

Enhancing Academic Knowledge Dissemination: A Comprehensive Guide to Crafting Survey, Review, and Systematic Literature Review Articles

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Abstract. This article provides a comprehensive and concise guide to the distinct steps involved in writing survey articles, review articles, and systematic literature review articles. These three types of articles play pivotal roles in summarizing, analyzing, and synthesizing existing research, thereby contributing to the dissemination of knowledge in various academic fields. For survey articles, the key steps encompass topic selection, extensive literature review, logical organization, and critical analysis. In contrast, review articles focus on selecting, summarizing, and evaluating pertinent research, while providing context and addressing controversies. Systematic literature review articles demand a methodical approach, beginning with a well-defined research question, protocol development, comprehensive literature search, stringent inclusion criteria, data extraction, quality assessment, data synthesis, and transparent reporting. This guide aims to assist researchers, scholars, and students in navigating the intricate process of producing high-quality articles in these genres, facilitating knowledge dissemination, and contributing to academic advancement. By elucidating the unique requirements and methodologies associated with each type of article, this comprehensive guide empowers writers to effectively communicate existing knowledge and enhance scholarly conversation in their respective fields.

Keywords: article, survey, review, a systematic literature review, steps

Introduction

Survey, review, and systematic literature review articles play crucial roles in synthesizing existing knowledge. Survey articles offer broad overviews, review articles delve deeper with critical analysis, and systematic reviews provide rigorous, transparent methodologies. Each contributes to disseminating knowledge and advancing research in various fields, serving as valuable resources for scholars and professionals. (Younis et al., 2021), (sani et al, 2023).

Academic writing encompasses various forms, including survey articles, review articles and systematic literature reviews. Each of these genres serves a distinct purpose in summarizing, analyzing, and synthesizing existing research. This comprehensive guide explores the specific steps and methodologies required for crafting these articles effectively. Survey articles demand a well-defined topic, extensive literature exploration, and concise presentation. (Mateja D. et al., 2023), (Angelo M. al., 2023). Review articles delve into critical analysis and context, while systematic literature reviews require rigorous protocols, comprehensive searches, strict criteria, and transparent synthesis. By navigating these unique processes, this guide empowers researchers and scholars to contribute to their fields, effectively communicate knowledge, and participate in scholarly discourse (Younis et al., 2021), (Chandrashekar & Sahin, 2014). The guide aids in sharing academic knowledge effectively through crafting survey, review, and systematic literature review articles.

Article info:

<https://doi.org/10.52760/ijerd.v4i1.54>

Received 24th December 2023; Received in revised form 20th January 2024; Accepted 20th February 2024

Published by Corolla Education Centre Foundation on behalf of International Journal of Education Research and Development. This is an open access article under the CC BY-SA license

The research encompasses various types, each serving unique purposes. Survey Articles offer summaries of existing research by collecting data from a sample articles, providing insights into trends and methodologies. Review Articles critically analyze and synthesize literature on specific topics, identifying gaps and proposing future research directions. Systematic Literature Reviews follow structured methodologies to comprehensively evaluate and synthesize all relevant research, involving systematic database searches, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and rigorous data synthesis.

Analyzing data entails processing and interpreting collected information to derive meaningful insights, with methods varying based on research design and data type. Common approaches include Quantitative Analysis, which employs statistical techniques on numerical data to discern patterns and trends; Qualitative Analysis, focusing on textual or narrative data to uncover themes and meanings; and Mixed-Methods Analysis, which integrates both quantitative and qualitative methodologies for a holistic understanding of the research topic.

The study is structured as follows: Section 2, literature review and relevant works consists of survey articles, review articles, and systematic literature review articles. Section 3 presents the research methods and highlights the checking and refining criteria. Section 4 shows the results, consisting of the steps of survey articles, the steps of review articles, and the steps of systematic literature review articles. Finally, the conclusion and future work of the study are presented in Section 5.

