

# What is a Literature Review?

- Written summary of the literature
- Describes past and current information and research
- Organized into topics
- Reporting the literature based on themes or individual studies
- Documenting a need for your proposed study

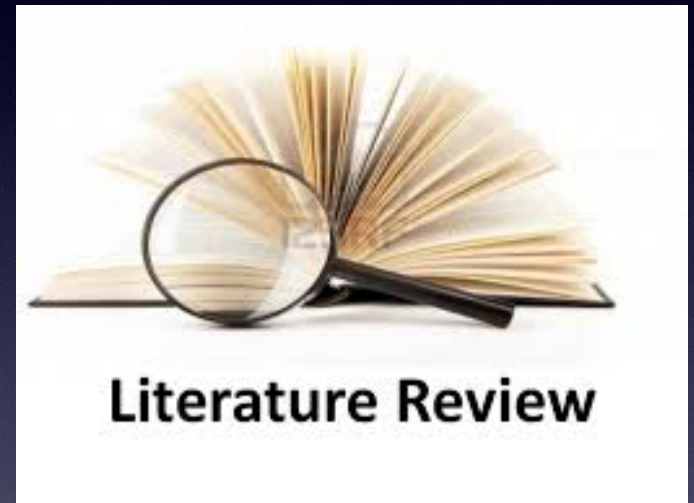
# Purposes of a Literature Review



- Define and limit the problem
- Place the study in a historical perspective
- Avoid unintentional and unnecessary replication
- Select promising methods and measures
- Relate the findings to previous research and suggest further research
- Develop research hypotheses

# How is the RoL Used?

- Quantitative--usually the first step in the research process. Provides background for the premise of the study, showing that other investigators have studied the topic or a closely related topic. Their findings can influence or inform your intended design, research questions, sample, etc. Seminal studies or important authors effect the shape of future studies.
- Qualitative--sometimes done AFTER the data is collected and analyzed so as not to “pollute” the data, but often done at the beginning as in quantitative studies. Can be placed later in the document for the same reasons.



# Terms

## “Primary Source”

- Original research studies or writings.
- Full text reports of research.
- More detailed and technical.
- Found in journals, research reports, monographs, dissertations.



# Terms

## “Secondary Source”

- Reviews of prior research and syntheses of studies.
- Provides a quick overview of research developments on the topic.
- Eliminate much of the technical jargon, but include extensive references.
- Found in monographs, encyclopedias, and journals containing reviews of research.



# Review of the Literature

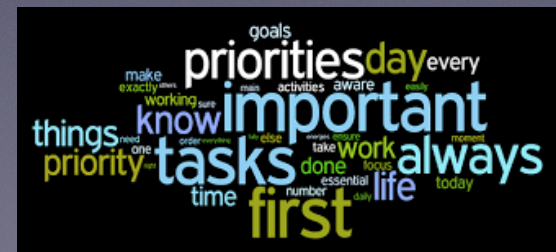


## Steps in the ROL Process

- Analyze the problem statement
- Search and read secondary literature
- Select appropriate index or database to search
- Transform the problem statement into search language
- Read the pertinent primary literature
- Organize notes
- Write the review

# RoL Priorities

1. Broad syntheses of literature—meta-analyses, encyclopedia entries, Groves articles, Handbook chapters
2. Research articles in respected journals (JRME, CRME, JMTE, Quarterly, etc.)—look for those that pose questions or hypotheses, collect data, and try to answer or support the premise. Start with most recent and work backwards—also, look for “seminal” articles, works by “important” authors, those that are cited in multiple articles
3. Books
4. Conference papers, symposia proceedings—feel free to contact authors for further info
5. “Think” pieces, most often found in professional journals (MEJ, TM); best in Ch. 1 or Intro
6. If time permits, look at DAI (i.e., dissertations)
7. Be wary of web site articles and “research studies”—they sometimes lack accepted standards of rigor (peer review)
8. Know when to stop!



