledge synthesis through shared visualizations	0.045	0.5	0.33	1	1	1	0.01	3.89
64	Coordinating expertise across knowledge boundaries in offshore-outsourcing projects: The role of codification	0.01	0.5	0.33	1	1	1	0.05	3.89
202	Knowledge sharing management risks in outsourcing from various continents perspective: A systematic literature review	0.038	0.5	0.33	1	1	1	0	3.87
962	Perceived individual collaboration know-how development through information technology-enabled contextualization: Evidence from distributed teams	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.34	3.86

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
32	Messy work in virtual worlds: exploring discovery and synthesis in virtual teams	0.013	0.5	0.33	1	1	1	0	3.84
717	Transformational technologies and the creation of new work practices: Making implicit knowledge explicit in task-based offshoring	0.055	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.26	3.82
691	Knowledge transfer in globally distributed teams: The role of transactive memory	0.041	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.27	3.81
749	An ontology-based approach to knowledge management in design processes	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.27	3.8
463	Global software development and collaboration: Barriers and solutions	0.048	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.23	3.78
1008	IT and business process outsourcing: The knowledge potential	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.27	3.78
839	Does peripheral knowledge complement control? An empirical test in technology outsourcing alliances	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.22	3.74
966	A knowledge-based supplier intelligence retrieval system for outsource manufacturing	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.22	3.74
1003	Trust-building mechanisms utilized in outsourced IS development projects: A case study	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.21	3.74
33	Knowledge sharing in distributed agile projects: Techniques, strategies and challenges	0.04	0.5	0.67	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.72
578	Knowledge transfer processes in IT outsourcing relationships and their impact on shared knowledge and outsourcing performance	0.052	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.17	3.72
956	Utilizing knowledge context in virtual collaborative work	0.006	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.21	3.72
100	IT tools for knowledge storage and retrieval in globally distributed complex software and systems development of high-tech organizations	0.036	0.5	0.67	1	1	0.5	0	3.71
101	Knowledge sharing and application in complex software and systems development in globally distributed high-tech organizations using suitable IT tools	0.039	0.5	0.67	1	1	0.5	0	3.71
840	A comparison of transaction cost, agency and knowledge-based theory predictors of IT outsourcing decisions: A U.S.-Japan cross-cultural field study	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.2	3.71
993	Enabling knowledge creation in far-flung teams: Best practices for IT support and knowledge sharing	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.19	3.71
733	Transformational offshore outsourcing: Empirical evidence from alliances in China	0.038	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.16	3.7
854	Knowledge sharing and cooperation in outsourcing projects - A game theoretic analysis	0.009	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.19	3.7
899	Managing knowledge in global software development efforts: Issues and practices	0.033	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.17	3.7
1088	Computer-Mediated Inter-Organizational Knowledge-Sharing: Insights from a Virtual Team Innovating Using a Collaborative Toolsmall	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.19	3.7
604	The impact of outsourcing new technologies on integrative capabilities and performance	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.16	3.69
727	An integrative model of trust on IT outsourcing: Examining a bilateral perspective	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.17	3.69
959	Does being R&D intensive still discourage outsourcing?: Evidence from Dutch manufacturing	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.18	3.69
716	Managing the knowledge supply chain: An organizational learning model of information technology offshore outsourcing	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.16	3.68
1071	A design knowledge management system to support collaborative information product evolution	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.16	3.68
912	Collaborative activities in virtual settings: A knowledge management perspective of telemedicine	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.15	3.67
1040	A knowledge-based risk assessment framework for evaluating web-enabled application outsourcing projects	0.031	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.14	3.67
838	Knowledge management in 21st century manufacturing	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.15	3.66
951	IS outsourcing management competence dimensions: Instrument development and relationship exploration	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.15	3.66
144	Trust and knowledge sharing in diverse global virtual teams	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.12	3.65
243	Tools used in Global Software Engineering: A systematic mapping review	0.046	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.1	3.65
1070	Vertical technology transfer via international outsourcing	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.14	3.65
984	Technological outsourcing and product diversification: Do markets for technology affect firms' strategies?	0.007	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.13	3.64
991	Making organisations virtual: The hidden cost of distributed teams	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.11	3.63
418	Strategic orientations, knowledge acquisition and firm performance: The perspective of the vendor in cross-border outsourcing	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.1	3.62
493	Knowledge transfer processes for different experience levels of knowledge recipients at an offshore technical support center	0.055	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.62
693	Does interfirm modularity complement ignorance? A field study of software outsourcing alliances	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.1	3.62

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
1000	Predicting information systems outsourcing success using a hierarchical design of case-based reasoning	0.031	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.09	3.62
1053	Knowledge flow management for distributed team software development	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.1	3.62
505	Organizational learning and capabilities for onshore and offshore business process outsourcing	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.09	3.61
217	Information technology outsourcing, knowledge transfer and firm productivity: An empirical analysis	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.08	3.6
355	Client-vendor knowledge transfer in IS offshore outsourcing: Insights from a survey of Indian software engineers	0.037	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.6
