

Mrinal's Research Methodology Studio

FOR ENGLISH LITERATURE AND MASS COMMUNICATION

User Manual

From choosing a topic to submitting: MA dissertations, PhD synopses and theses, and research papers

Version 1.0
Made on behalf of AANK_A Creative Line
Planning and content: Dr Mrinal Jyoti Goswami

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This manual explains how to use Mrinal's Research Methodology Studio (for English Literature and Mass Communication), Version 1.0: opening and installing the studio, keys, projects and university formats, the research proposal, writing chapters, sources and notes, the literature search, theory and learning, fieldwork, the tools, checks and supervisor review, submitting, and keeping your work safe.

The pictures are taken from the two sample projects that come with the studio. Their people, institutions and journals are fictional, and the key holder shown is "Sample Scholar".

The studio guides you; it never writes your research for you.

Mrinal's Research Methodology Studio
Version 1.0 · User Manual
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User Manual

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Boxes used in this manual

Quick start
The task in brief.

Remember
A rule or a tip.

Take care
Something that could cost you your work or your key.

Chapter 1

What is new in Version 1.0

Mrinal's Research Methodology Studio is a workbook for research in English Literature and Mass Communication that runs in your web browser. It takes you from choosing a topic to submitting: the research proposal, the chapters, the citations, the fieldwork and the final Word file, all in one place. It was made on behalf of AANK_A Creative Line; the planning and content are by Dr Mrinal Jyoti Goswami. Version 1.0 turns the studio from a proposal workbook into a place where the whole dissertation or thesis can be written.

A new layout

- A list of sections on the left, a project switcher at the top, a search box (Ctrl K) and a chip that shows your university format.
- A light and a dark theme. Word files, PDFs, printouts and chart images always look like white paper.
- On a phone, four buttons at the bottom and the full list under **More**.

New work you can do

- **The writing page:** write the whole dissertation or thesis chapter by chapter on A4-like pages, with citations, footnotes, tables and numbered sections, and take each chapter out as a Word file or a PDF.
- **University formats:** ready formats for several universities of Assam, including the KKHSOU MA English and MA Journalism and Mass Communication guidelines, and a format of your own.
- **Citation styles:** APA 7, MLA 9, Chicago 18 (notes and bibliography, and author-date) and Harvard (Cite Them Right, 13th edition).
- **Word and PDF:** a Word file of the whole work with its preliminary pages; earlier Word and PDF files can be brought in.
- **Sources and notes:** new kinds of source (manuscripts, archival records, performances, broadcasts, older periodicals), details fetched from a DOI or an ISBN, RIS and BibTeX, and reading notes that go into a chapter with their citation.
- **Tools:** text analysis (word counts, concordance, comparison by part), editable text from scanned pages and PDFs, interview transcripts with time marks, and Saka, Bhaskarabda and CE dates.
- **Research gaps and journals:** possible gaps suggested from your literature review, and a journal check based on the UGC's 2025 parameters.
- **Planning:** a model timeline, six-monthly progress reports, a record of publications and seminar papers, and a calendar file.
- **Submitting:** the Word file and PDF of the whole work, a declaration on the use of AI tools, and chapter-wise files for Shodhganga.

- **Theory and learning:** 217 theories in groups, with new families on writing from Northeast India and on literary movements, and a research direction finder.
- **Safety:** saving in the browser's database, earlier drafts by day, and a password lock for a project.
- **Keys:** student, supervisor, institution and review keys.

> **Remember**
>
> The studio does not write for you. It shows how to write, what must be there and what is missing. The research, the reading, the analysis and every sentence are yours.

The pictures in this manual come from the two sample projects. Their people, institutions, journals and interviews are fictional.

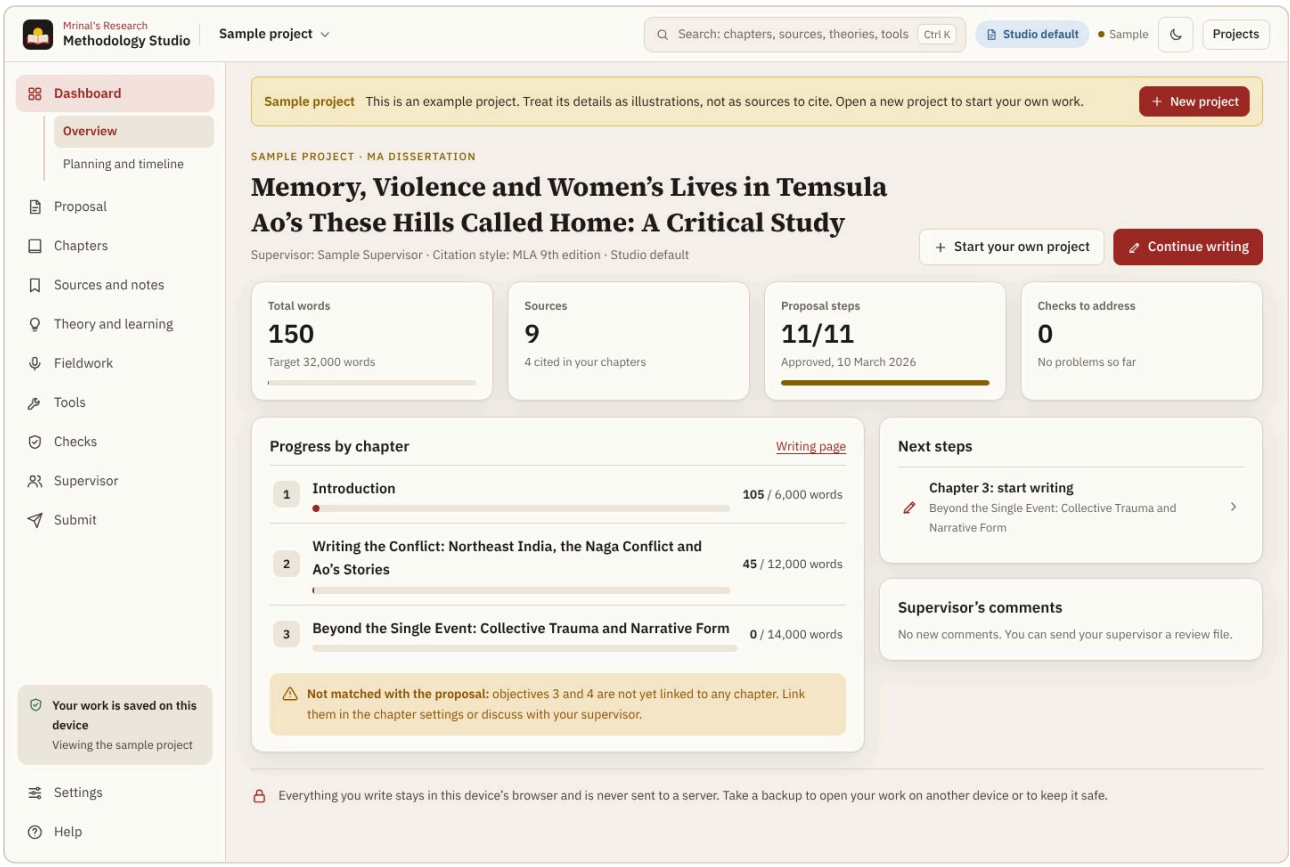


Figure 1.1: The dashboard of the English Literature sample project (computer, light theme)

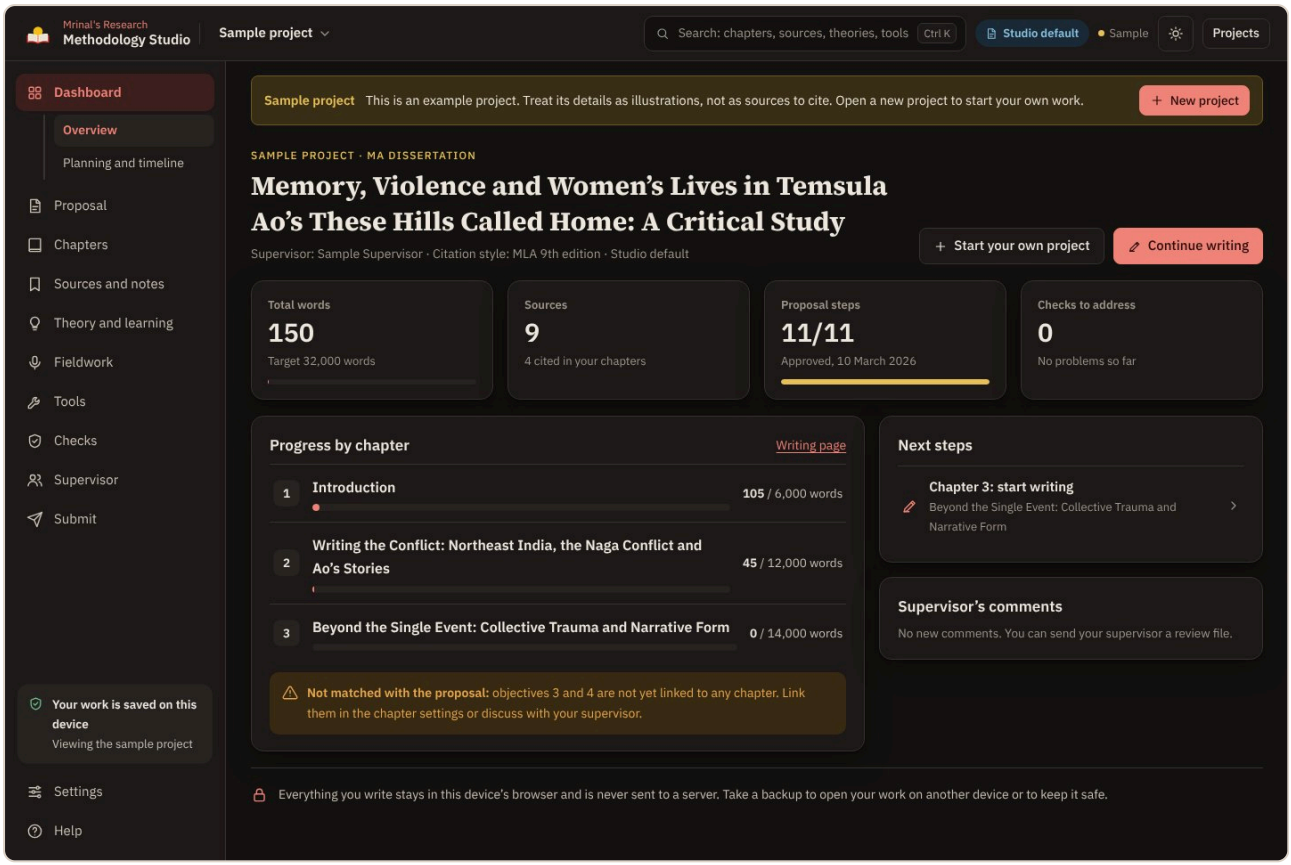


Figure 1.2: The same screen in the dark theme

Chapter 2

Opening the studio, the preview and your key

Quick start

1. Open the studio link in Chrome, Edge or Safari, on a phone or a computer.
2. Look round the sample project: every screen can be seen without a key.
3. Buy a key and paste it under **Projects** → **Licence key**.
4. Start your own project with **Projects** → **New project**.

Opening and installing

The studio is a web app: there is nothing to download from an app store. After the first visit it works without the internet. The start page appears once each time you open the studio in a new browser session; **Continue your work** (or **Enter the studio**) takes you in, and **How to use** opens Help. To come back to it later, choose **Start page** in the Projects menu.

- **Android (Chrome):** open the link, tap the ⋮ menu at the top right, then **Install app** or **Add to Home screen**.
- **iPhone and iPad (Safari):** open the link, tap the Share button and choose **Add to Home Screen**.
- **Windows and Mac (Chrome or Edge):** click the install icon at the right end of the address bar. In recent versions of Safari on a Mac, choose File, then Add to Dock.

The free preview

Without a key the studio opens as a preview. You can look at every screen of the sample project, but you cannot type, save or export. Three demonstrations work on built-in material, so that you can see the results before you buy: the citation styles, the university formats and reading a sample scan.

Plans and prices

Plan	Price
3 months, one device	₹109
1 year, one device	₹399
Each extra device	₹33 (up to 3 devices on one key)

For example, a 1-year key for your phone and your laptop costs ₹399 + ₹33 = ₹432. The studio always shows the total before you pay.

Buying a key

1. Tap **Buy a key** on the start page, on the preview banner or in the Licence key window.
2. Choose the plan and the number of devices.
3. Pay the total by UPI. On a phone the pay button opens your UPI app with the amount filled in; on a computer, scan the QR code with your phone.
4. Find the UPI transaction number (UPI Ref No. or UTR) in your UPI app.
5. Fill in the name to appear on the key, your WhatsApp number, your email (optional) and the UTR number, then tap **Send details**. Note the order number the studio shows.

Once the payment has been checked, the key reaches you on WhatsApp or by email, usually within 24 hours.

Activating the key

1. Copy the whole key from the message. It starts with GS2.
2. Open **Projects** → **Licence key**, paste the key and tap **Activate**. The first activation on each device needs the internet.
3. Your name now appears in the top bar, with the expiry date in the Licence key window.

An activated key stays active on that device until its expiry date, even offline. There is no automatic sign-out. When you are online the studio checks the key now and then, so that a renewal reaches you by itself; **Check now** does it at once.

Devices and renewal

- **New phone or computer:** in Licence key, tap **My devices**, remove the old device and activate the key on the new one. Devices can be removed up to 2 times in 30 days.
- **Renewing:** tap **Renew** and pay; the same key is extended. You can add devices when you renew.
- **After expiry:** your work is not deleted. You can open it and export Word files and backups; renew to edit again.

Kinds of key

The kind of key is shown after the name on the key.

Student	The ordinary key, in the student's own name.
Supervisor	For a research supervisor, for one year on two devices.
Institution	Keys bought together by a college, a university or a department, for one year.
Review	A short key for a reviewer, valid for seven days.

For supervisor and institution keys, write to mrinal.goswami2026@gmail.com.

> **Take care**
>
> The key is yours alone. If you give it to others, the devices on it are used up. Keep a copy of the key in a safe place.

If the key does not work

This key is not valid.	Copy the whole key again, from GS2. to the last character, and paste it again.
This key was issued for a different studio.	Keys for the Assamese or Bengali studio do not work here, and keys for this studio do not work there.
Could not connect to the internet.	Activation needs the internet once. Connect and tap Activate again.
The key could not be saved in this browser.	You are probably in a private or incognito window. Open the studio in a normal window.
The date on this device seems to be wrong.	Correct the date and time on the device and open the studio again.