# Databases Used in Music Education Research

- ERIC
- ProQuest
- JSTOR
- Sage Knowledge
- ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global



# Critically Evaluate and Select the Literature

- Is it a good, reputable source?
  - National or International journal?
  - Peer-reviewed source?
  - Research study?

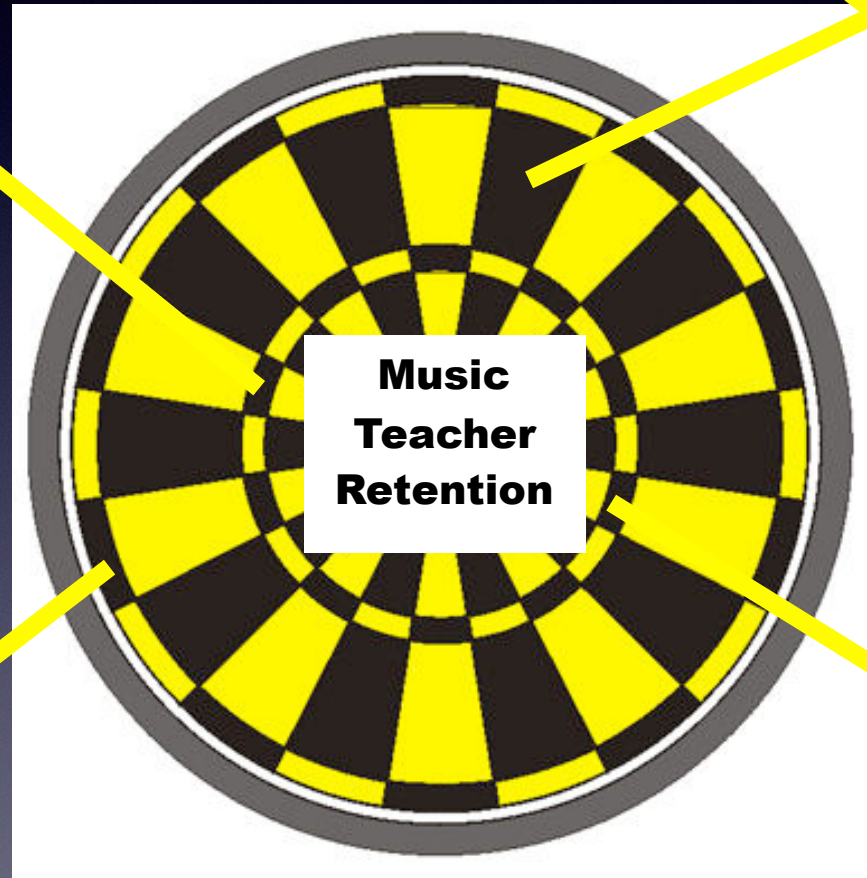
# Critically Evaluate and Select the Literature

- Is the source worthy of inclusion?
  - Topic relevance: Is the literature on the same topic as your proposed study?
  - Individual and site relevance: Does the literature examine the same individuals and sites you want to study?
  - Problem relevance: Does the literature examine the same research problem as you propose in your study?
  - Accessibility relevance: Is the literature available in your library or can it be downloaded from a web site?