582	Offshore outsourcing in global design networks	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.6
908	From business process outsourcing (BPO) to knowledge process outsourcing (KPO): Some issues	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.08	3.6
954	An outsourcing decision model for sustaining long-term performance	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.6
136	When global virtual teams share knowledge: Media richness, cultural difference and language commonality	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.08	3.59
338	Knowledge sharing through virtual teams across borders and boundaries	0.035	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.05	3.59
354	Cognitive conflict and consensus generation in virtual teams during knowledge capture: Comparative effectiveness of techniques	0.049	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.59
364	Traceability and management of dispersed product knowledge during design and manufacturing	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.59
371	Effects of initial and ongoing trust in IT outsourcing: A bilateral perspective	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.59
376	The role of IT human capability in the knowledge transfer process in IT outsourcing context	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.59
579	The impact of virtual technologies on knowledge-based processes: An empirical study	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.59
739	Offshoring technology innovation: A case study of rare-earth technology	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.08	3.59
14	Knowledge transfer and utilization in IT outsourcing partnerships: A preliminary model of antecedents and outcomes	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.58
472	Determinants of success in IS offshoring projects: Results from an empirical study of German companies	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.58
760	Questionnaire-based risk assessment scheme for Japanese offshore software outsourcing	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.05	3.58
829	24-hour knowledge factory: Using Internet technology to leverage spatial and temporal separations	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.58
851	Design complexity, vertical disintegration and knowledge organization in the semiconductor industry	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.58
927	Task partitioning in new product development teams: A knowledge and learning perspective	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.07	3.58
24	The mediating effect of knowledge sharing on the relationship between trust and virtual team effectiveness	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.57
138	KM and Global Software Engineering (GSE)	0.058	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.57
237	Reference architecture, metamodel and modeling principles for architectural knowledge management in information technology services	0.037	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.57
320	Exploring the motives and determinants of innovation performance of Malaysian offshore international joint ventures	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.57
370	A dynamic model of offshore software development	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.57
451	Perceived job effectiveness in cooperation: A survey of virtual teams within business organizations	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.06	3.57
470	Exploring the effects of online social ties on knowledge sharing: A comparative analysis of collocated vs dispersed teams	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.57
712	Exploratory study on effective Control structure in global business process sourcing	0.04	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.57
1086	Knowledge management as a framework for understanding public sector outsourcing	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.57
1087	Knowledge acquisition in virtual teams	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.05	3.57
127	Acquiring and Sharing tacit knowledge in software development teams: An empirical study	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
246	Global outsourcing relationships and innovation: A conceptual framework and research propositions	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.56
250	Knowledge management: A Solution to requirements understanding in global software engineering	0.061	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.56
315	Understanding transition performance during offshore IT outsourcing	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.56
366	Knowledge transfer in offshore outsourcing: A case study of Japanese and vietnamese software companies	0.036	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.56
368	Modeling job effectiveness and its antecedents from a social capital perspective: A survey of virtual teams within business organizations	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.56
469	Virtual software team project management	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
497	How to get mature global virtual teams: A framework to improve team process management in distributed software teams	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.56

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
517	Software architecture evaluation in global software development projects	0.036	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.56
589	A Learning model of information technology outsourcing: Normative implications	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
597	Mapping knowledge flows in virtual teams with SNA	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
628	Knowledge outsourcing: An alternative strategy for knowledge management	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.56
646	A lightweight approach for knowledge sharing in distributed software teams	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
658	Knowledge-sharing in crossfunctional virtual teams	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
808	Vague knowledge search in the design for outsourcing using fuzzy decision tree	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
913	Research propositions for knowledge management systems supporting IT outsourcing relationships	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
1034	Experiences from knowledge management implementations in companies of the software sector	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.56
10	Internalization of R&D outsourcing: An empirical study	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.55
111	Knowledge transfer and knowledge building at offshored technical support centers	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.55
205	The impact of team task and job engagement on the transfer of tacit knowledge in e-business virtual teams	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.55
239	The contribution of in-house and external design activities to product market performance	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.55
339	Factors impacting knowledge transfer success in information systems outsourcing	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.55
405	Cross-cultural knowledge management practices to support offshore outsourcing	0.035	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.55