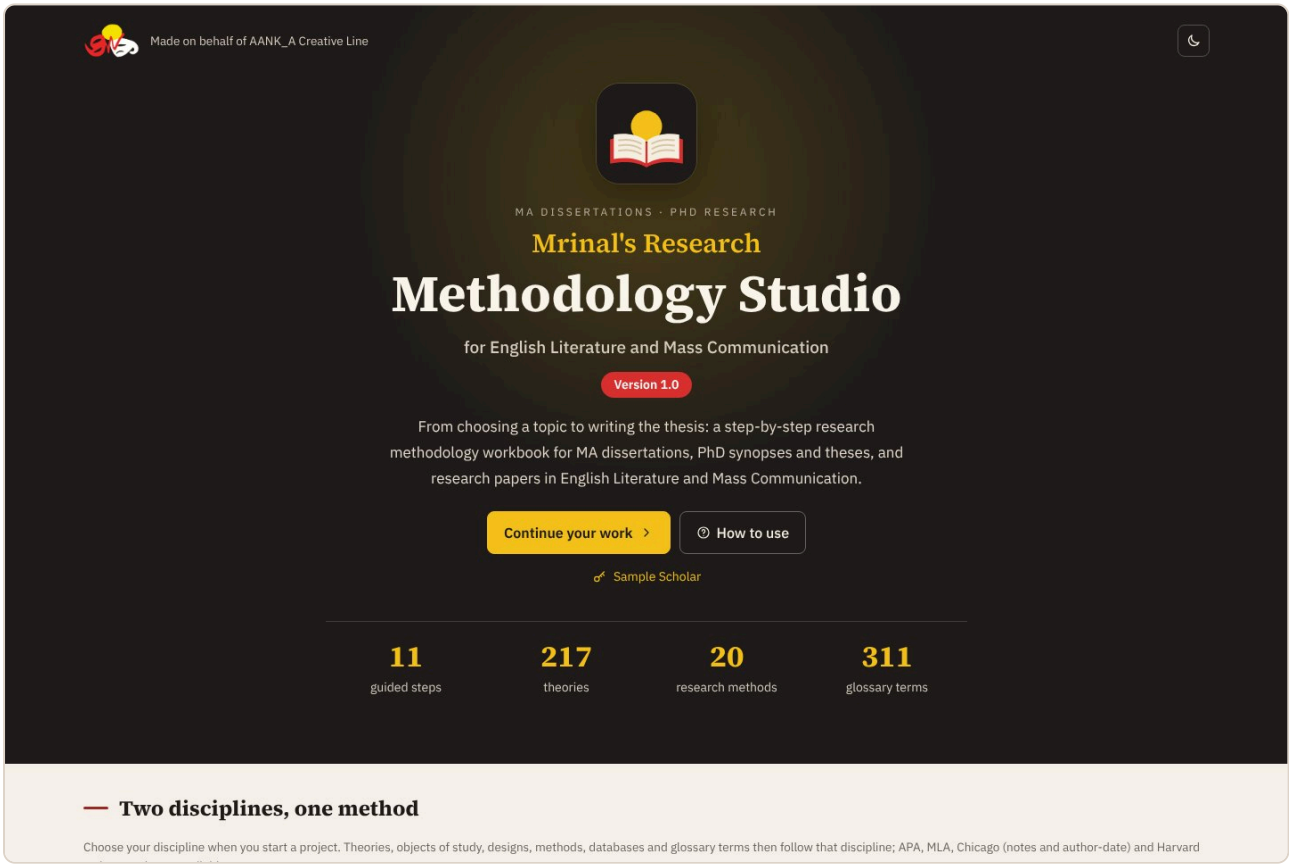


Figure 2.1: The start page



Figure 2.2: The start page on a phone

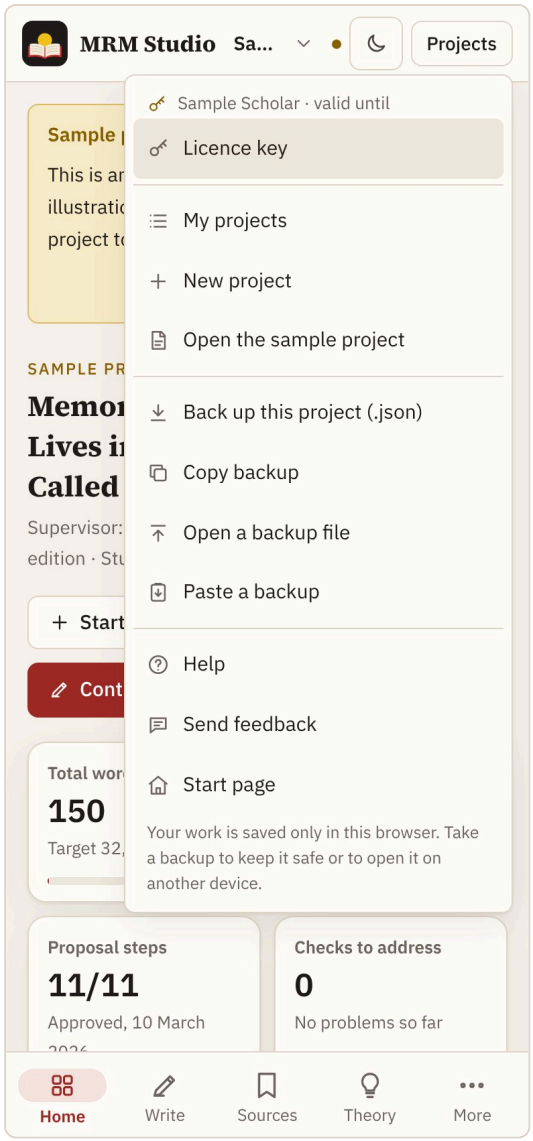


Figure 2.3: The Projects menu on a phone

Chapter 3

The parts of the screen

On a computer the sections are listed on the left. A section with more than one page opens its own short list below it: for example **Proposal** holds **Steps and guidance** and **Proposal document**. Settings and Help sit at the foot of the list.

Dashboard	Overview of the project, and Planning and timeline.
Proposal	The eleven steps with guidance, and the proposal document.
Chapters	The writing page and the writing guide.
Sources and notes	Bibliography and citations, reading notes, literature search and choosing a journal.
Theory and learning	Glossary, theory library, research directions, methods, objects of study, flashcards, quizzes, practice and viva.
Fieldwork	Field notes and codes, data collection tools and interview transcripts.
Tools	Helpers, charts and models; text analysis; text from a scan; Saka, Bhaskarabda and CE dates.
Checks	Automatic checks, the logic map and checklists.
Supervisor	Review files, comments and saved versions.
Submit	The final Word file, PDF, AI declaration and Shodhganga files.

The top bar

- **Project name:** tap it to switch to another project.
- **Search (Ctrl K):** finds chapters, sources, theories, glossary terms and tools. Use the arrow keys and Enter, or tap a result.
- **Format chip:** the university format of the project; tap it to open Settings.
- **Save status:** Saved, Saving, Not saved, or Sample when the sample project is open.
- **Lock button:** appears when the project is locked with a password; it closes the project at once (Chapter 16).
- **Moon or sun:** the dark or the light theme.
- **Projects:** licence key, your projects, the sample project, backups, Help, feedback and the start page.

On a phone

Four buttons at the bottom open Home, Write, Sources and Theory; **More** opens every section and the search box.

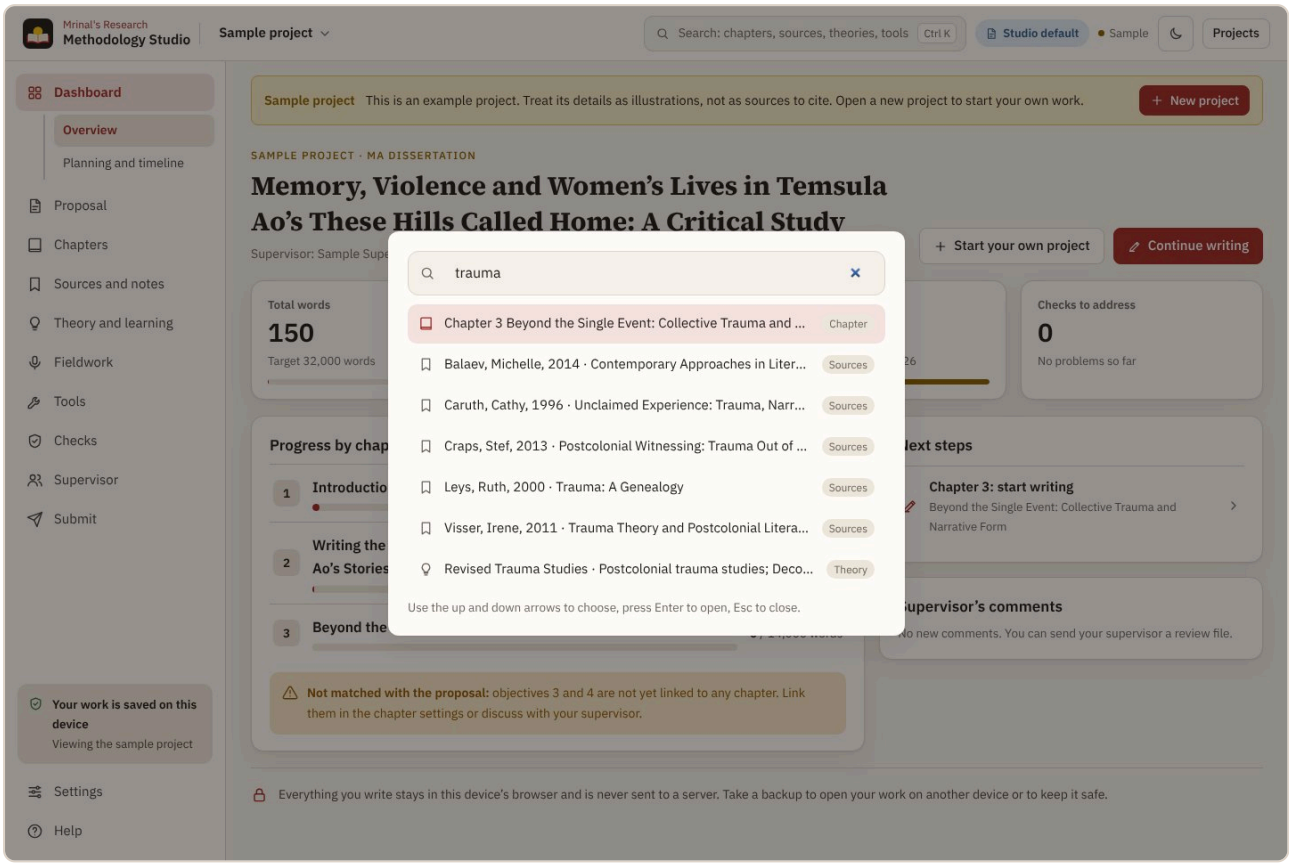


Figure 3.1: The search box (Ctrl K)

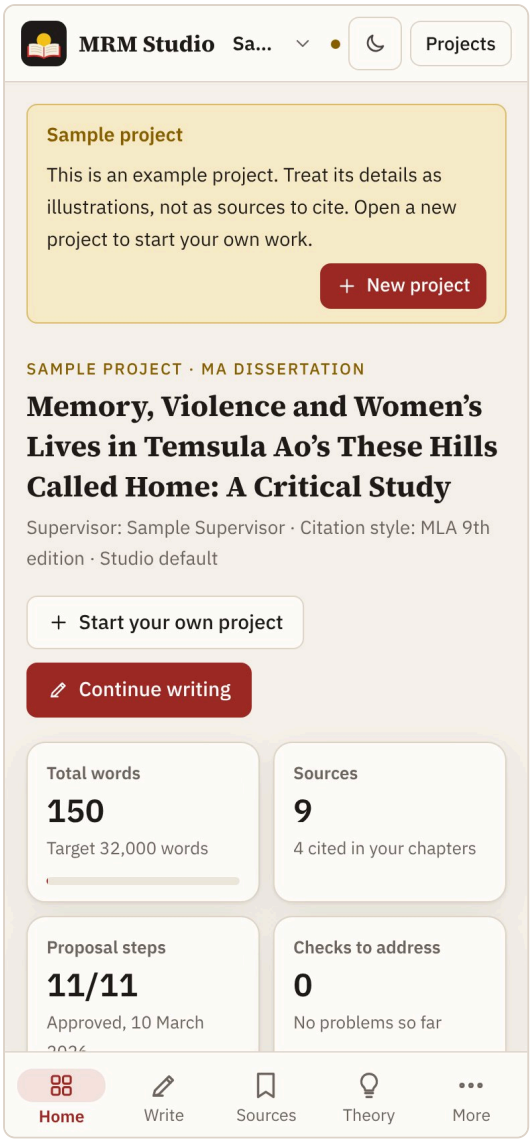


Figure 3.2: The dashboard on a phone

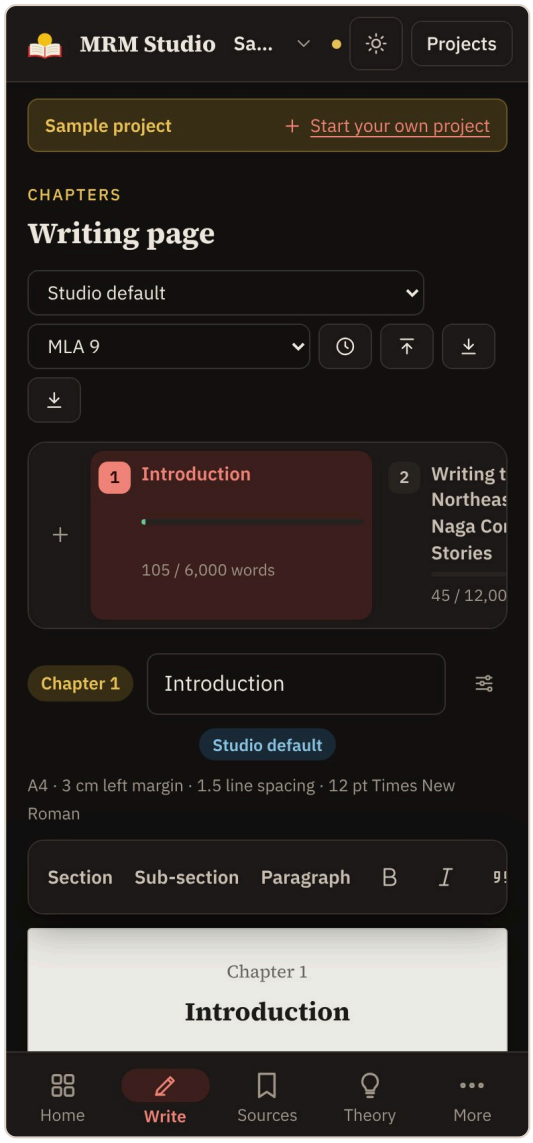


Figure 3.3: The writing page on a phone (dark theme)

Chapter 4

The dashboard and planning

The dashboard shows where the work stands: total words against the target, the number of sources and how many are cited in your chapters, the proposal steps completed, and the checks still to address. **Progress by chapter** shows each chapter's words against its target; **Next steps** suggests what to do next; **Supervisor's comments** counts open comments. A notice appears when an objective of the proposal is not yet linked to any chapter.

Planning and timeline

- **Timeline:** give the date the work began and tap **Make a model timeline** for a plan based on the UGC PhD Regulations, 2022; or add tasks yourself. **Calendar file (.ics)** puts the dates in your phone's or computer's calendar.
- **Six-monthly report:** a progress report for the period you choose, with progress by chapter, publications and seminars, the plan for the next six months and space for the supervisor's comments and signatures. Take it out as a Word file.
- **Publications:** papers published or presented at seminars and conferences. They go into the six-monthly report.
- **Seminar and papers:** an outline of the pre-submission seminar, and advice on writing a paper from a chapter.

> **Remember**
> Your university's own calendar and rules come first. Change the model timeline to match them.

