Composable Software Research at Carnegie Mellon

**Literature Searches**

Mary Shaw
October MMI

http://spoke.compose.cs.cmu.edu/ser01/

**Content types**

- Conference papers
- Journal papers
- Survey and overview papers
- Books and textbooks
- Web pages
- Topical bibliographies
- Technical reports
- Trade press
- Encyclopedias

**Finding things (generate)**

- Scan proceedings of top-level conferences, journals
- Citation counts
- Citation trees
  - Select important papers, look at their citations, add commonly-cited papers to important paper sets. Form transitive closure
- Web searches on author, keywords
- Physical library searches
- Web pages of authors of important papers
- Survey papers
- Ask friends, word of mouth
- Physical library

**Evaluating Sources (test)**

- Conference and journal papers
  - Refereeing provides some quality control
  - Quick-read (abstract, intro, conclusion) for main ideas
  - Read contemporary papers for context
- Survey papers
  - Depends on source
- Research results
  - Experiment, includes experience of applying method
  - Toy problem
- Research validation
  - Controlled experiment (empirical analysis doesn’t quite fit)
Other techniques

- Write summaries as you go
- Read contemporary papers
- Do chronological scans to get a fix on context
- Read reference citations as you read each paper
  > [5] means Parnas' A7E paper