Material and Method

Survey Article

A survey article, also known as a review article or literature review, is a type of academic or scholarly paper that summarizes and synthesizes existing research and literature on a specific topic. These articles provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of knowledge in a particular field or subfield of study. Survey articles are valuable because they help researchers and readers stay informed about the latest developments, key findings, and trends within a specific area of research.

The following are some essential traits of survey articles:

1. **Comprehensive Coverage:** Survey articles aim to cover a broad range of research papers, studies, and publications related to the chosen topic. They provide an overview of the major theories, methodologies, and findings in the field.
2. **Organization:** These articles are typically organized in a logical and structured manner, often following a chronological or thematic approach. They may include sections on the history of the field, key theories and concepts, recent advancements, and unresolved questions.
3. **Citations:** Survey articles extensively cite the sources they discuss, allowing readers to easily access the original research papers and studies for further in-depth exploration.
4. **Critical Analysis:** While survey articles summarize existing literature, they also often include critical analysis and commentary by the author. This can involve discussing strengths and weaknesses in the existing research, identifying gaps in the literature, and proposing future research directions.
5. **Target Audience:** Survey articles are written for both experts and non-experts in the field. They serve as valuable resources for researchers looking to gain an understanding of the state of research in a specific area and for students seeking an introduction to a topic.
6. **Length:** Survey articles can vary in length, depending on the complexity of the topic and the depth of coverage. They can range from a few pages to lengthy review papers.

Survey articles play a crucial role in advancing knowledge by summarizing and synthesizing the work of many researchers. They are often published in academic journals and can serve as foundational references for those interested in a particular field of study.

Review Article

A review article, also known simply as a "review," is a type of academic article that provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of existing research and literature on a specific topic or research question. Review articles are common in many academic fields and serve several important purposes:

1. **Summarizing Existing Research:** aim to condense and summarize the key findings, methodologies, and developments in a particular area of research. They provide an overview of what is currently known about a topic.
2. **Synthesizing Knowledge:** often goes beyond summarization and attempt to synthesize the information from various sources to provide a cohesive and integrated perspective on the subject. They can help readers make sense of complex, diverse, or contradictory research findings.
3. **Identifying Trends and Gaps:** typically highlight emerging trends, areas of consensus or controversy, and gaps in existing literature. They can point out where further research is needed or where certain aspects of a topic remain poorly understood.
4. **Providing Context** often includes historical background and context, helping readers understand how a field of study has evolved and how current research fits into that context.
5. **Citing Sources:** extensively cite the research papers, studies, and sources they discuss, making it easier for readers to access the original studies for more in-depth exploration.
6. **Target Audience:** Written for a broad audience, including researchers, students, and professionals in the field. They serve as valuable resources for individuals looking to gain a thorough understanding of a particular topic without having to review all the primary research papers individually.

Review articles can vary in length, from shorter overviews to comprehensive surveys of the literature. They are often published in academic journals and are authored by experts in the field who have in-depth knowledge of the topic. These articles are valuable tools for staying informed about the current state of research in a specific area and for guiding further research efforts.

A Systematic Literature Review Article

A Systematic Literature Review (SLR) article is a specific type of review article that follows a rigorous and systematic methodology to identify, evaluate, and synthesize existing research studies on a particular topic or research question. The key characteristics of a systematic literature review include:

1. **Methodological Rigor:** Systematic literature reviews adhere to a well-defined and transparent methodology. This methodology is designed to minimize bias and ensure that the review process is as objective and replicable as possible.
2. **Explicit Search Strategy:** A systematic review begins with a carefully constructed search strategy, which includes specific search terms, databases, and criteria for inclusion and exclusion of studies. The goal is to identify all relevant studies that meet predetermined criteria.
3. **Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:** Criteria for including or excluding studies are established in advance and are based on factors such as the study design, publication date, relevance to the research question, and quality of the research. This helps ensure that only high-quality and relevant studies are included in the review.