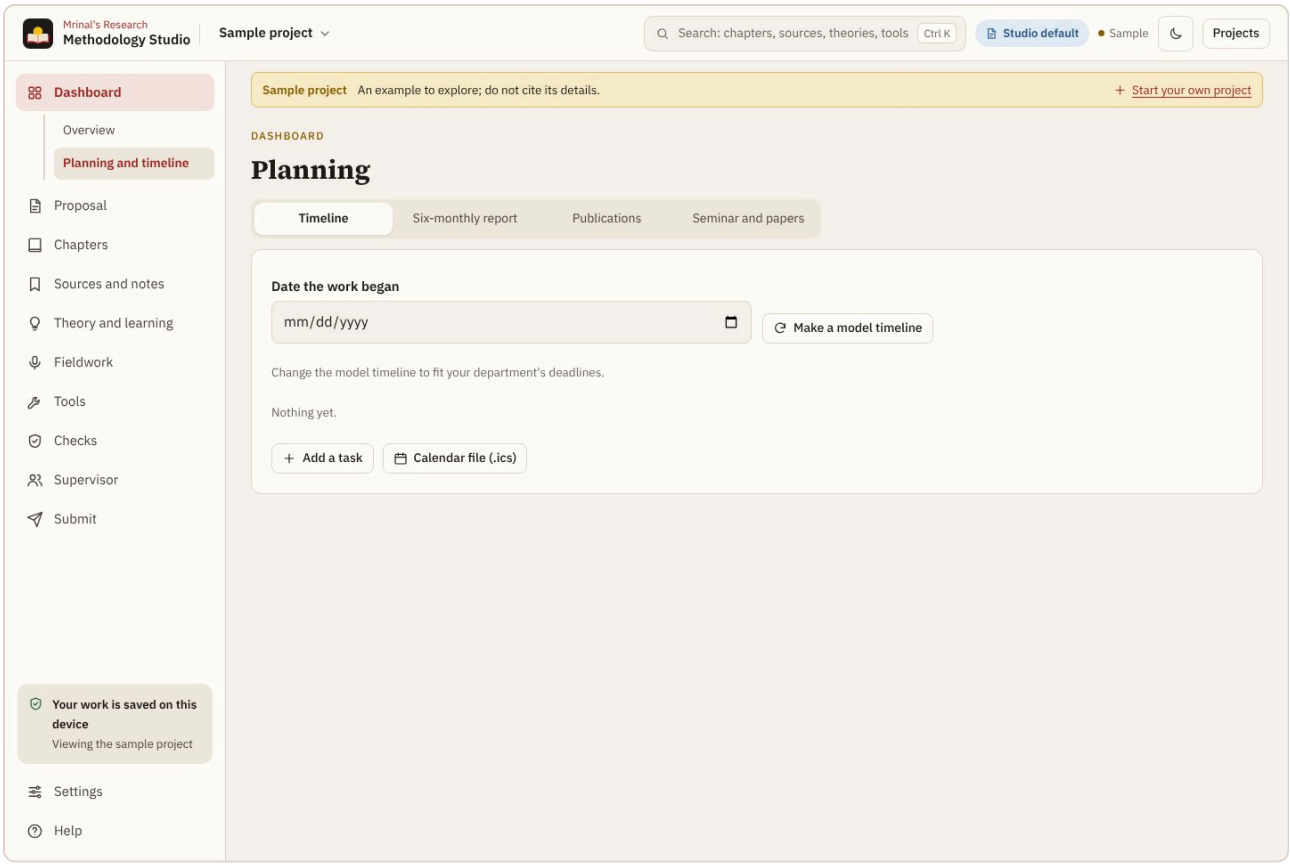


Figure 4.1: Planning and timeline

Chapter 5

Projects, university formats and settings

A new project

Choose **Projects** → **New project**. Give the title, choose the discipline (English Literature or Mass Communication) and the type of work: MA dissertation, PhD synopsis (research proposal), PhD thesis, or research paper or seminar paper. The discipline decides the theories, objects of study, methods, databases and glossary terms you see, and the starting citation style (MLA for English Literature, APA for Mass Communication). The type of work decides the word targets, the checks and the advice. You can keep many projects on one device; **My projects** lists them, with buttons to rename, duplicate or delete.

University format

In **Settings** → **University format**, choose your university and programme. The paper, font, heading sizes, line spacing, margins, word limit and order of the preliminary pages follow that format, both on the writing page and in the Word file. The formats ready in Version 1.0 are:

- Studio default format (not any university's rules)
- Gauhati University · PhD
- Dibrugarh University · PhD, and undergraduate dissertation
- Tezpur University · PhD
- Assam University, Silchar · PhD
- Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University · PhD, MA English, and MA Journalism and Mass Communication
- Bhattadev University · PhD
- Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai · PhD

The formats were prepared from the rules the universities have published, but departments may differ. If yours does, tap **Make your own format from this one** and change what differs. A department can also prepare one format and give the file to all its students, who bring it in with **Open a format file**. Under **Chapter names** choose "Chapter 1" or "Chapter One", and whether sections are numbered (3.1, 3.1.1).

> **Take care**
>
> Before you submit, check the Word file once against your department's latest rules and your supervisor's advice.

Citation style

In **Settings** → **Citation style**, choose APA 7th edition, MLA 9th edition, Chicago 18th edition (notes and bibliography), Chicago 18th edition (author-date) or Harvard (Cite Them Right, 13th edition). An example shows how a citation and a reference will look. When you change the style, every citation in your chapters and the reference list change with it. Most universities in Assam do not require one style; the KKHSOU MA English guidelines ask for APA 7th edition. Decide with your supervisor.

Other settings

- **Research proposal:** mark the proposal as approved; its steps then become read only. **Unlock to change** opens them again, and **Make the current proposal the new approved version** records a revised approval.
- **Project:** the discipline and the type of work.
- **Appearance:** same as the device, light or dark.
- **Lock and security** and **Saving and backup:** see Chapter 16.

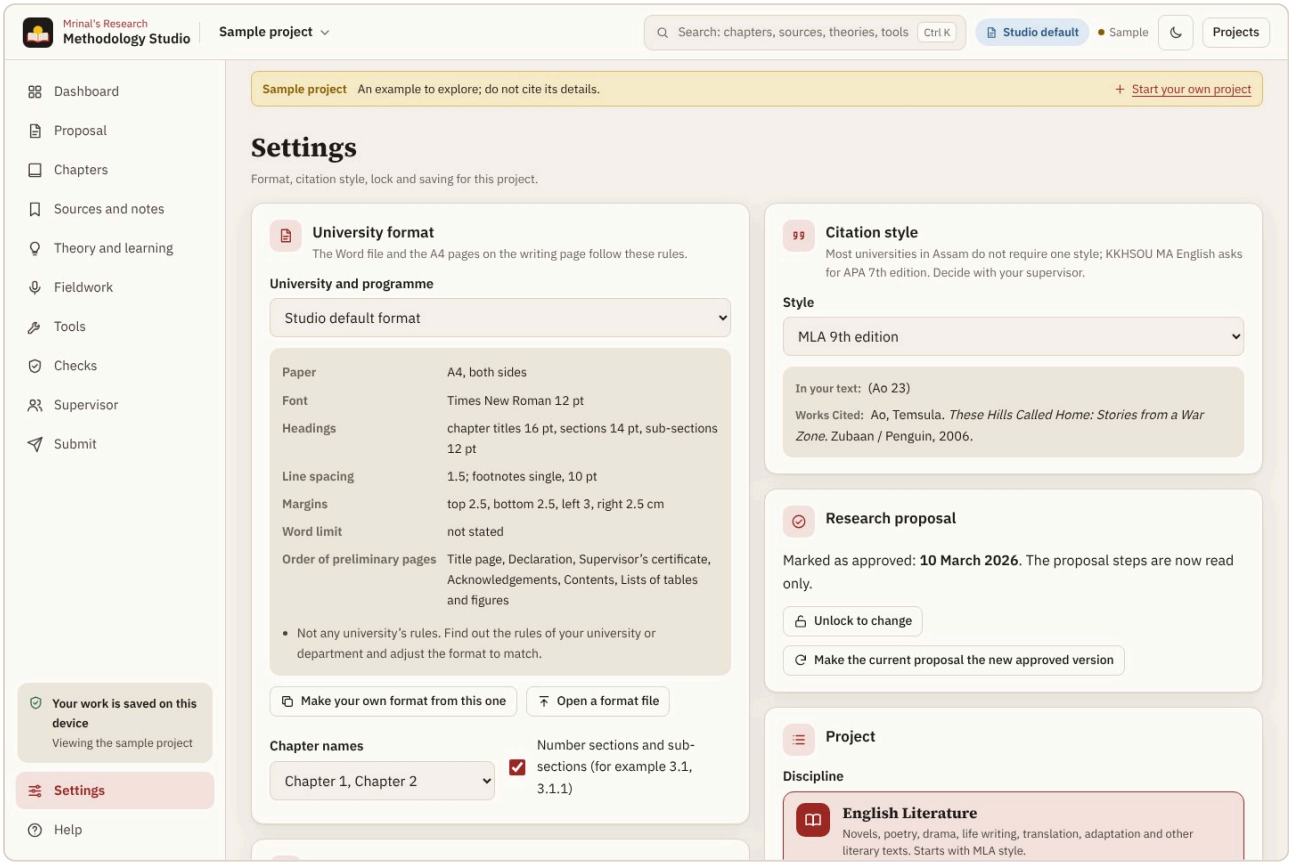


Figure 5.1: Settings: university format and citation style

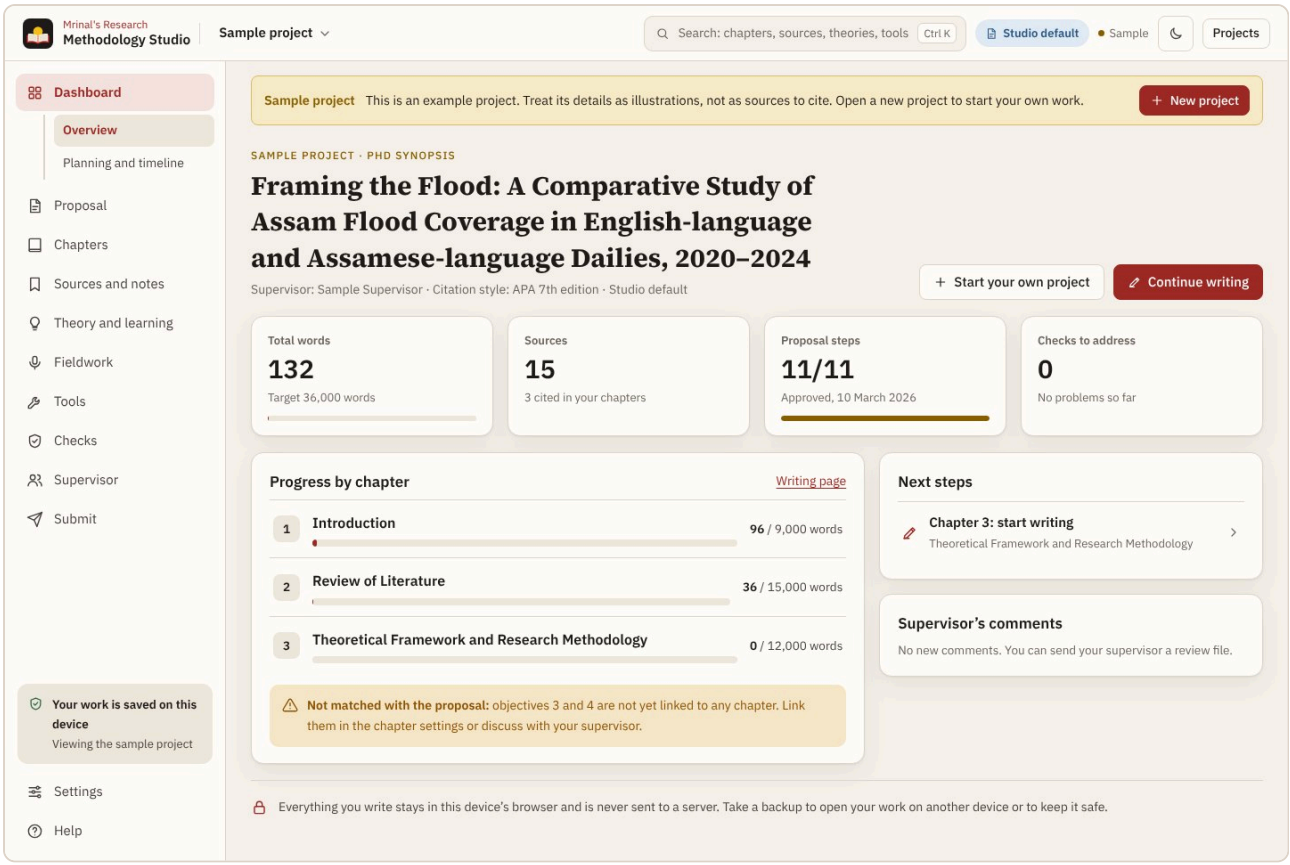


Figure 5.2: The Mass Communication sample project

Chapter 6

The research proposal

Proposal → Steps and guidance leads you through the design of your research in eleven steps. Each step has **Guidance and examples**, sentence frames with [ ] blanks for your own words, and a red star on the boxes the proposal needs. You do not have to go in order; a tick marks a completed step.

1. Basic details	Discipline, your name, type of work, department, institution, supervisor and session.
2. Topic and title	Broad area, object of study, title builder, research title and keywords.
3. Research problem	Background, problem statement and the features of a good problem.
4. Literature review and research gap	Your sources with objective, method, theory, findings, limitations and relevance; how the review is organised; the gap.
5. Theoretical framework	How theory is used, the theories you choose and their concepts, and an alignment statement.
6. Research questions and hypotheses	A central question, questions built with the question grid, and hypotheses if needed.
7. Research objectives	One objective for each question, beginning with “To” and an action verb.
8. Methodology and methods	Nature, design, approach, methods, sources, sampling, analysis and the methodology paragraph.
9. Alignment matrix	For each objective: its question, concept, source of data, method and analysis.
10. Scope, delimitations, ethics and significance	What the study covers and leaves out, its constraints, ethics and significance.
11. Chapterisation and work plan	The chapters and a month-by-month work plan.

Some steps in more detail

- **Theoretical framework:** choose whether you read your material through a theory, describe and document it, or build concepts from the data. **Fits my object of study** shows the theories that suit your object; tick two to four concepts of each chosen theory.

- **Question grid:** its rows are elements of your object of study and its columns the concepts you chose. Tap a cell for question frames.
- **Objectives:** the verb commits you to a method. “To measure” needs measurable data; “to interpret” needs an interpretive method; “to compare” needs comparable cases. Avoid “understand”, “know” and “study”.
- **Methodology: Assemble a starting draft** builds a paragraph from your choices; rewrite it in your own words.

> **Remember**
>
> Do not write that “no work has been done” on your topic. Write that an aspect “has received comparatively little attention in the available literature”, and confirm it with a systematic search.

The proposal document

Proposal → **Proposal document** assembles the proposal (dissertation proposal, PhD synopsis, thesis outline or paper outline) from the steps: title page, introduction, problem, review of literature, gap, theoretical framework, questions, objectives, hypotheses, methodology, alignment matrix (if ticked), scope, ethics, significance, chapterisation, work plan (if ticked) and references in your style. To change anything, go back to the step. **Copy**, **Word (.docx)** and **Print or PDF** take it out of the studio.