518	Measuring knowledge creation in virtual teams through the social network analysis	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.55
630	Working in distributed teams: Challenges, best practices and guidelines	0.048	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.55
766	Evaluating collaboration platforms for offshore software development scenarios	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.55
858	Knowledge transfer in IT outsourcing relationships: Three international case studies	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.04	3.55
948	Knowledge management in global software teams	0.027	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.55
9	Inter-firm learning and knowledge-sharing in multinational networks: An outsourced organization's perspective	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54
13	Managing global software projects	0.035	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
18	Navigating the mutual knowledge problem: A comparative case study of distributed work	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
76	Relatedness effect on it outsourcing strategies and knowledge management on organizational performance impact on Government Papua Province	0.042	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
157	Key factors in managing IT outsourcing relationships	0.027	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
164	The cross-cultural knowledge sharing challenge: An investigation of the co-location strategy in software development offshoring	0.035	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
245	Knowledge transfer to vendors in offshore information systems outsourcing: Antecedents and effects on performance	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
258	Building socioemotional environments in metaverses for virtual teams in healthcare: A conceptual exploration	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
273	Transfer of method knowledge and modelling in distributed teams - Lessons learned	0.041	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
279	The key role of interfaces in IT outsourcing relationships	0.033	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
297	Occupational stress, knowledge sharing and GSD communication barriers as predictors of software engineer's creativity	0.04	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
318	Determinants of software quality in offshore development - An empirical study of an Indian vendor	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54
327	Supporting communication and cooperation in global software development with agile service networks	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
491	Conceptualising aerospace outsourcing: Airbus UK and the lean supply approach	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.54
593	Knowledge transfer success factors in IT outsourcing environment	0.027	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
707	Risk bias externalization for offshore software outsourcing by conjoint analysis	0.031	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
713	Analyzing IT maintenance outsourcing decision from a knowledge management perspective	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54
732	The knowledge advantage of virtual teams Processes supporting knowledge synergy	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.54
743	Transaction costs and organisational learning in strategic outsourcing relationships	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54
751	carepacks -collaboration patterns for knowledge transfer: Learning from is/itoutsourcing case at a Swiss financial institution"	0.035	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
821	Sharing knowledge in global virtual teams: How do Chinese team members perceive the impact of national cultural differences on knowledge sharing?	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54

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861	Knowledge acquisition and risk analysis in material recovery facilities by a virtual team	0.043	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.54
873	Knowledge management in offshore software development	0.027	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
910	From compliance to business success: Improving outsourcing service controls by adopting external regulatory requirements	0.031	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
915	Using Social Networking Analysis to Facilitate Knowledge Sharing in the British Council	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54
967	Siemens: Expanding the knowledge management system sharenet to research & development	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.54
1019	Knowledge integration in new product development: The FIAT autocase	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.54
1059	Outsourcing facilities management in the process industry: A comparison of Swedish and UK patterns	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.03	3.54
3	Strategic outsourcing under technology spillovers	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
37	Knowledge processes in virtual teams: Consolidating the evidence	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
68	Choice of supply chain governance: Self-managing or outsourcing?	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
78	Outsourcing versus technology transfer: Hotelling meets Stackelberg	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
140	Investigating the roles of interpersonal and interorganizational trust in IT outsourcing success	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
154	Knowledge acquisition by outsourced service providers from aging workforce of oil and gas industry: A study	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
224	Towards a framework for transferring technology knowledge between facilities	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
260	Exploration of social capital and knowledge sharing: An empirical study on student virtual teams	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
268	Enhancing international knowledge transfer through information technology: The intervention of communication culture	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
274	Learning software-maintenance tasks in the transition phase of offshore outsourcing projects: Two learning-theoretical perspectives	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
276	Research article the role of leadership and contextualization on citizenship behaviors in distributed teams: A relational capital perspective	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
292	Supporting Cross-Border knowledge transfer through Virtual Teams communities and ICT Tools	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
314	An ontology-based method for measurement of transferability and complexity of knowledge in multi-site software development environment	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
337	Managing emergent knowledge through deferred action design principles: The case of ecommerce virtual teams	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
443	Technology transfer of dynamic IT outsourcing requires security measures in SLAs	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
487	Action readiness and mindset for IT offshoring	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.53