4. **Data Extraction:** Data from the selected studies are systematically extracted and recorded. This typically includes information about the study's design, sample size, methodology, key findings, and any relevant statistical data.
5. **Quality Assessment:** Systematic reviews often include an assessment of the quality and risk of bias in the included studies. This helps the reviewers and readers gauge the reliability and validity of the evidence.
6. **Data Synthesis:** The data extracted from the selected studies are synthesized and analyzed to answer specific research questions or objectives. This may involve statistical techniques, meta-analysis (if applicable), and qualitative synthesis methods.
7. **Transparent Reporting:** Systematic literature reviews follow established reporting guidelines, such as PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses), to ensure transparency and consistency in reporting the review process and findings.
8. **Conclusion and Implications:** The systematic review concludes by summarizing the key findings and discussing their implications. This may include recommendations for future research, policy, or practice.

Systematic literature reviews are commonly conducted in fields such as medicine, psychology, education, humanities, histology, optics, ecology, art, sports, anatomy, mathematics, computer sciences and social sciences, among others, to provide a comprehensive and unbiased summary of the existing evidence on a specific topic. They are valuable because they offer a high level of rigor and objectivity, helping researchers, policymakers, and practitioners make evidence-based decisions. These reviews are often published in academic journals and are a fundamental component of evidence-based practice and research synthesis.

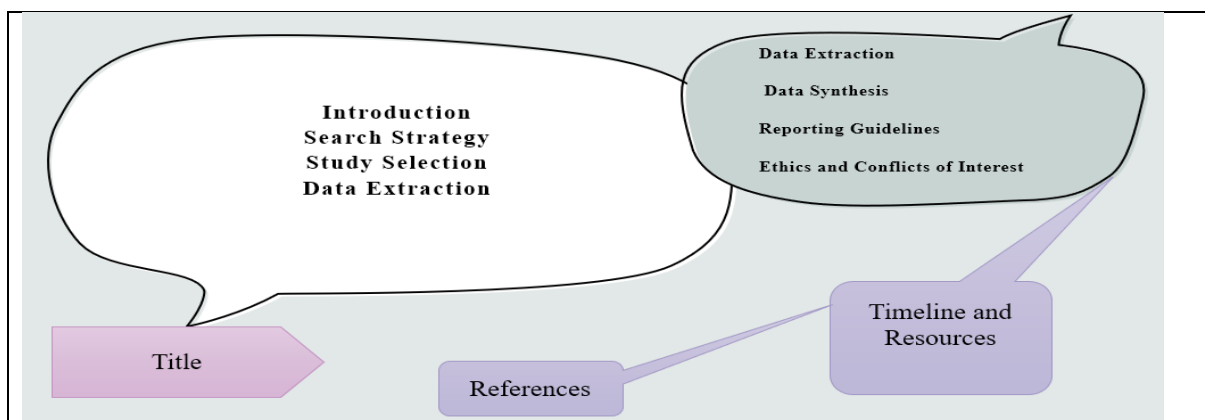


Diagram 1.

Design a Systematic Literature Review Article

1. Introduction

- I. **Background :** Provide an overview of the research area and the rationale for conducting the systematic literature review.
- II. **Research Question(s):** Clearly state the research question(s) or objectives that the review aims to address.

2. Search Strategy

- I. **Database Selection:** Specify the databases and sources you will search to identify relevant studies (e.g., PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar).