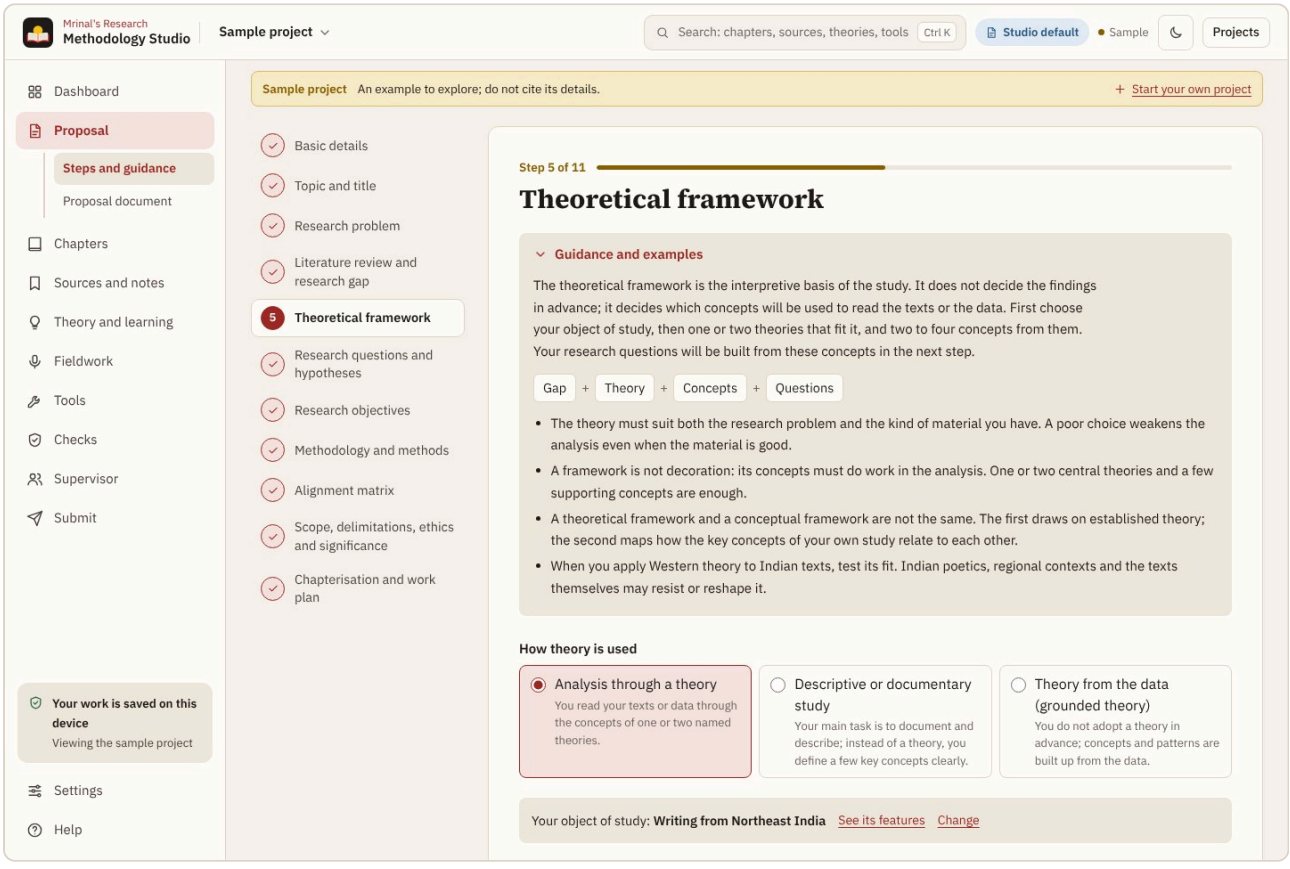


Figure 6.1: A proposal step: the theoretical framework

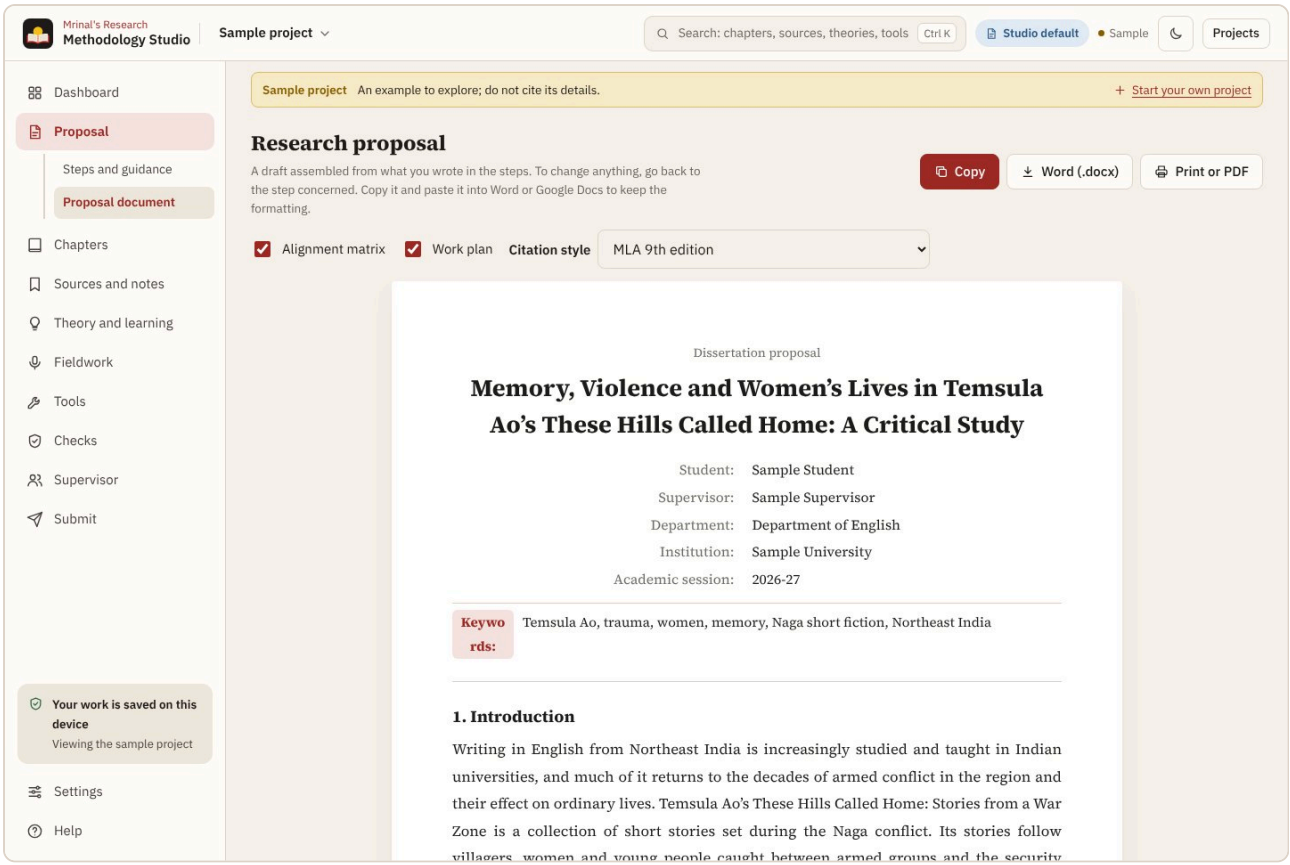


Figure 6.2: The proposal document

Chapter 7

Writing chapters

Chapters → **Writing page** is where you write the dissertation or thesis. The chapters are listed on the left, with the outline of the open chapter and the objectives it answers. The page in the middle looks like A4 paper in your university format. On the right are **Add a citation** and four tabs: **Checks**, **Notes**, **Sources** and **Comments**.

Setting up the chapters

- The plus sign above the chapter list adds a chapter.
- If your proposal has a chapterisation, tap **From the chapterisation in your proposal** the first time: the chapters are made with those titles. If the proposal is not marked as approved, the studio asks first.
- **Chapter settings** (the button beside the chapter title) holds the title, the word target, the chapter summary and the objectives the chapter answers. The summaries can later be put together for the abstract.

Writing

- **Section**, **Sub-section** and **Paragraph** set the level of a heading. Numbers such as 3.1 and 3.1.1 are added by themselves when numbering is on.
- The toolbar also has bold, italic, block quotation, list, table, footnote, undo and redo.
- Your browser underlines spelling mistakes as you type.

Citations and footnotes

1. Put the cursor where the citation goes and tap **Add a citation**.
2. Search for the source, give the page, and tick **Author's name inside the sentence** if the author is named in your sentence. The window shows how the citation will read.
3. Tap **Insert**. The citation sits in the text as a marker and changes by itself when you change the style. Click it to change or remove it.

If the source is not in your bibliography yet, add it from the same window. The footnote button adds a footnote. In Chicago notes and bibliography style, citations become footnotes.

Help while writing

- **Focus:** shows the page alone.
- **Earlier drafts:** the chapter as it was on an earlier day; look at it or bring it back.
- **Import:** brings in an earlier Word or PDF file (Chapter 8).
- **Word (this chapter)** and **PDF:** the open chapter as a file.

- **Checks:** problems in this chapter: a citation whose source is missing, an empty footnote, a long quotation, a repeated heading, a chapter not linked to an objective, words over the target, or a title changed from the proposal.
- **Notes:** your reading notes, ready to insert with their citation.
- **Comments:** your supervisor's comments on this chapter.

The writing guide

Chapters → **Writing guide** shows what each part of a dissertation, thesis or paper must contain: word targets, paragraph plans, sentence starters, common mistakes and self-checks. Its draft boxes suit outlines and short drafts; write the chapters themselves on the writing page.

> **Remember**
>
> Work on the writing page is saved as you type. When the top bar says Saved, your work is safe on this device.

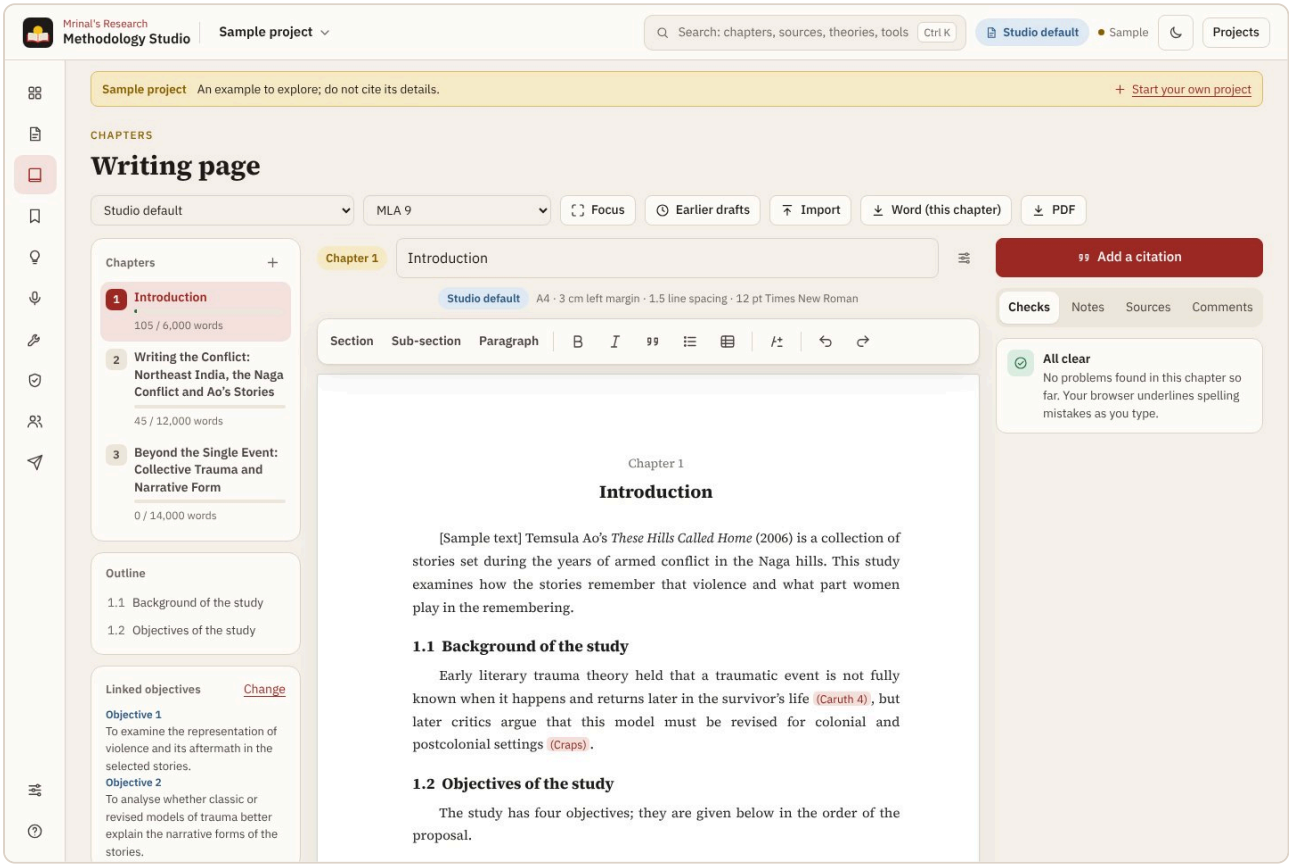


Figure 7.1: The writing page: chapters, the A4 page and the checks

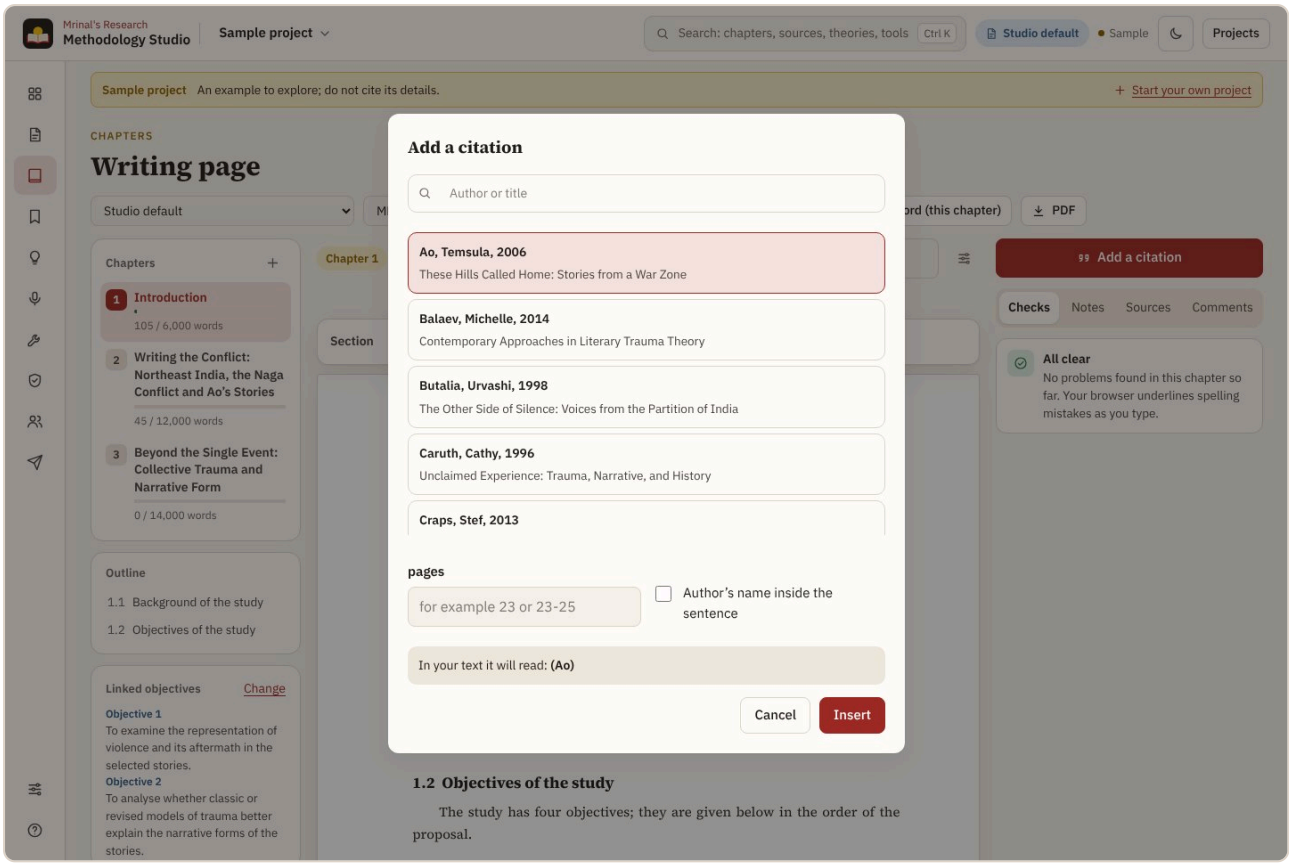


Figure 7.2: Adding a citation

Chapter 8

Bringing in Word and PDF files

If you have already written part of your work in Word, tap **Import** on the writing page and choose **Bring in from a file**.