635	Measuring the risks of outsourcing: Experiences from industry	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
709	Reflection on knowledge sharing in F/OSS projects	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
710	How information systems providers develop and manage expertise and leverage their client relationships for competitive advantage	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
764	Offshore software development: Transferring research findings into the classroom	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
922	Enabling knowledge creation in far-flung teams: Best practices for IT support and knowledge sharing	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
937	Challenges in developing a knowledge management strategy for the air force material command	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.53
975	Effective knowledge transfer in virtual teams: Linking contents and mechanisms	0.029	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.53
1018	Knowledge transfer through the supply system: Does modularity make it easier?	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.02	3.53
11	Controlled experiments as means to teach soft skills in software engineering	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
22	Co-creating the work structures and processes of the future: The interplay of virtual teams and knowledge management	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
83	Strategic outsourcing with technology transfer under cournot competition	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
113	Developing a web-based knowledge product outsourcing system at a university	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
118	Software architecture in distributed software development: A review	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
150	Understanding the role of representation in interorganizational knowledge integration: A case study of an IT outsourcing project	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
216	Cultural fit, knowledge transfer and innovation performance: a study of Malaysian offshore international joint ventures	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52

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267	Managing knowledge in internationalizing universities through foreign assignments	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
322	Trusty: A tool to improve communication and collaboration in DSD	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
328	Measurement of the development of a learning IT organization supported by a model of knowledge acquisition and processing	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
347	Knowledge Integration Challenges when Outsourcing Manufacturing	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
457	The 24-hour knowledge factory: Work and organizational redesign and associated challenges	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
502	Parallel transitions in IT outsourcing: Making it happen	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
514	Toward a general model of knowledge creation in virtual teams	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
627	Implementing global virtual teams to enhance cross-border transfer of knowledge in multinational enterprises: A resource-based view	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
729	Roadmap for knowledge sharing and transfer: Sustaining outsourcing relationships	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
769	Effects of social identity processes on coordination and knowledge sharing in geographically distributed software teams	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
779	Small firms and offshore software outsourcing: High transaction costs and their mitigation	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
828	Impact of Internet-based distributed monitoring systems on offshore sourcing of services	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
890	Business process outsourcing to emerging markets: A knowledge management approach to models and strategies	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
924	Leading Together, Working Together: The Role of Team Shared Leadership in Building Collaborative Capital in Virtual Teams	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
929	Forces affecting offshore software development	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
934	Multi-agent support for distributed engineering design	0.006	0.5	0	1	1	1	0.01	3.52
1027	An inside look at outsourcing	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.52
4	Roles of culture for knowledge sharing in asian virtual teams: A case study	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
29	Transactive Memory System, Communication Quality, and Knowledge Sharing in Distributed Teams: An Empirical Examination in Open Source Software Project Teams	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
84	Knowledge management: A cross sectorial comparison of wind generation and naval engineering	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
99	A self-learning approach to improving service quality in outsourcing of engineering design using operational data	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
128	Enhancing quality of it services delivery using enterprise crowdsourcing	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
133	Vertical FDI versus outsourcing: The role of technology transfer costs	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
190	Developing professional competencies using a Living Lab approach: An exploratory study in the field of management education	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
348	Trade-offs in Make-Buy Decisions: Exploring Operating Realities of Knowledge Integration and Innovation	0.009	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
523	Managing the information technology: Knowledge transfer in virtual teams	0.006	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
571	Knowledge value creation characteristics of virtual teams: A case study in the construction sector	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
660	The possibility of water-cooler chat? Developing communities of practice for knowledge sharing within global virtual teams	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
750	Knowledge acquisition within a network of industrial laboratories performing quality specifications testing	0.013	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
754	Sourcing decisions in the finance sector: current state and focus on economies of scale and knowledge management	0.009	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
822	It-outsourcing and it-offshoring: Trends and impacts on SE/KE curricula	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
1063	Developing collective knowledge in geographically distributed teams	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	1	0	3.51
117	A survey of tools for mapping and synchronization of knowledge from legacy systems	0.023	0.5	0.33	1	1	0.5	0	3.35
214	A conceptual framework of knowledge integration in multisourcing arrangements	0.019	0.5	0.33	1	1	0.5	0	3.35
872	A research agenda for distributed software development	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.25	3.27