- II. **Search Terms:** List the search terms and keywords you will use to identify relevant studies.
 - III. **Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:** Define the criteria for including or excluding studies (e.g., publication date, study design, language).
 - IV. **Date Range:** Specify the time frame for the search (e.g., years covered).
 - V. **Grey Literature:** Describe whether you will include grey literature and how it will be searched (if applicable).
3. **Study Selection**
- I. **Screening Process:** Describe the process for screening and selecting studies (e.g., title and abstract screening followed by full-text review).
 - II. **Pilot Testing:** Explain if a pilot test of the screening process will be conducted to ensure consistency among reviewers.
 - III. **Data Management:** Explain how you will manage and document the results of the screening process.
4. **Data Extraction**
- I. **Data Items:** Specify the data items to be extracted from each included study (e.g., study characteristics, methodology, key findings).
 - II. **Data Extraction Form:** Provide a template of the data extraction form or instrument that will be used.
 - III. **Quality Assessment:** Describe how the quality or risk of bias in the included studies will be assessed (if applicable).
5. **Data Synthesis**
- I. **Synthesis Methods:** Explain how the data will be synthesized (e.g., narrative synthesis, meta-analysis).
 - II. **Heterogeneity:** Address how you will assess and handle heterogeneity among the included studies.
 - III. **Subgroup Analysis:** Specify if subgroup analyses or sensitivity analyses will be conducted (if applicable).
6. **Reporting Guidelines**
- I. **PRISMA:** Mention that the review will adhere to the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) guidelines for reporting.
 - II. **PROSPERO Registration:** Indicate whether the review has been registered on PROSPERO (International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews).
7. **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest**
- I. **Ethical Considerations:** Describe any ethical considerations related to the review, such as ethical approval (if applicable).
 - II. **Conflicts of Interest:** Disclose any potential conflicts of interest among the review team members.
8. **Timeline and Resources**
- I. **Project Timeline:** Provide a timeline for each stage of the review.
 - II. **Resources:** List the resources required for conducting the review, including personnel, software, and databases.
9. **References**
- I. **Include references to any relevant guidelines, or frameworks.**
previous systematic reviews that inform protocol.

Results and Discussion

Results

The Steps of The Survey Article

Writing a survey article involves several key steps to ensure that you effectively summarize and synthesize existing research and present it in a coherent and organized manner, illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1
Steps to writing a survey article.

# of steps	Function(s)	Details
steps 1	Topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select a relevant research topic within field study. Ensuring there's ample existing literature on the subject.
steps 2	Comprehensive Literature Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform a thorough literature review. collecting and documenting relevant sources.
steps 3	Organize Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize research materials and notes. Create annotated summaries for quick reference and synthesis of each source.
steps 4	Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured survey articles include Introduction, Background, Theories, Recent Advances, Gaps, Conclusion, and References sections.
steps 5	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin article with an engaging introduction that provides context for the topic and highlights its significance. Clearly state the purpose and scope of survey article.
steps 6	Background Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief historical overview of the topic and its evolution in the field. Helps readers understand the context of the research.
steps 7	Discuss Key Theories /Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize the major theories, concepts, and models relevant to topic. Provide explanations and examples to make the material accessible to readers.
steps 8	Recent Advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the most recent research findings and developments related to topic. Highlight key studies and their contributions to the field. Arrange this section chronologically or thematically.
steps 9	Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the existing literature and identify gaps, controversies, or areas where further research is needed. It is a critical aspect of a survey article as it can guide future research.
steps 10	Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize the main points discussed in article.

- Emphasize the significance of the topic and the contributions of existing research.
- Suggest potential directions for future research.

The Steps of The Review Article

A review article, also known simply as a "review," is a type of academic or scholarly article that provides a comprehensive summary and analysis of existing research and literature on a specific topic or research question. Review articles are common in many academic fields and serve several important purposes, as illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2
Steps to write a review article.

# of steps	Function(s)	Details
steps 1	Summarizing Existing Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to condense and summarize the key findings, methodologies, and developments in a particular area of research. • They provide an overview of what is currently known about a topic.
steps 2	Synthesizing Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review articles synthesize diverse research. • Aid understanding of complex topics.
steps 3	Identifying Trends and Gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review articles identify trends, consensus, gaps. • Guide future research directions effectively.
steps 4	Providing Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review articles often include historical background and context, helping readers understand how a field of study
steps 5	Citing Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review articles extensively cite the research papers, studies, and sources they discuss.
steps 6	Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review articles are written for a broad audience, including researchers, students, and professionals in the field. • They serve as valuable resources for individuals looking to gain a thorough understanding of a particular topic without having to review all the primary research papers individually.

The review articles can vary in length, from shorter overviews to comprehensive surveys of the literature. They are often published in academic journals and are authored by experts in the field who have in-depth knowledge of the topic. These articles are valuable tools for staying informed about the current state of research in a specific area and for guiding further research efforts.