# Organizing the Literature

**Music Teacher  
Identity  
Construction**

**Classroom  
Teacher  
Retention**



**Music  
Teacher  
Retention**

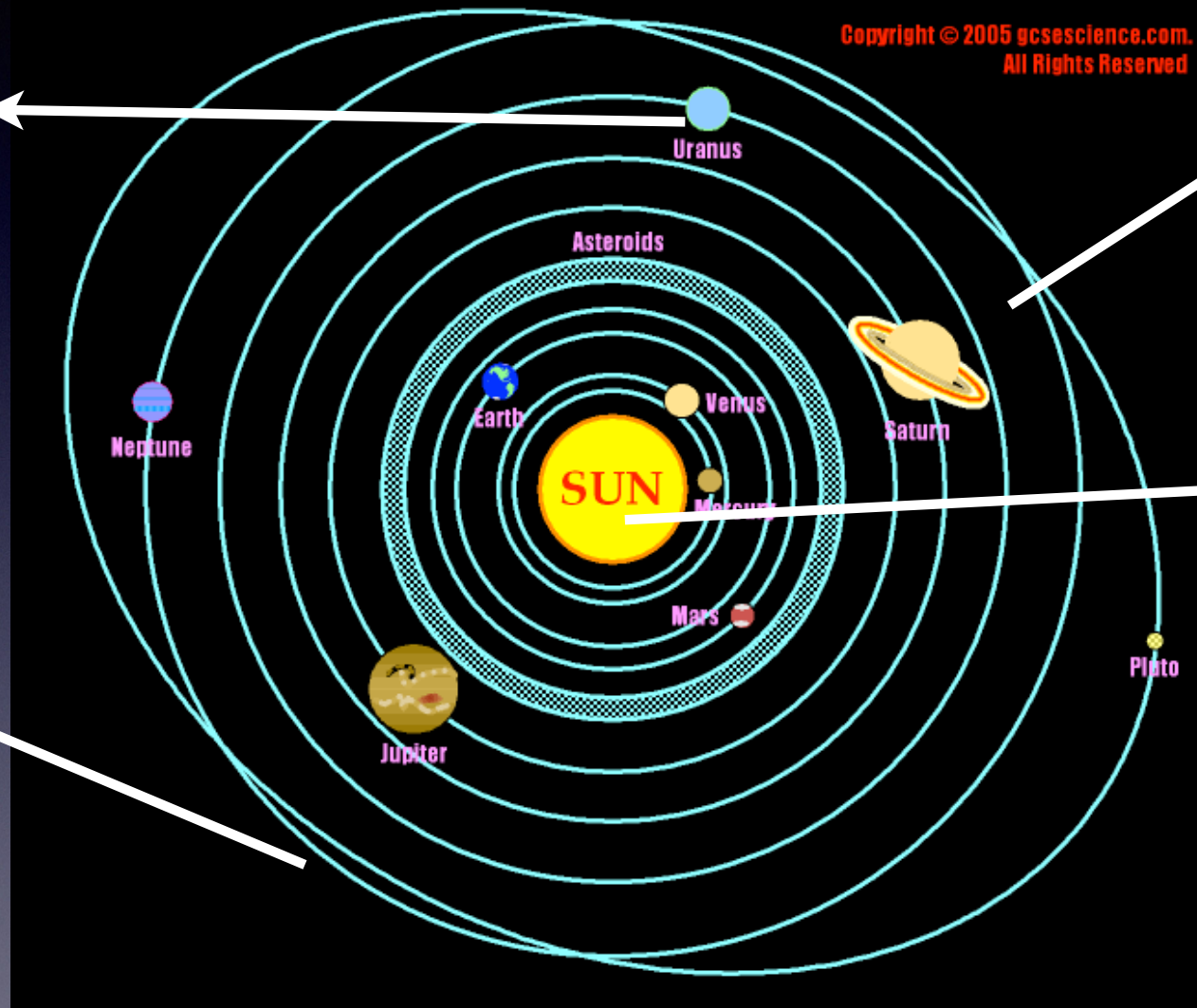
**Retention  
&  
Attrition  
in Other  
Professions**