- **Word (.docx):** Heading 1 starts a new chapter; Heading 2 and Heading 3 become sections. Italics, bold, tables and footnotes come along.
- **PDF with text:** the whole file comes in as one chapter. Text from a PDF may have wrong line breaks; check it after it comes in. A PDF made of pictures has no text: use **Text from a scan** (Chapter 13).
- Choose **Add as a new chapter** or **Add at the end of the current chapter**.
- Typed citations such as (Ao 2006, 23) or (Entman, 1993, p. 52) that match your bibliography can be turned into citation markers; you confirm each one. The others stay as typed.

> **Remember**
>
> Old .doc files cannot be opened. Open the file in Word, use Save As and save it as .docx.

Chapter 9

Sources, bibliography and reading notes

Adding a source

1. Open **Sources and notes** → **Bibliography and citations**.
2. Give a **DOI or ISBN** and tap **Fetch details**: the details come from Crossref or Open Library. Check them before you add the source.
3. Or choose the type of source and fill in the fields. Write each name as Surname, Given name and separate several names with a semicolon. Put an organisation whose name contains a comma inside braces, for example {Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India}.
4. Check the preview and tap **Add to bibliography**.

Besides books, chapters, articles, theses, reports, web pages, films, television episodes, podcasts and social media posts, Version 1.0 adds a manuscript (puthi or other handwritten text), an archival or institutional record, a performance (play, bhaona, song, recital), a radio or TV programme, and a magazine or periodical (older issue). **Import (RIS, BibTeX)** brings in a list from Zotero, Mendeley or a database; **RIS** and **BibTeX** export it.

> **Remember**
>
> The studio does not change capital letters for you: APA uses sentence case for titles of books and articles, MLA and Chicago use title case. Never invent a DOI, page range or date that the source does not show.

The reference list

The list is sorted by itself and follows your style: References (APA), Works Cited (MLA), Bibliography (Chicago notes), References (Chicago author-date) or Reference list (Harvard). The pencil edits an entry; the quotation-mark button shows the in-text citation and the notes for that source. **Copy**, **Word (.docx)** and **Print or PDF** take the list out. The tab **Informants and interviews** keeps a coded list of the people you interviewed and shows how to cite each interview in your style.

Reading notes

Sources and notes → **Reading notes** keeps what you take from your reading. Choose the source, the kind of note (**Quotation**, **In my own words** or **Idea**), write it, and add the page and tags. Search the notes or filter them by source and kind. **Insert in a chapter** puts a note into the open chapter with its citation; a quotation goes in quotation marks.

> **Take care**
>
> Copy a quotation word for word and check it against the source. Keep notes in your own words clearly apart from quotations, so that nothing is copied into your thesis by mistake.

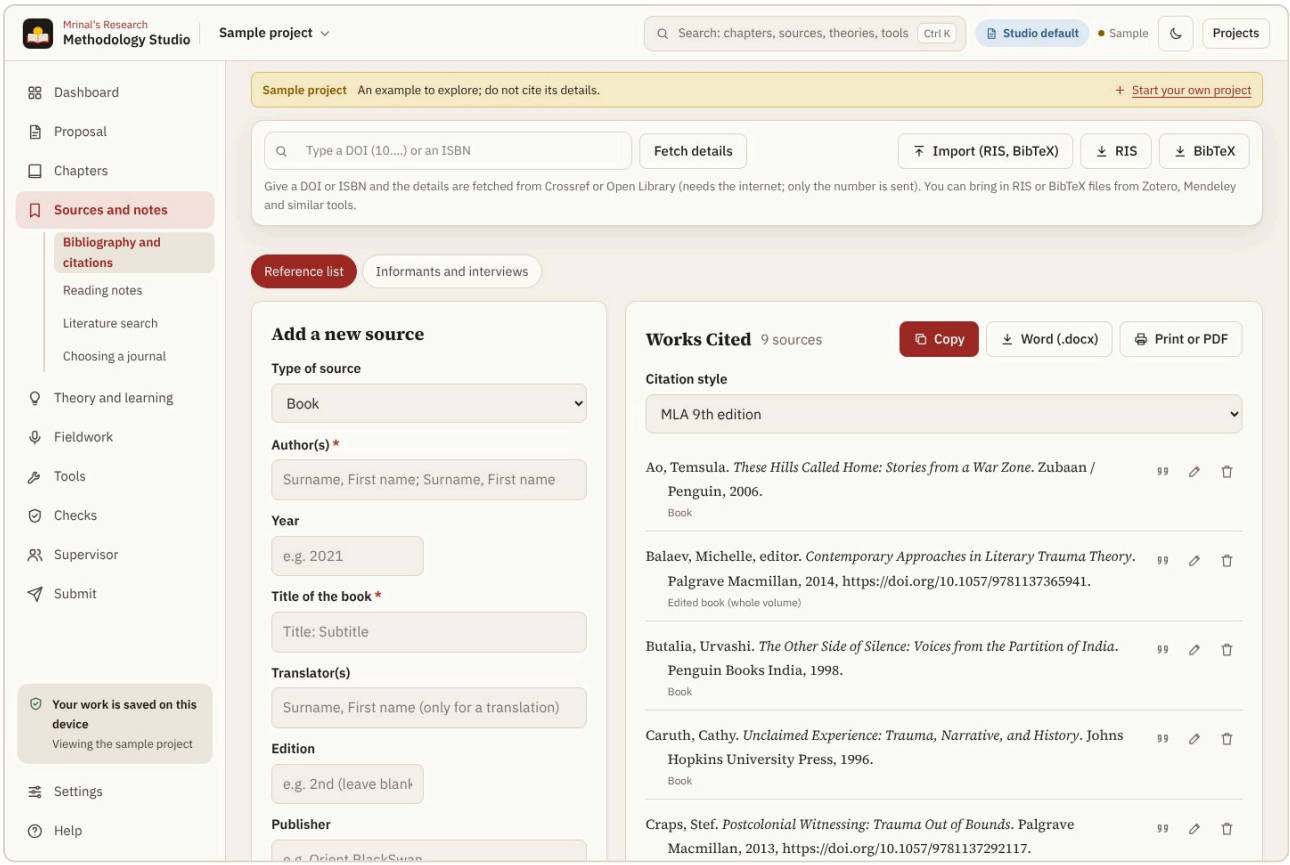


Figure 9.1: The bibliography in MLA style

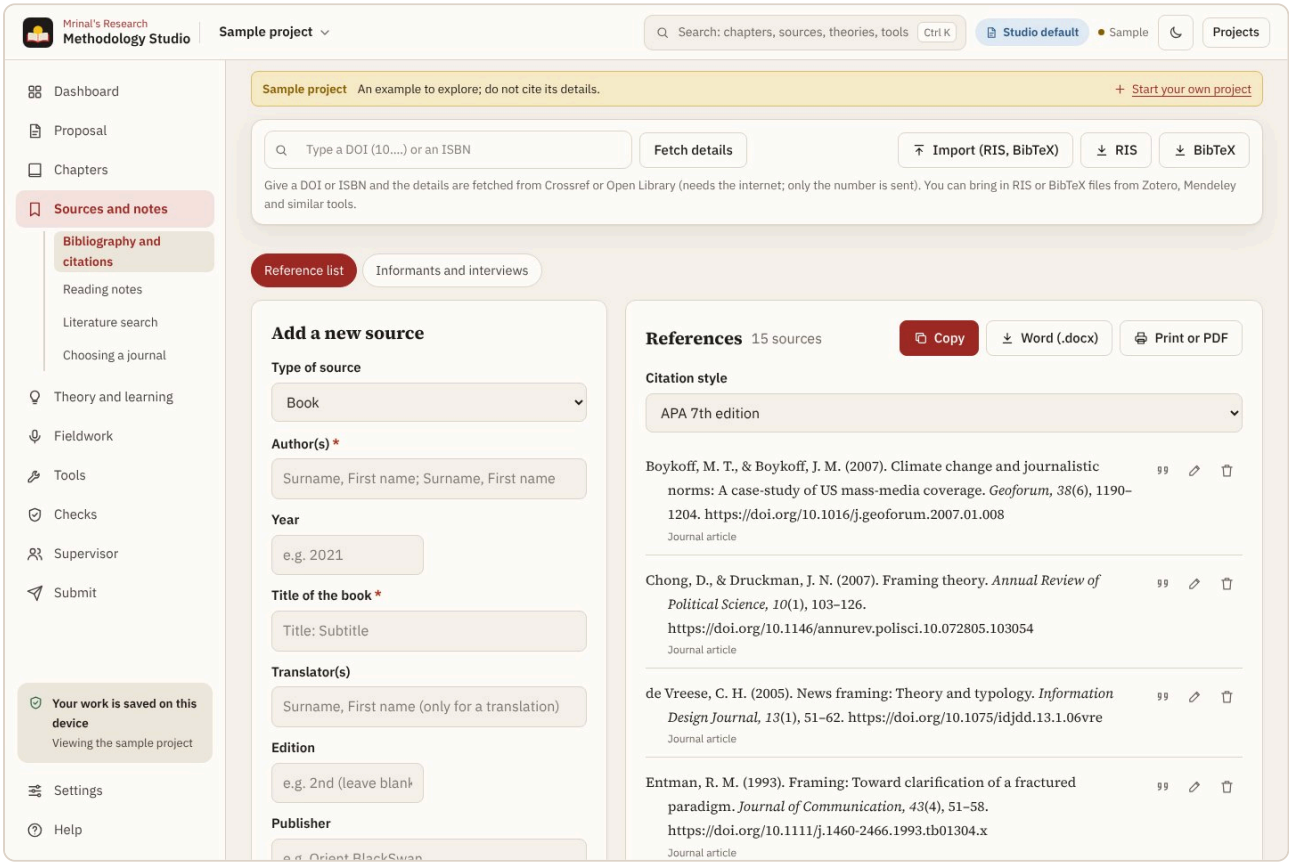


Figure 9.2: The bibliography of the Mass Communication sample in APA style

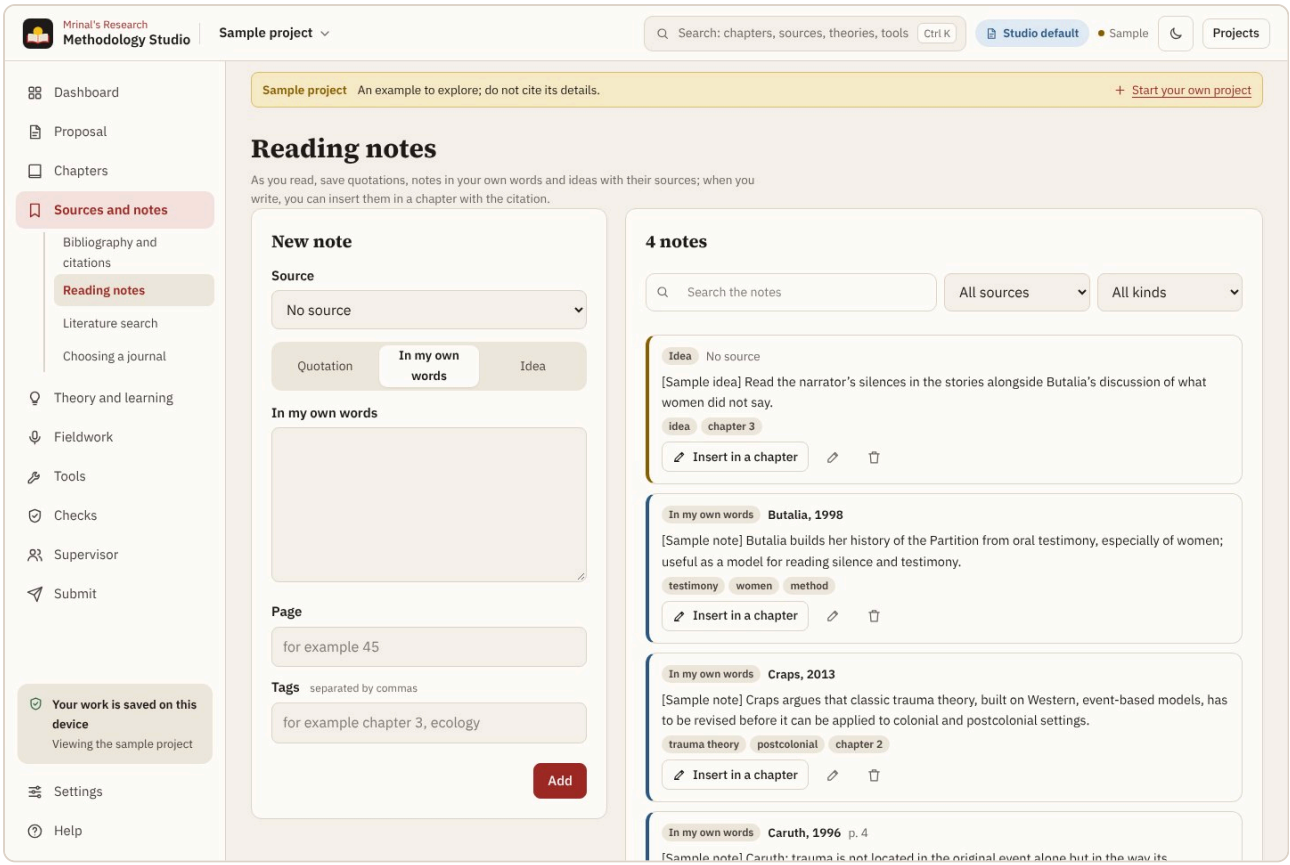


Figure 9.3: Reading notes

Chapter 10

Literature search, research gaps and journals

Literature search

Sources and notes → **Literature search** takes you through six stages: break down the topic, choose keywords (the keyword mind map helps), build a Boolean search string, search the databases, keep a search log, and add the sources you find. Tap a database to open its results with your search string; the list follows your discipline and includes Shodhganga, Google Scholar, JSTOR, Project MUSE, DOAJ, the National Digital Library of India and One Nation One Subscription.

Possible research gaps

When your literature review (step 4) has at least three sources, a banner on this page offers **See the possibilities**. The studio compares the reviewed studies with your theory, method, period and keywords and lists possible gaps, for example a theory that no reviewed study uses, or a recent period that no study covers. Each one has a link to search Shodhganga.

> **Remember**
>
> These are possibilities, not findings. A gap exists only when a systematic search confirms it; read the studies and discuss with your supervisor.

Choosing a journal

Sources and notes → **Choosing a journal** checks a journal against the UGC's "Suggestive Parameters for Peer-Reviewed Journals" (16 July 2025). The UGC-CARE list has been discontinued; the list as on 10 February 2025 remains on the UGC website for reference. Add a journal with **New journal**, give its ISSN and website, and mark each parameter **Yes**, **No** or **Not known**. The count shows how many are met. Check the ISSN on the ISSN Portal.