1065	The impact of knowledge sharing organizational capability and partnership quality on IS outsourcing success	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.21	3.23
1046	An insight into the interplay between culture, conflict and distance in globally distributed requirements negotiations	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.13	3.15

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565	Knowledge management in distributed software development teams - does culture matter?	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.07	3.09
149	Factors affecting the outcome of Global Software Development projects: An empirical study	0.039	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.06
352	An analysis of collaborative patterns in large-scale ontology development projects	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.04	3.06
844	Cultural influences and globally distributed information systems development: Experiences from Chinese IT professionals	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.05	3.06
340	Experiences with semantic wikis for architectural knowledge management	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.05
341	Architecturally significant requirements, reference architecture and metamodel for knowledge management in information technology services	0.04	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.05
385	Using wikis to support architectural knowledge management in global software development	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.05
540	Investigating knowledge transfer mechanisms for oil rigs	0.049	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.05
793	Observing software testing practice from the viewpoint of organizations and knowledge management	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.05
158	An ontology for task allocation to teams in distributed software development	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.04
196	Knowledge management for services transitions	0.036	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.04
212	Multi-level knowledge transfer in software development outsourcing projects: The agency theory view	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.04
321	Adapting business and technical processes for collaborative software development	0.034	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.04
480	Exploring the role of Transactive Memory System (TMS) for knowledge transfer processes in Malaysia E-government IT outsourcing	0.036	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.04
520	Critical issues of offshore software development project failures	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.04
535	Factors affecting the willingness of multinational corporation's to share knowledge with universities: A case study of the automotive industry in Thailand	0.038	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.04
542	Leveraging semantic data wikis for distributed requirements elicitation	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.04
552	Multi-vendor outsourcing: Relational structures and organizational learning from a social relation perspective	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.04
674	A collaborative platform for application knowledge management in software maintenance projects	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.04
763	Successful collaborative software projects for medical devices in an FDA regulated environment: Myth or reality?	0.031	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.04
771	The role of IT human capability in knowledge transfer process under IT outsourcing situations	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.04
865	Collaborative online training methods in global production flow	0.043	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.04
880	From telco to techno: Outsourcing transitioning in information systems	0.035	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.04
1044	Knowledge transfer in virtual information systems development teams: An empirical examination of key enablers	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.03	3.04
47	Why closely coupled work matters in global software development	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
59	Knowledge sharing, social capital and firm performance in technological clusters of Taiwan Science Parks: An innovation strategy perspective	0.03	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
109	Research on the multiple combination weight based on rough set and clustering analysis-the knowledge transfer risk in it outsourcing taken as an example	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
123	An empirical study of the relationship between team social capital and knowledge transfer: Mediating role of transactive memory system	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
124	Tacit knowledge acquisition in virtual teams	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
223	Fostering cross-site coordination through awareness: An investigation of state-of-the-practice through a focus group study	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
227	Tacit knowledge transfer through co-activation: A case study of design and support by an electronics manufacturing service firm	0.028	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
275	Enterprise modelling in distributed teams - Lessons learned from information demand modelling	0.031	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
295	Impact of knowledge management on offshore software development: An exploratory study	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
305	The influence of outsourcing models on vendor knowledge integration	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
306	Vendorvendor knowledge transfer in global ISD outsourcing projects: Insights from a German case study	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
519	Towards needdriven knowledge sharing in distributed teams	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
537	Knowledge process outsourcing	0.026	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
539	The effect of knowledge sharing on IS outsourcing success	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
547	Antecedents of success in is offshoring projects - Proposal for an empirical research study	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
548	"QSHIP & advanced use of hydrodynamics in early design"	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
585	An analysis of knowledge outsourcing at Eduware	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
615	Determining a firm's optimal outsourcing rate: A learning model perspective	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
655	A study on the success factors of building regional contents industry clusters - Based on the Daegu Contents Industry	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
657	Virtual team common knowledge: Construct specification and effect on knowledge integration effectiveness	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
673	Process documentation, operational alignment and flexibility in it outsourcing relationships: A knowledge-based perspective	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.03
792	Requirements determination for knowledge management systems in information technology outsourcing relationships	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