**Role  
Stress for  
Teachers**

# Another Model. . .

**Recruiting  
in  
Football**

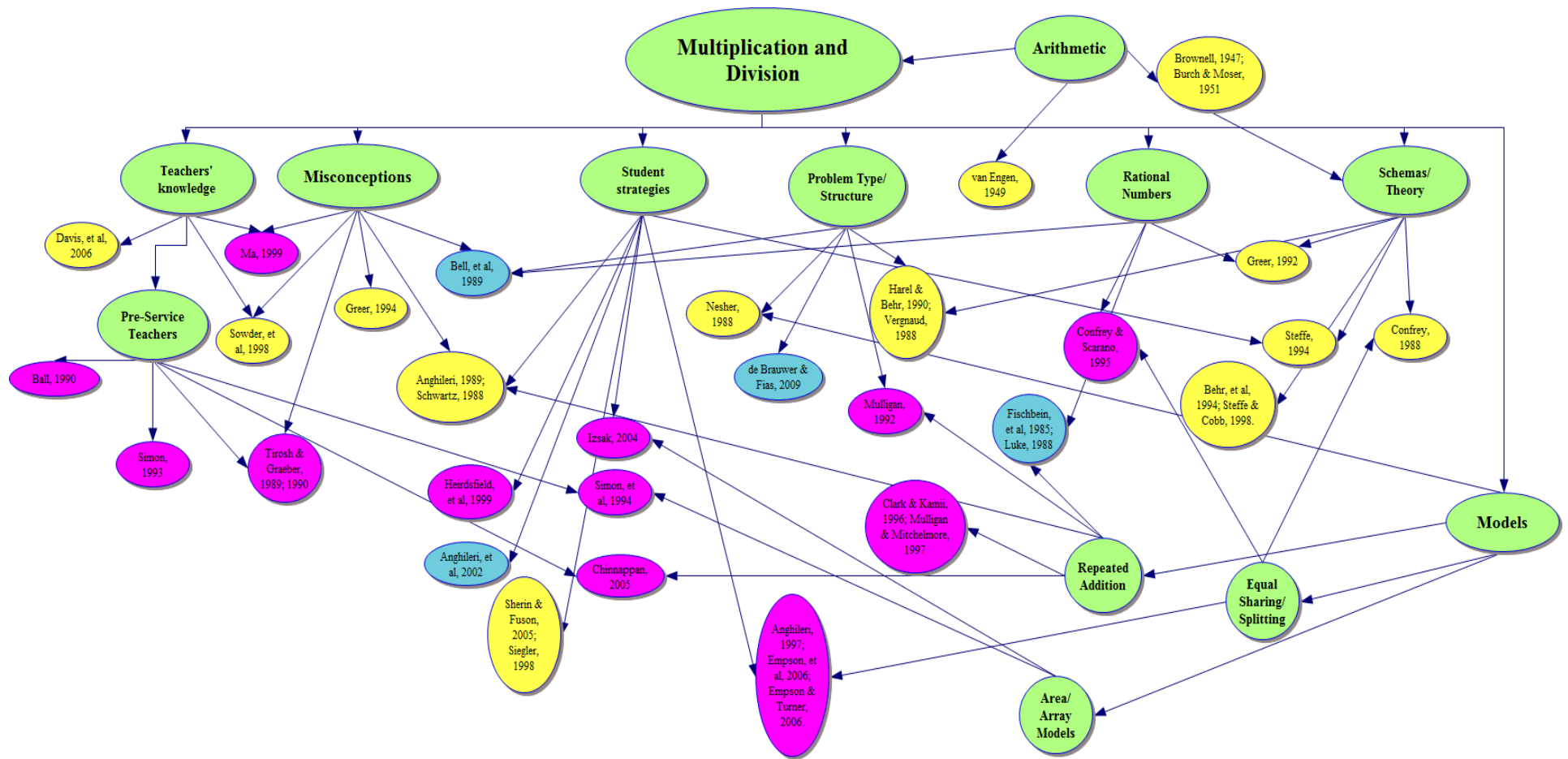
**Boys &  
Singing**



**Motivating  
Boys**

**Recruiting  
Boys in  
Chorus**

# Research Literature Maps



Green- main topics

Pink- Empirically based studies (qualitative, teaching experiments, interviews, etc)

Blue- Quantitative studies

Yellow- Theoretical studies/Literature reviews

# Research Literature Maps