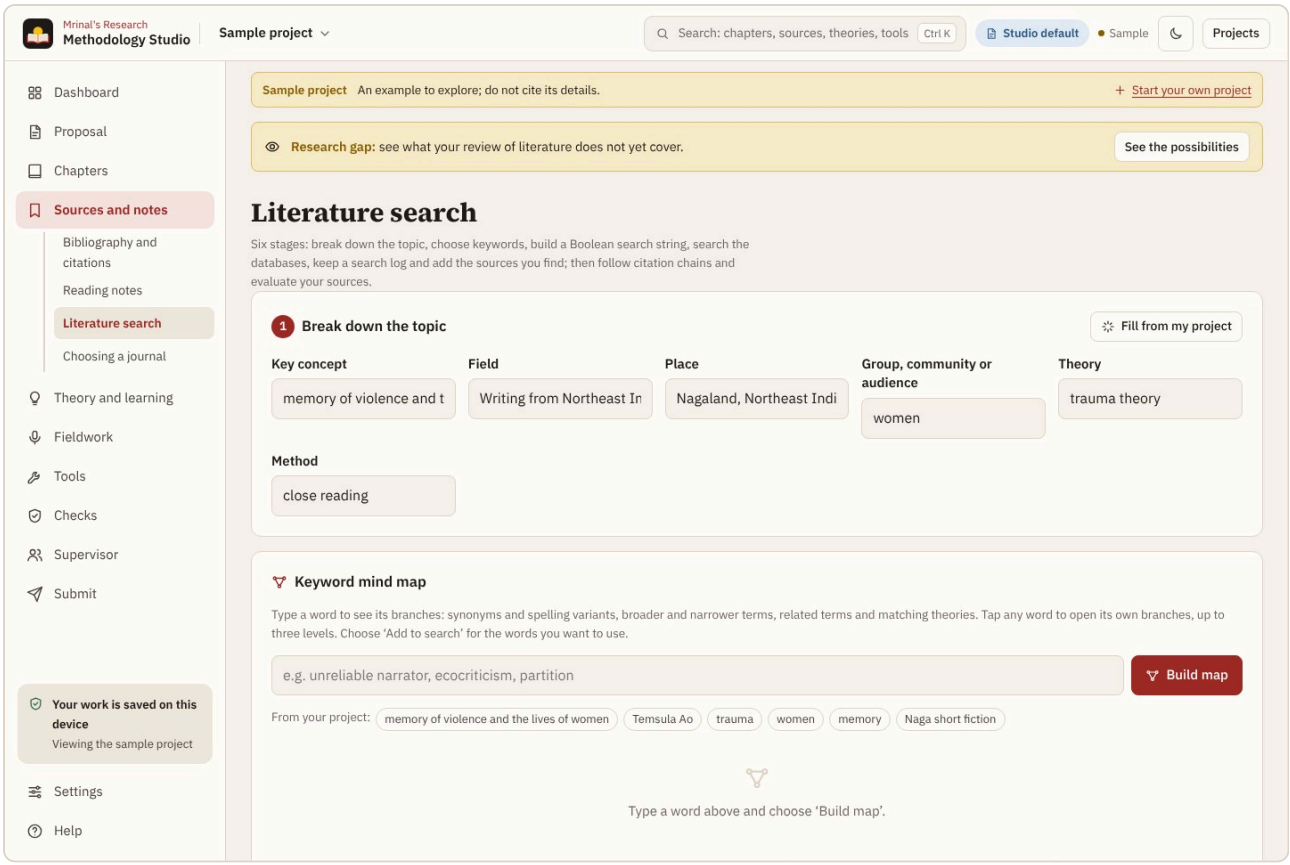


Figure 10.1: Literature search, with the research gap banner

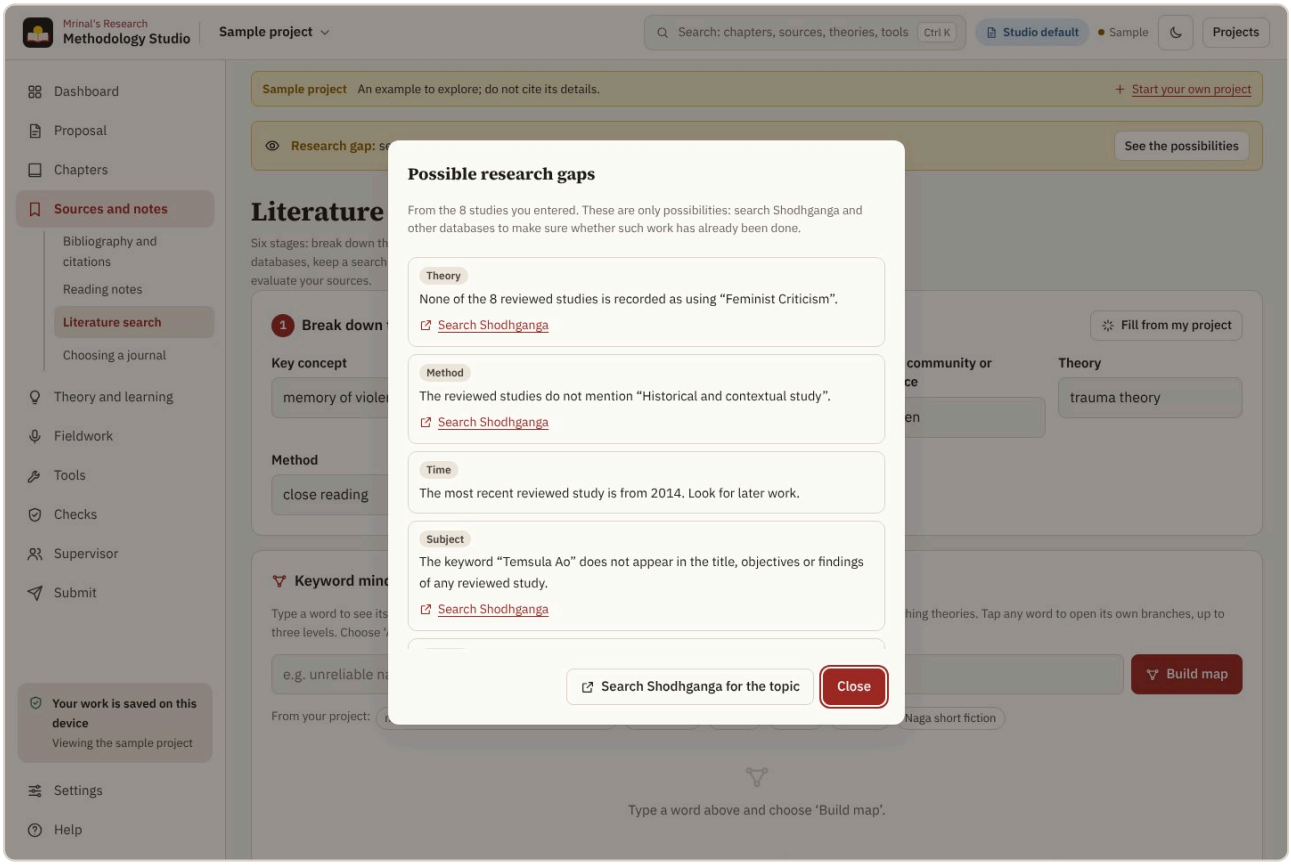


Figure 10.2: Possible research gaps

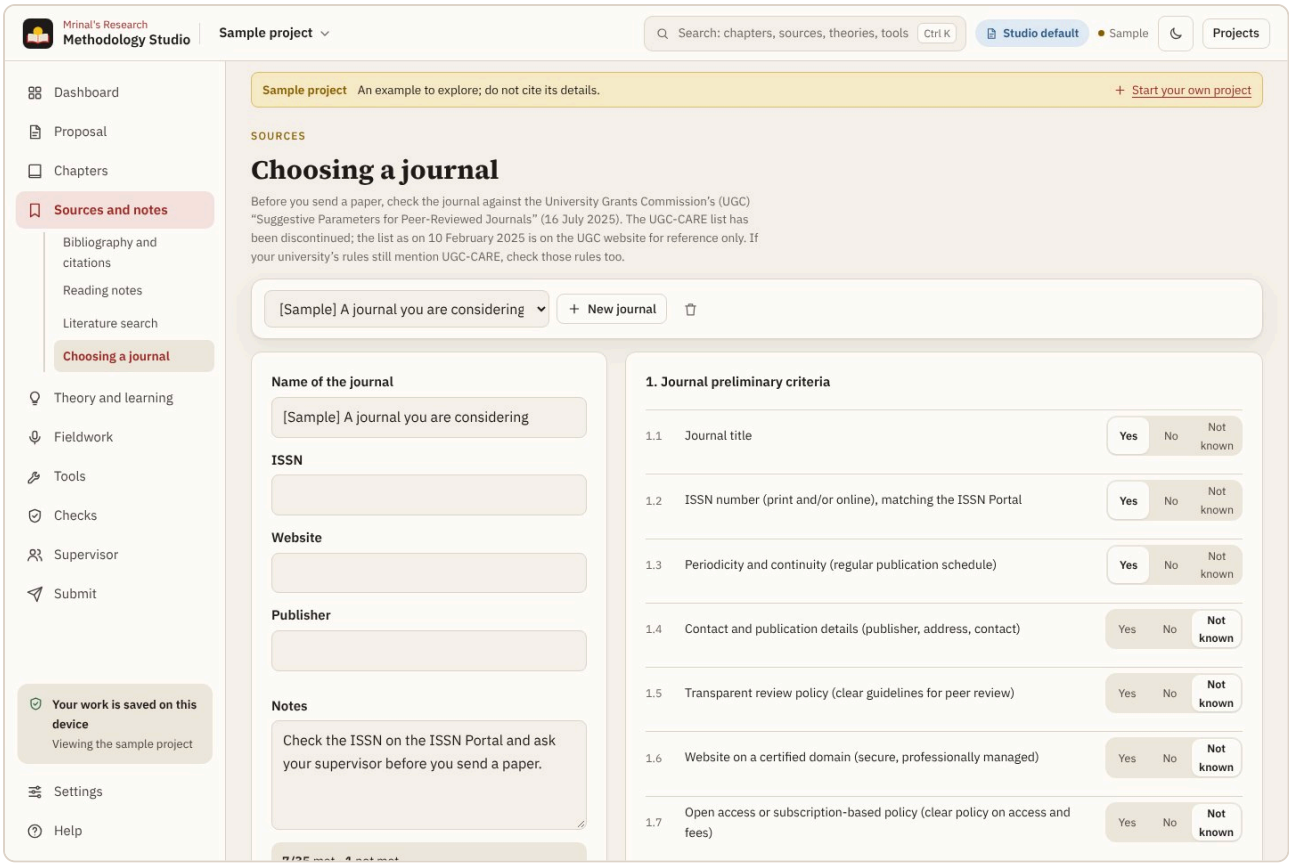


Figure 10.3: Choosing a journal

Chapter 11

Theory and learning

Theory and learning is the studio's reference and practice area. It holds 217 theories (103 for English Literature and 114 for Mass Communication) and two research-design alternatives that serve both, 20 research methods and a glossary of 311 terms. The counts shown in Learn follow your discipline: for English Literature 232 terms, 105 theories and 19 methods; for Mass Communication 215 terms, 116 theories and 19 methods.

The theory library

The theories are arranged in groups and families. For English Literature: text, form and reading; movements and periods; power, identity and history; environment, media and performance; and Indian poetics. For Mass Communication: models, effects and audiences; culture, critique and representation; technology, platforms and news; and global, development and Indian thought. Research-design alternatives serve both.

Each theory card gives the central question, origin and key thinkers, key concepts, key texts with links to the record each was checked against, where it fits, an Indian example, critiques, related theories, research frames and common mistakes. **Choose** adds it to your theoretical framework; **Compare** sets up to three side by side.

New in Version 1.0

- **Writing from Northeast India:** Northeast Indian literary studies, tribal and Adivasi studies, orality and literacy, minor literature, ethnic boundaries, critical regionalism, the politics of nationality, nationalism and imagined communities, and memory studies, with a box of sources and archives for the region.
- **Literary movements:** realism, naturalism, symbolism, modernism, existentialism, surrealism, magical realism, expressionism, Dalit literature, nativism and the progressive movement.
- **Other additions:** comparative literature, hermeneutics, phenomenological criticism, historical-biographical criticism, sociology of literature, masculinity studies, ecofeminism, and for theatre: theatre semiotics, audience and spectatorship, postdramatic theatre and intercultural theatre.

Research directions

The tab **Research directions** helps when you have an interest but not yet a question. Choose an object of study, type keywords of interest and choose an area (or tap **Use my project's object of study and keywords**), then **Find directions**. You get matching theories with question frames, possible ways of collecting and analysing data, theories to read alongside, and a possible study from India and the Northeast.

> **Remember**
>
> The finder suggests directions; it does not say that a study has not been done. Replace the [ ] parts of the question frames with your own text and context, and search the literature before you decide.

The other tabs

- **Glossary:** terms with definitions, related terms and sources.
- **Methods:** each method step by step: when to use it, data, sampling, analysis, mistakes, writing it up and ethics.
- **Objects of study:** kinds of text, medium or practice with their elements and research angles.
- **Flashcards**, **Quiz**, **Practice** and **Viva:** learn the terms, test yourself and prepare for the viva with your own key points.