794	Risks of outsourcing complex systems - A growing phenomenon	0.033	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
802	Contracting incentives and inter-organizational routines in Information Technology outsourcing	0.027	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
806	Implementing centralised IT service management: Drawing lessons from the public sector	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.03
815	Managing risks and maintaining a competitive edge in today's outsourcing environment	0.025	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
862	Social outsourcing as an enabler for innovations in e-collaboration	0.032	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.03
877	Knowledge transfer in offshore insourcing	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.02	3.03
935	An integrative model of trust on IT outsourcing : From the service receiver's perspective	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
1045	Supporting the knowledge life cycle with a knowledge network management system	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.03
63	Spanning knowledge boundaries in offshore insourcing through organizational learning: A case study of bankco	0.015	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
103	Investigating the impact of boundaries on knowledge sharing in global virtual teams	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
179	Knowledge and business intelligence technologies in cross-enterprise environments for Italian advanced mechanical industry - Project presentation	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.02
193	Psychological contract and knowledge management mediated by cultural dynamics	0.021	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
272	Transactive memory systems, knowledge integration and team performance in geographically dispersed teams	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
281	Understanding outsourcing commitment- An integrated model combining the resource-based view and knowledge management	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
330	Understanding organizational capabilities for effective offshoring	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
379	A study of successful outsourcing factors	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
393	Similarity and familiarity in distributed teams: A perspective of identification on knowledge sharing	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
406	Study on knowledge transfer in Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO)	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
409	Factors impacting knowledge transfer success in information systems outsourcing	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.02
416	Framework to address organizational gaps and build knowledge management capabilities in offshore KPO	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
424	Analysis about risk controlling in the application services based on knowledge management theory	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
428	Competing in the business process outsourcing industry: A call center case study	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
546	Institutional antecedents and consequences of modularity in business process outsourcing	0.019	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
551	Antecedents and consequences of modularization in BPO-based on transaction cost theory and knowledge-based theory	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
613	Encouraging knowledge sharing in global virtual teams: The interaction effect of individual difference and perceived sharing benefits	0.023	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
642	Management conditions influencing the successful outcome of IS outsourcing	0.016	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
671	The adoption of and satisfaction with Web2.0 based collaboration and knowledge management technologies in global software development - insights from an empirical study	0.017	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
758	Searching unanswered questions a review of knowledge management processes in virtual teams	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
759	Antecedents of knowledge sharing in globally distributed software development teams	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02
799	Knowledge process outsourcing: Identifying potential research agenda based on industry trends	0.024	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02



P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score								
805	Product development process managing in supply chain	0.022	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02	
864	Enabling offshore software testing: A case study	0.018	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02	
889	Critical success factors as a strategy for risk mitigation in IT outsourcing projects	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02	
926	Online knowledge sharing and media selection in a community organisation: An application of the theory of media synchronicity	0.02	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.02	
940	Automated cleansing for spend analytics	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0.01	3.02	
36	Toward an integrative model of influence factors for success of global software development projects	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
161	Creating value through virtual teams: A current literature review	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
308	Offshoring attitudes, relational behaviours and departmental culture	0.007	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
392	The role of inspirational leadership and technology support for contextualization on psychological contract in distributed teams	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
415	Aiming at a moving target: IT alignment in toy companies	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
426	Integrated systems for product design: The move toward outsourcing	0.006	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
427	Vendor transition and the impact on in-flight projects	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
431	Deriving a research agenda for the management of multi-sourcing relationships based on a literature review	0.006	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
538	The influence of offshore development on strategies for developing China's software industry	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
553	Success factors for information systems outsourcing: A meta-analysis	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
631	From virtual teams to online communities: Fostering group based collaboration for innovation and knowledge management	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
652	Promotion of offshore software outsourcing enterprise value chain based on knowledge transfer effects	0.012	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
656	Study on Knowledge Management supporting virtual team operation	0.005	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
677	Assessing the impacts of is offshoring: Preliminary conclusions questioning the validity of cultural consideration	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
812	A comparative analysis of offshored and onshored software development projects	0.009	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