The Steps of a Systematic Literature Review Article

Writing a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) article involves a rigorous and well-structured process to systematically identify, analyze, and synthesize existing research on a specific topic, illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3
Steps to write an SLR article.

# of steps	Function(s), Section	Details
steps 1	Define the Research Question	Clearly define the research question or objective of systematic literature review. This question should guide entire review process.
steps 2	Develop a Protocol	Create a detailed review protocol that outlines review process, including search strategies, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data extraction methods, and quality assessment procedures. This protocol should be comprehensive and transparent
steps 3	Search for Relevant Studies	Conduct an exhaustive search of the literature using predefined search terms and strategies. Use multiple databases and sources to ensure comprehensive coverage. Record all search results and their sources
steps 4	Study Selection	Implement inclusion and exclusion criteria to select studies from the search results. Begin with title and abstract screening and then perform full-text reviews. Maintain a record of studies included and excluded, along with reasons
steps 5	Data Extraction	Develop a data extraction form to systematically collect relevant information from the selected studies. Extract data on study characteristics, methodology, key findings, and other relevant variables
steps 6	Quality Assessment	Assess the quality and risk of bias of the included studies. Use established tools or criteria to evaluate the reliability and validity of the research. Document the assessment process
steps 7	Data Synthesis	Synthesize the data from the selected studies. Summarize the findings, identify trends, and explore relationships or patterns within the literature. Use tables, figures, and narrative synthesis as appropriate
steps 8	Writing the Introduction	Begin article with an introduction that provides context for the topic and explains the importance of conducting a systematic literature review. Clearly state research question or objective
steps 9	Methodology	Describe the methodology used in SLR, including search strategies, databases and sources searched, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and quality assessment methods. Explain how the data were synthesized
steps 10	Results	Present the results of SLR in a clear and organized manner. This section should summarize the key findings, trends, and patterns observed in the selected studies
Steps 11	Discussion	Interpret the findings of SLR and discuss their implications. Address any limitations in the review process or the quality of included studies. Explore the practical and theoretical implications of the synthesized evidence
Steps 12	Conclusion	Summarize the main findings of systematic literature review and their significance. Reiterate the research question and provide recommendations for future research, policy, or practice

This comprehensive guide outlines the systematic writing steps for crafting survey articles, review articles, and systematic literature review articles. Each article type requires a distinct set of methodologies and considerations:

Survey Articles: These articles focus on summarizing existing knowledge on a specific topic. Key steps include topic selection, extensive literature review, logical organization, and critical analysis. **Review Articles:** Review articles aim to provide context and analysis of existing research. They require meticulous selection of relevant literature, critical evaluation, and discussion of key theories and controversies.

Systematic Literature Review Articles: These articles demand a rigorous and methodical approach. Steps include defining research questions, developing protocols, conducting comprehensive literature searches, applying strict inclusion criteria, conducting quality assessments, and transparently synthesizing data. This guide equips researchers, scholars, and students with the tools and knowledge needed to excel in academic writing, effectively communicate existing knowledge, and contribute to their respective fields. The results section briefly summarizes the key outcomes of the guide, outlining the unique steps required for each type of article. It provides a clear overview of what readers can expect to learn from the comprehensive guide. The interpretation of the results (Comparison of the Survey article, Review article, and Systematic Literature Review) is shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Comparison of the survey article, review article, and systematic literature review.

No.	Function	Survey Article	Review Article	Systematic Literature Review
1	Purpose and Objective	Systematic Literature Review	Critical evaluation	Systematic, methodical review
2	Selection Methodology	Comprehensive, no strict	Selective, aligns with goals	Systematic, predefined
3	Size/ area	small	small	big
4	Critical Evaluation	Limited	In-depth analysis	Comprehensive, systematic
5	Research Methodology	Summarization, no specific	Systematic approach	Rigorous methodology
6	Transparency and Reproducibility	May lack full transparency	Systematic approach	Full transparency
7	Search databases	Limited	Limited	Extension, such as, PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Springer, MDPI, IEEE Xplore digital, and Wiley