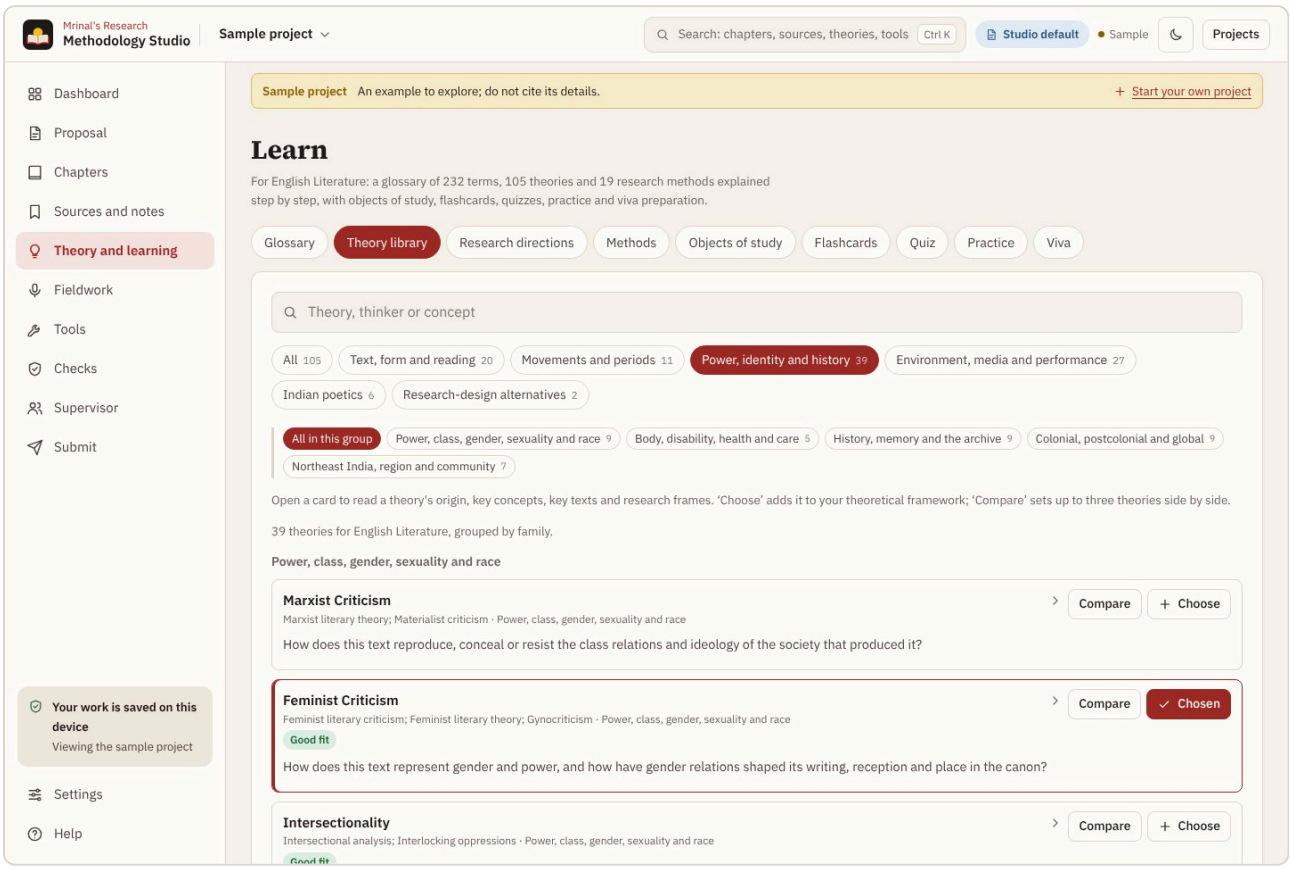


Figure 11.1: The theory library: groups and families

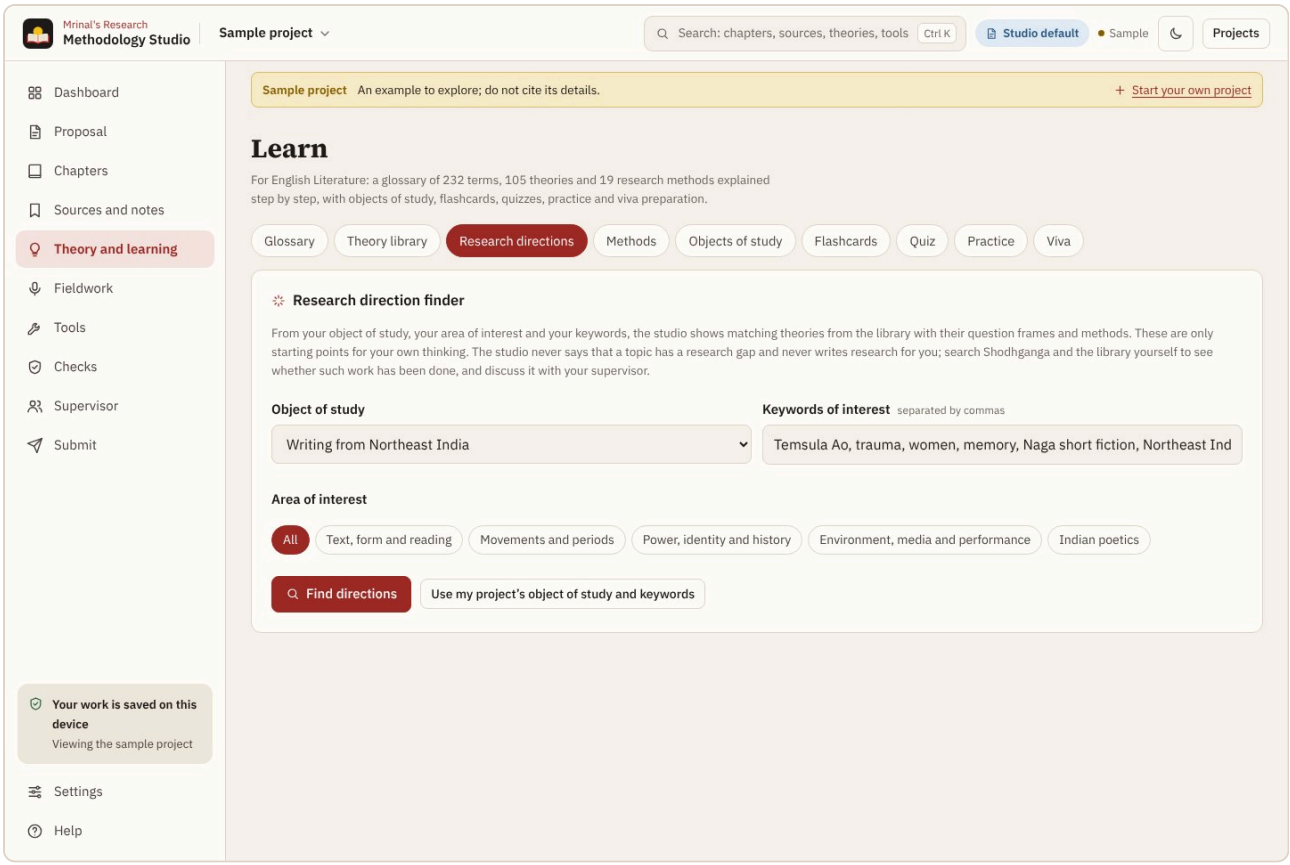


Figure 11.2: The research direction finder

Chapter 12

Fieldwork

Fieldwork has three pages.

- **Field notes and codes:** a field notebook (date, place, participant code and kind of note), coding of passages in the notes, and a codebook in which codes are defined and grouped into themes with example quotations.
- **Data collection tools:** a questionnaire, interview guide, observation sheet, close-reading worksheet (English Literature) or content-analysis coding sheet (Mass Communication), field-note format and informed consent form, filled in from your project and ready to print.
- **Interview transcripts:** type an interview while the recording plays.

Interview transcripts

1. Tap **New transcript** and fill in the name, the participant's code, the date and the place.
2. **Open a recording** to play an audio file on this device, or use the **Stopwatch** while you listen elsewhere.
3. Type what you hear. **Time** (Alt + T) inserts a [minutes:seconds] mark; the speaker buttons insert "Interviewer" or the participant's code; Alt + P plays or pauses.
4. **Send to field notes** puts the transcript in the notebook for coding; **Word** saves it as a file.

> **Take care**
>
> The recording plays on this device only and is never sent or stored anywhere. Use codes instead of names, and follow the consent and anonymity you agreed with the participant.

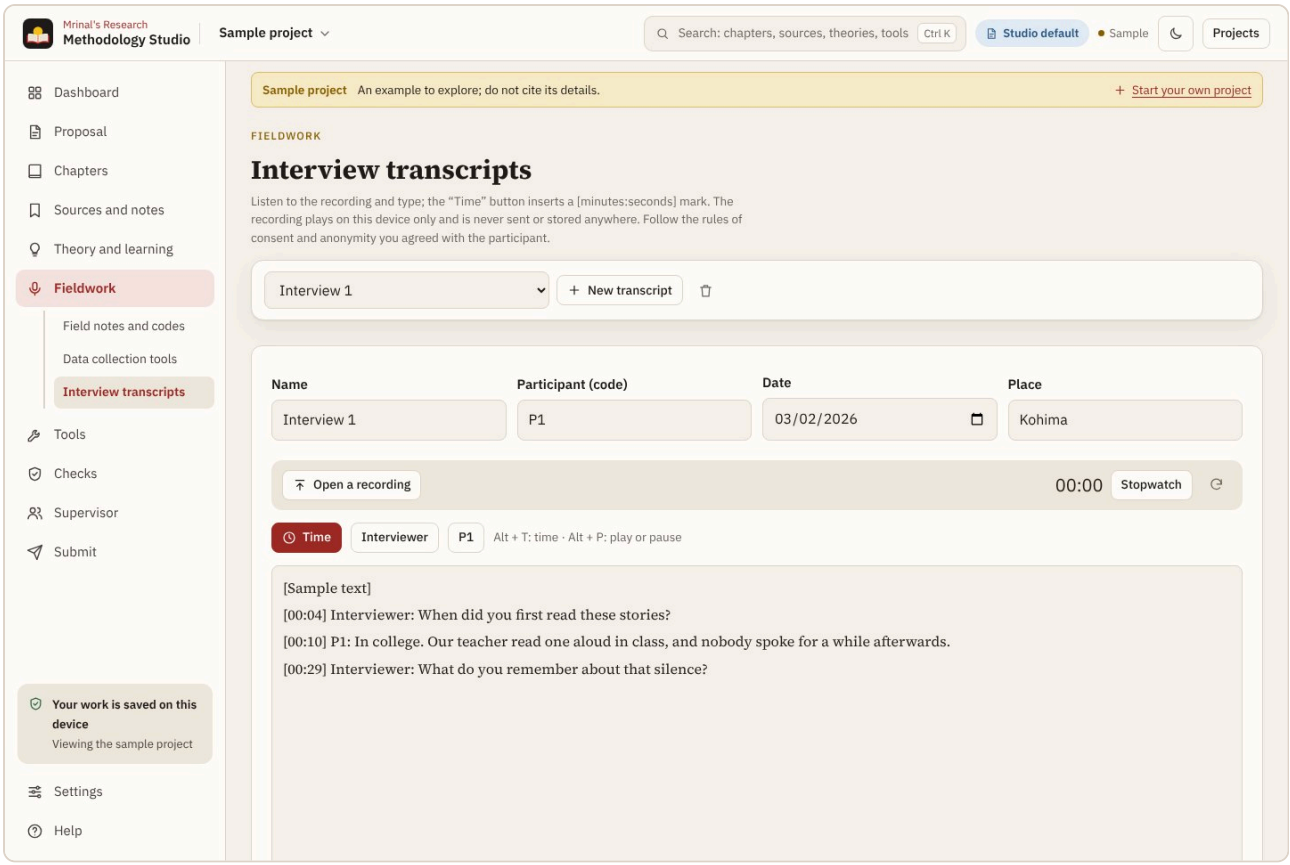


Figure 12.1: An interview transcript with time marks

Chapter 13

Tools

Helpers, charts and models

- **Design advisor:** answer what lies at the centre of your question, your sources of data and anything sensitive; it suggests a nature, design, approach, theories, methods, sampling, analysis and ethical points. When your study reads texts through a theory, choose **Through which theory?** for a plan of analysis in phases, with examples from India.
- **Sample size**, **Statistical test** and **Cronbach's alpha:** for quantitative work.
- **Chart maker** and **Chart chooser:** thesis-ready figures as PNG (16 cm at 300 dpi) or SVG, with figure number, caption and source note.
- **Models and diagrams:** a conceptual framework and a research design flow built from your project, and classic communication and literary models.

Text analysis

Tools → **Text analysis** works on the text of novels, poems, plays, interviews or news reports. Paste the text, open a file (.txt or .docx), or take it **From your chapters**. You get **Word counts** (common words can be hidden, and word forms grouped approximately), a **Concordance** showing every use of a word in its context (an asterisk matches any ending, as in remember*), and **Comparison by part**, which shows how chosen words rise and fall across the text. A line beginning with "Chapter", "Part", "Section", "Act" or "Scene" starts a new part. Everything happens on this device.

Text from a scan

Tools → **Text from a scan** turns phone photos, scanned pages (JPG, PNG; several at once) or the pages of a PDF into editable English text, on the device and without the internet. For a PDF, choose which pages to read. The picture can be rotated and cleaned in several ways; **Automatic** tries two and keeps the better. Doubtful words are marked, and numbers are highlighted because they must always be checked. **Copy**, **All pages (.txt)** or **Save as a quotation** (with the source and page) take the text out.

> **Remember**
>
> Pages printed by old letterpress may need more correction. Check the text against the original picture before you use it.

Saka, Bhaskarabda and CE dates

For manuscripts, records and old periodicals of Assam: choose the era of the year as given (Saka or Bhaskarabda) and type the year, and the month if known. The studio gives the year in the Common Era (CE). The rule used: Saka year = CE − 78 (the year begins in March), Bhaskarabda = CE − 593

(the year begins in mid-April). Old documents may follow other rules for the start of the year; in your thesis, also give the year as it appears in the source.

