* 1. Searching the Academic Literature

When researching a new topic, it is helpful to see what the academic research community knows about the field. Typically, your literature review of a topic will reveal a few very relevant and helpful studies along with a larger group of related works. The ability to find different studies is a helpful skill to learn. Consider the following methods. For each method below, do the following tasks:

1. cite a new paper that you discovered that might be applicable for your project (Hint – Refer also to Homework 3.1 Policy Type Research)
2. using the paper’s abstract alone, write 1 sentence how this paper might fit with your project (Hint – you don’t need to read multiple papers for this assignment; just skim the abstracts)

Method 1: Start with an academic study you are already familiar with (e.g. from this course’s literature). Skim the titles of the citations at the end of that study, making a short list of interesting titles. See how those studies are cited within the paper.

Method 2: Start with an academic study you are already familiar with (e.g. from this course’s literature). Find the paper on *scholar.google.com*. Under the paper’s title, click the link that says “cited by ###” where ### is the number of studies that have cited that paper. Skim through the titles and abstracts of those studies for relevant work.

Method 3: Look for a published “literature review”. Reviews are publications where the author has sorted through a large amount of related studies and synthesized them into a coherent topical discussion. These types of studies can give you a great overview of the academic literature in an area and direct you to relevant studies. Search *scholar.google.com* for “Review” + the topic you are interested in (for example “review urban parking policy”). If the title of the paper has “review” in it, it is likely this kind of publication.

Method 4: Search *scholar.google.com* for your topic using different key words. This takes some luck, but you can usually find some new work by just trying different searches. You can find some relevant “key words” by looking at some publications you are already interested in. Many publications will have a list of 3+ “key words” after the abstract.

**Deliverable:**

**For each of the 4 methods, answer the 2 tasks described in the first paragraph of this assignment (you will turn in a citation and a description for 4 different papers).**

**Submit as a 1 to 2 page document.**