866	Outsourcing of ICT: An empirical study in Swiss SMEs	0.008	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
882	Inter-organizational knowledge development in IT outsourcing	0.014	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
883	AKSIO - Active knowledge management in the petroleum industry	0.01	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
928	Effect of cultural norms on media choice in Global Virtual Teams	0.011	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	3.01	
213	Investigating the role of organizational structure in developing shared understanding of requirements within GSD	0.023	0.5	0.67	0	1	0.5	0	2.69	
847	Outsourcing a core competency	0.017	0.5	0	0	1	1	0.03	2.55	
734	Prototype of knowledge management system in Chinese offshore software development company	0.026	0.5	0	0	1	1	0.01	2.54	
856	View from a business school: An interview with Professor Rita Marcella	0.006	0.5	0	0	1	1	0	2.51	
197	Knowledge and contextual information management in global software development: Challenges and perspectives	0.041	0.5	0.33	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.38	
28	Dedicated support for experience sharing in distributed software projects	0.033	0.5	0.33	0	1	0.5	0	2.36	
444	Knowledge transfer in IT offshore outsourcing projects: An analysis of the current state and best practices	0.045	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.06	
448	Knowledge transfer in global software development - Leveraging ontologies tools and assessments	0.045	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.06	
668	Towards architectural knowledge management practices for global software development	0.022	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.04	2.06	
795	ADkwik: Web 2.0 collaboration system for architectural decision engineering	0.027	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.03	2.06	
165	Towards a global software development community web: Identifying patterns and scenarios	0.042	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.05	
446	Architectural knowledge management in global software development: A review	0.022	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.03	2.05	
449	Information security risk management: An empirical study on the importance and practices in ICT outsourcing	0.036	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.05	
408	Process support for requirements engineering activities in global software development: A literature based evaluation	0.029	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.04	
481	Information security risk factors: Critical threats and vulnerabilities in ICT outsourcing	0.032	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.04	
664	Knowledge management system for screed design of asphalt paver	0.042	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.04	

P_ID	Title	Quality Criteria Score							
1011	Virtual teams in knowledge-intensive and computer-mediated work	0.039	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.04
389	Research on model of knowledge transfer in outsourced software projects	0.021	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.03
515	Study on knowledge map construction for virtual team based on ontology	0.025	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.03
516	On educating globally distributed software development - A case study	0.027	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.03
530	Storytelling as a tool for knowledge transfer in the it industry	0.016	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.01	2.03
868	Knowledge transfer in system development offshore outsourcing projects	0.026	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.03
1057	Active artefact management for distributed software engineering	0.008	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0.02	2.03
35	Exploring collaboration requirements of heterogeneous teams on the example of a critical sales process	0.016	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
75	"ITIL maturity model of IT outsourcing: Evidence from a ""leading user"""	0.015	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
204	Knowledge transfer in practice: A socio-technical system for the transition in outsourcing	0.019	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
219	Exploration of the evolution process of IT outsourcing from 1992 to 2011: A main path analysis	0.02	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
226	Integrated framework for virtual team management	0.019	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
299	Knowledge sharing management in offshore software development outsourcing relationships from vendors' perspective: A systematic literature review protocol	0.024	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
317	Knowledge management for product development: A review	0.024	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
334	CollectiveThought - Supporting virtual teams with semantic networks	0.021	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
460	The individual performance measurement framework in virtual team learning	0.019	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
536	Vendor's perspective on social capital and absorptive capacity for offshore contract performance	0.019	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
541	Research of risk evaluation of knowledge transfer in IT outsourcing based on RS-SVM	0.023	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
612	A model for enhancing knowledge, creation, application and succession while facilitating leadership change within virtual work environments	0.018	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
661	A new methodology for designing collaborative information system in a virtual team: A case study	0.015	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
680	Technology spillovers from international outsourcing: An empirical verification in China	0.017	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
1048	Software engineering education in developing countries - Responding to the outsourcing challenges	0.015	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.02
77	Contracting on project time in Knowledge Process outsourcing	0.013	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01
283	A phenomenological study of the impact of knowledge intensity and environmental velocity on in-source or hosted contact centres	0.007	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01
417	Knowledge characteristics and organizational learning strategies of service outsourcing enterprises	0.008	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01
440	Managing effective knowledge acquisition in international outsourcing alliances	0.014	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01
720	The impact of business process outsourcing on firm performance	0.014	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01
1021	IS outsourcing management competence: Theoretical development and empirical examination	0.008	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	0	2.01

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Hiermit erkläre ich, dass ich die vorliegende Arbeit selbständig verfasst und keine anderen als die angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmittel verwendet habe.

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