Discussion

The steps outlined for each type of article—survey, review, and systematic literature review (SLR)—are crucial for crafting well-structured and informative academic pieces. For survey articles, selecting a relevant topic and conducting a thorough literature review are paramount to ensure the article's depth and breadth. Review articles, on the other hand, synthesize existing research, identify trends and gaps, and provide valuable context for readers. Meanwhile, SLR articles demand a rigorous methodology, including defining research questions, developing protocols, conducting exhaustive literature searches, and transparently synthesizing data. Each article type serves distinct purposes and requires tailored approaches to effectively disseminate knowledge in academia. This guide has unpacked the nuances of creating three key

knowledge and information dissemination tools: surveys, reviews, and systematic literature reviews (SLRs). Each plays a vital role in advancing research and informing practice. Surveys, as evidenced by (sani et al, 2023; Hussain et al, 2021) In the field of computers and artificial intelligence. Studies on faculty perceptions of open-access publishing, provide valuable data on current trends and perspectives. Reviews, like the one by (Almarghani et al, 2017) on factors influencing student engagement, offer insightful syntheses of existing literature. The most rigorous SLRs employ a systematic approach like the one outlined by (Hussain et al, 2021) to evaluate a comprehensive body of research, establishing robust evidence for decision-making.

The true power of these tools lies in bridging the gap between academia and the real world. Well-designed surveys can inform policy changes, as demonstrated by (Ayounis et al; 2020; Mohammed, et al, 2020) research on the impact of educational technology surveys on policy decisions. Reviews and SLRs, by synthesizing existing research, (provide a clear picture of the current state of knowledge, as seen in the work by (Sahib, et al, 2023; Hussain et al, 2021) on interventions for childhood obesity. This synthesized knowledge can guide future research endeavours, highlight gaps in understanding, and ultimately lead to advancements in various disciplines.

Effective knowledge dissemination goes beyond crafting well-structured articles. Reaching the intended audience is crucial. Choosing appropriate journals with strong readership in the target field, as emphasized by (Thelwall, M., & Pinfield; 2024) in their work on journal selection strategies, is essential. Additionally, exploring open-access publishing options, as discussed by (Laakso, 2011) on the benefits of open access, can broaden the reach of the research beyond academic paywalls. Tailoring the language and presentation style to the target audience, whether researchers, practitioners, or policymakers, further enhances comprehension and the potential for real-world impact, as highlighted by (Mohammed et al, 2020) in their study on effective science communication strategies.

Concisely, surveys, reviews, and SLRs are powerful tools for disseminating academic knowledge, and information and shaping future research trajectories. By carefully crafting and strategically disseminating these articles, researchers can ensure their work has a real-world impact, pushing the boundaries of knowledge and contributing to positive changes. Each method plays a crucial role in the progress of academic expertise, offering different strengths and perspectives to build a robust understanding of various fields.

Conclusion and Future Work

In this comprehensive guide, we delve into the essential steps for crafting survey articles, review articles and systematic literature reviews. These distinct forms of academic writing serve as invaluable vehicles for disseminating knowledge, offering researchers, scholars, and students structured methodologies to navigate their respective genres. Survey articles necessitate astute topic selection, meticulous literature exploration, and the art of concise presentation. Review articles excel in critical analysis, contextualization, and addressing controversies. Systematic literature review articles, meanwhile, demand rigorous protocols, thorough literature searches, strict inclusion criteria, quality assessments, and transparent data synthesis. Looking to the future, the field of academic writing continues to evolve. Future work in this domain may involve staying abreast of emerging trends, best practices, and tools that enhance the efficiency and quality of survey, review, and systematic literature review articles. Furthermore, the development of user-friendly templates and software for automating certain aspects of the writing process could streamline the creation of these articles.

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our gratitude to both University of Basrah and Southern Technical University, Federal University Dutse, Universitas Al Asyariah Mandar Sulawesi Barat Indonesia and University of Kotli Azad Jammu for all the support and facilities that enable the completion of this research; we would also like to thank all the anonymous reviewers who left their fingerprints and comments on the article.

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