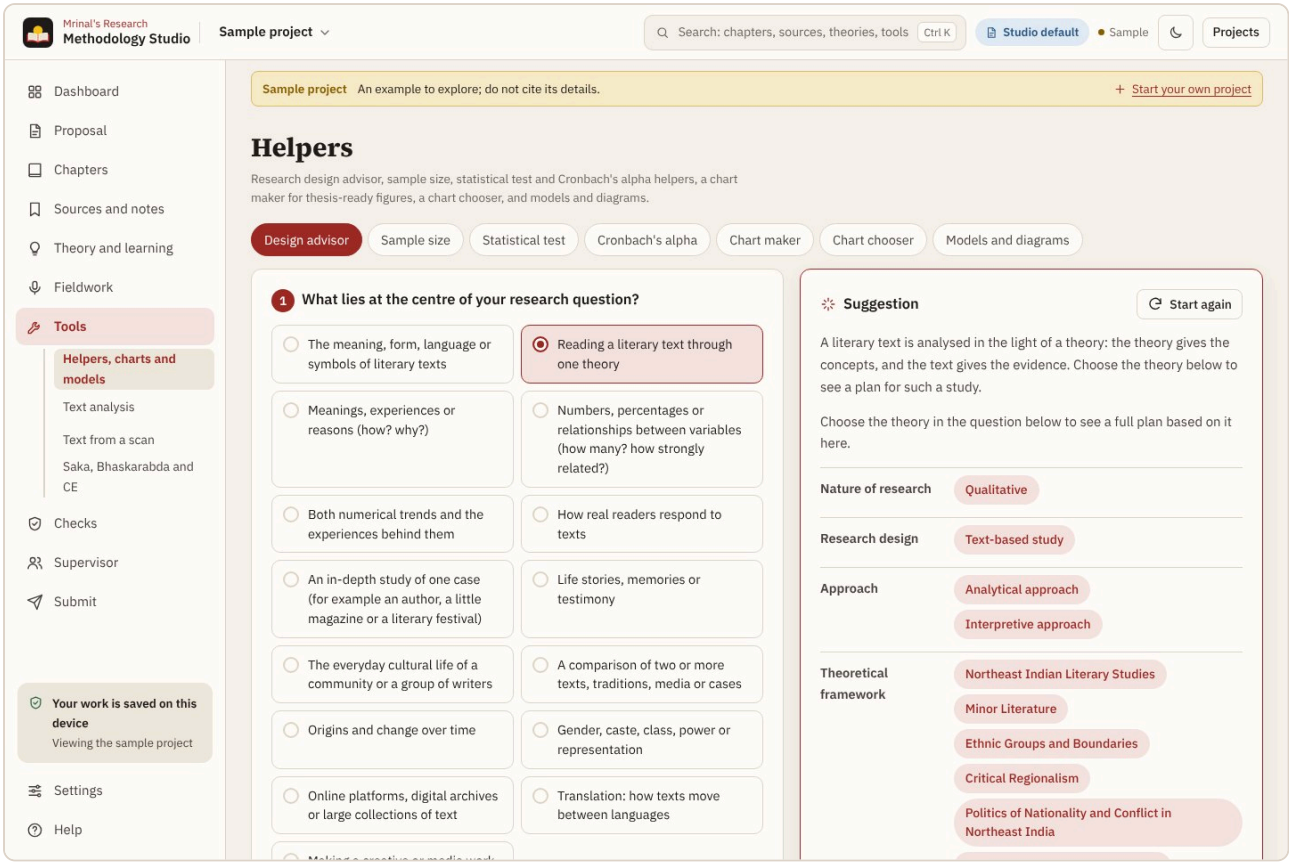


Figure 13.1: The design advisor: reading texts through a theory

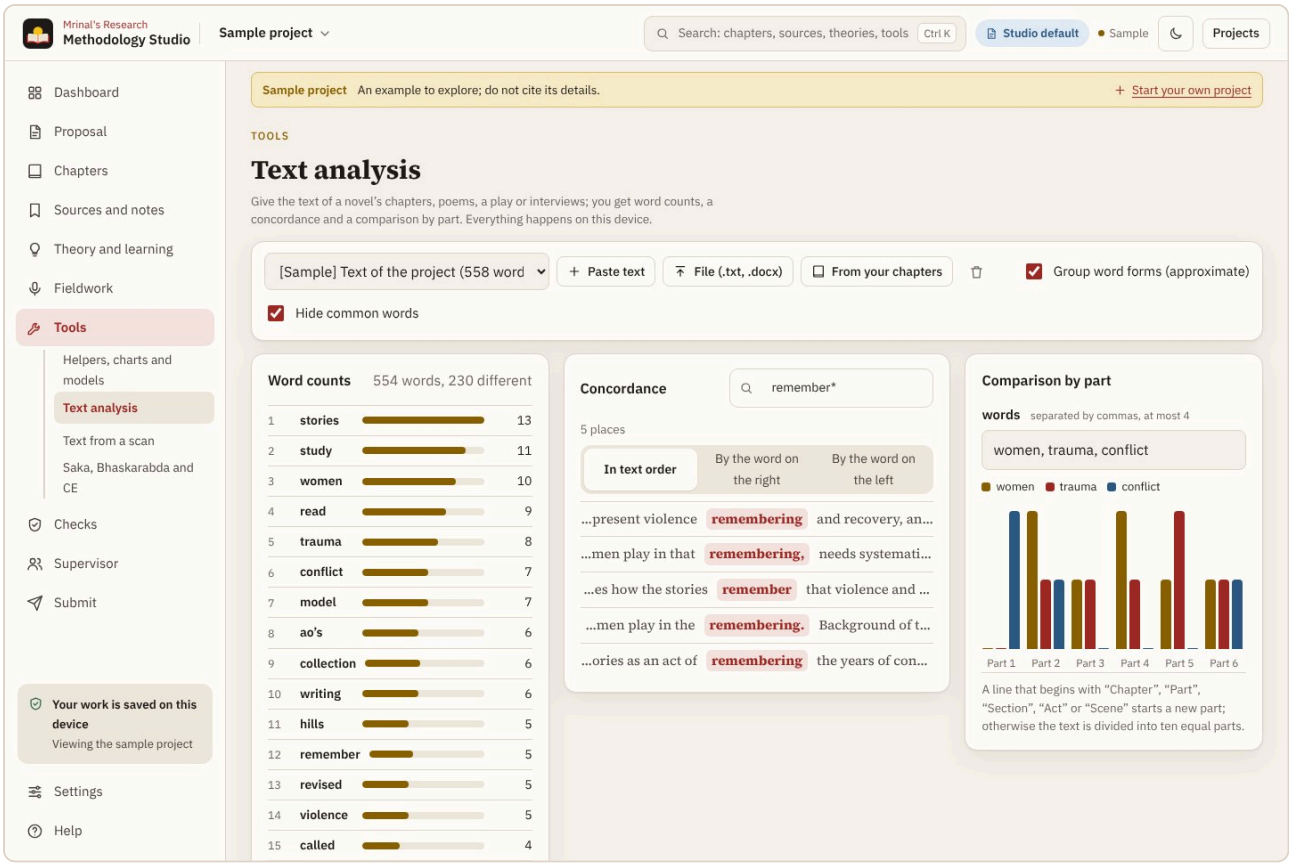


Figure 13.2: Text analysis

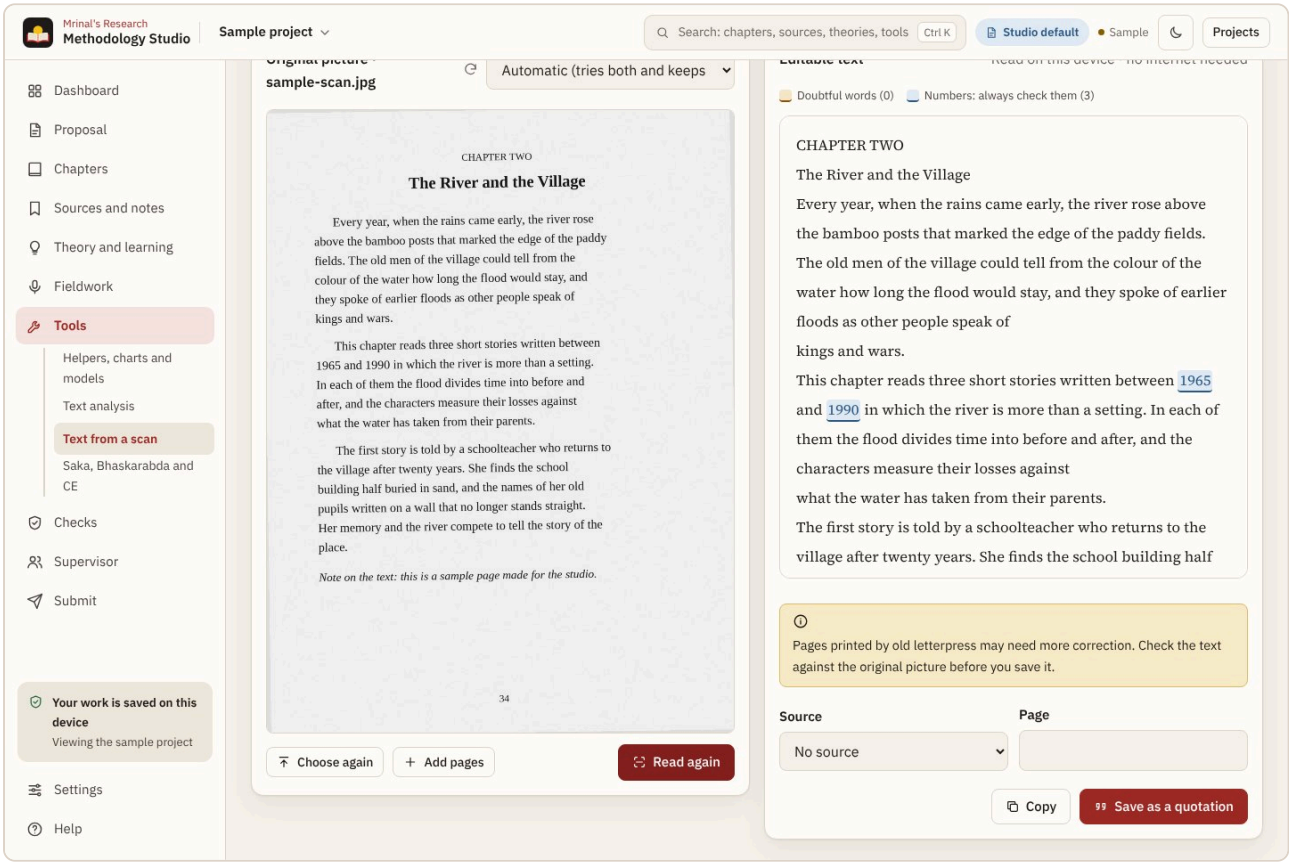


Figure 13.3: Text from a scan

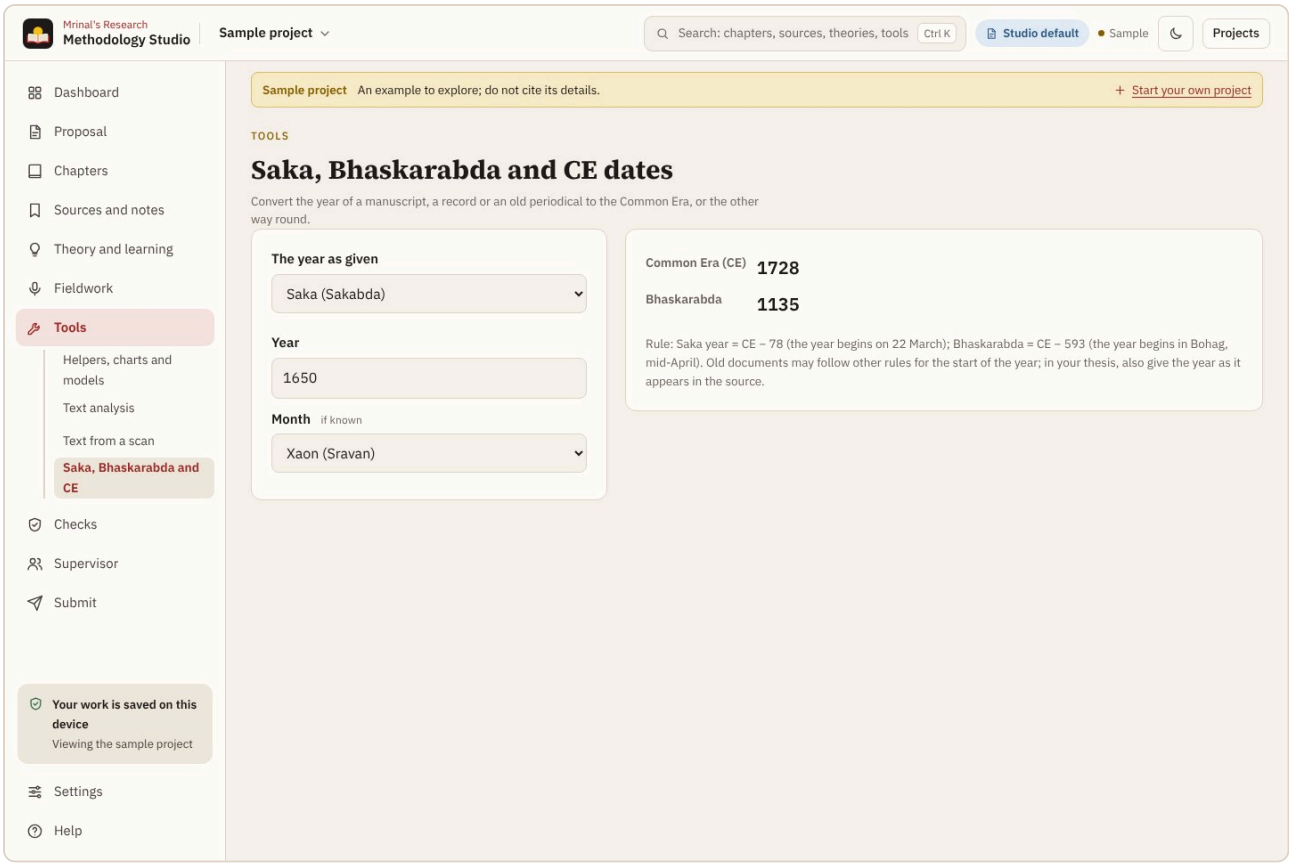


Figure 13.4: Saka, Bhaskarabda and CE dates

Chapter 14

Checks and supervisor review

Checks

Checks reads the project and points out gaps and mismatches, sorted into **Must fix**, **Warning** and **Suggestion**; **Fix it** takes you to the place. The **Logic map** draws the line from topic to problem, gap, theory, questions, objectives, methods and chapters, and the checklists cover the problem, alignment, sources, questionnaire, ethics, viva and predatory journals.

Working with your supervisor

1. Open **Supervisor**. Under **Send to your supervisor**, tick **Research proposal** and, if you have drafts in the writing guide, **Written draft**. Every chapter with text on the writing page is included as well.
2. Tap **Save review file**. The studio saves an .html file and keeps the current draft as a version. Send the file by email or WhatsApp.
3. Your supervisor opens it in any browser, with no key, no account and no internet, writes comments under each section and sends back a comments file or the copied text.
4. Tap **Open comments file** or **Paste comments**. Each comment appears under its section; comments on a chapter also appear in the **Comments** tab of the writing page. Write your response and tick **Resolved**.

Save version keeps the draft before major changes; **Compare** shows what has changed and **Restore** goes back to it.

> **Remember**
>
> When your supervisor approves the proposal, mark it as approved in Settings. The studio then shows any later change against the approved version.

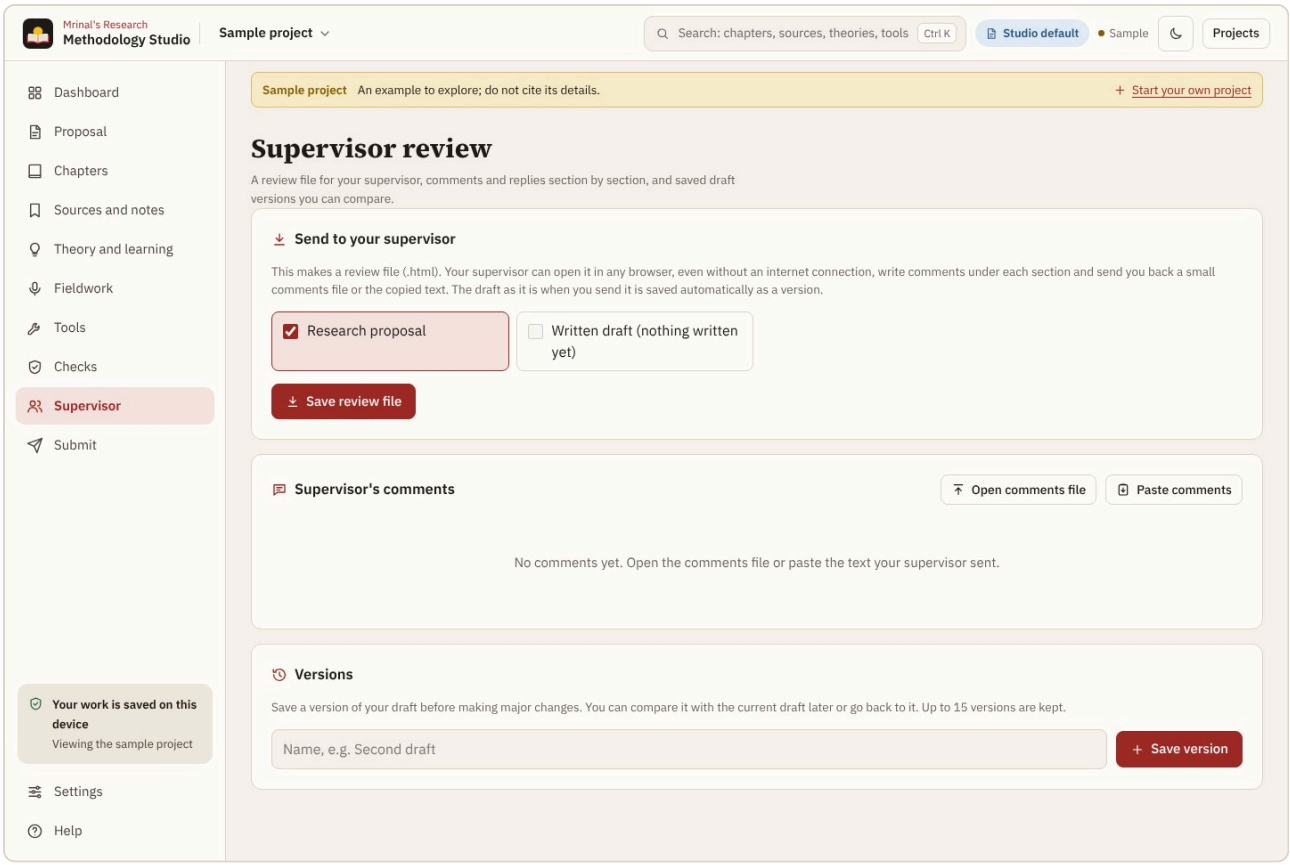


Figure 14.1: Supervisor review

Chapter 15

Submitting

Submit prepares the Word file of the whole dissertation or thesis in your university format: title page, declaration, supervisor's certificate and the other preliminary pages your format asks for, acknowledgements, the declaration on the use of AI tools, contents, the chapters with their footnotes, and the reference list.

- **Word file (sources cited):** the reference list holds only the sources cited in the chapters.
- **Word file (all sources):** every source in the bibliography.
- **PDF (print or save):** the whole work in your format; choose Save as PDF in the print window. The notes come at the end of each chapter and the contents list has no page numbers; for footnotes at the foot of the page and page numbers in the contents, make the PDF from the Word file.
- **Chapter-wise files for Shodhganga:** the preliminary pages, each chapter and the bibliography as separate Word files in one zip file. Open them in Word and save them as PDFs to submit.
- **Abstract: Put together from the chapter summaries** gives a starting draft; then write the abstract yourself.
- **Declaration on the use of AI tools:** tick only what you actually did, or that you used none. The declaration goes on the preliminary pages.
- **Researcher's details:** used on the title page and in the declaration.

> **Remember**
>
> When the Word file first opens, Word may ask whether to update the contents; choose Yes. In LibreOffice, choose Tools, then Update, then Update All. If your university has its own forms for the declaration and certificates, use those.

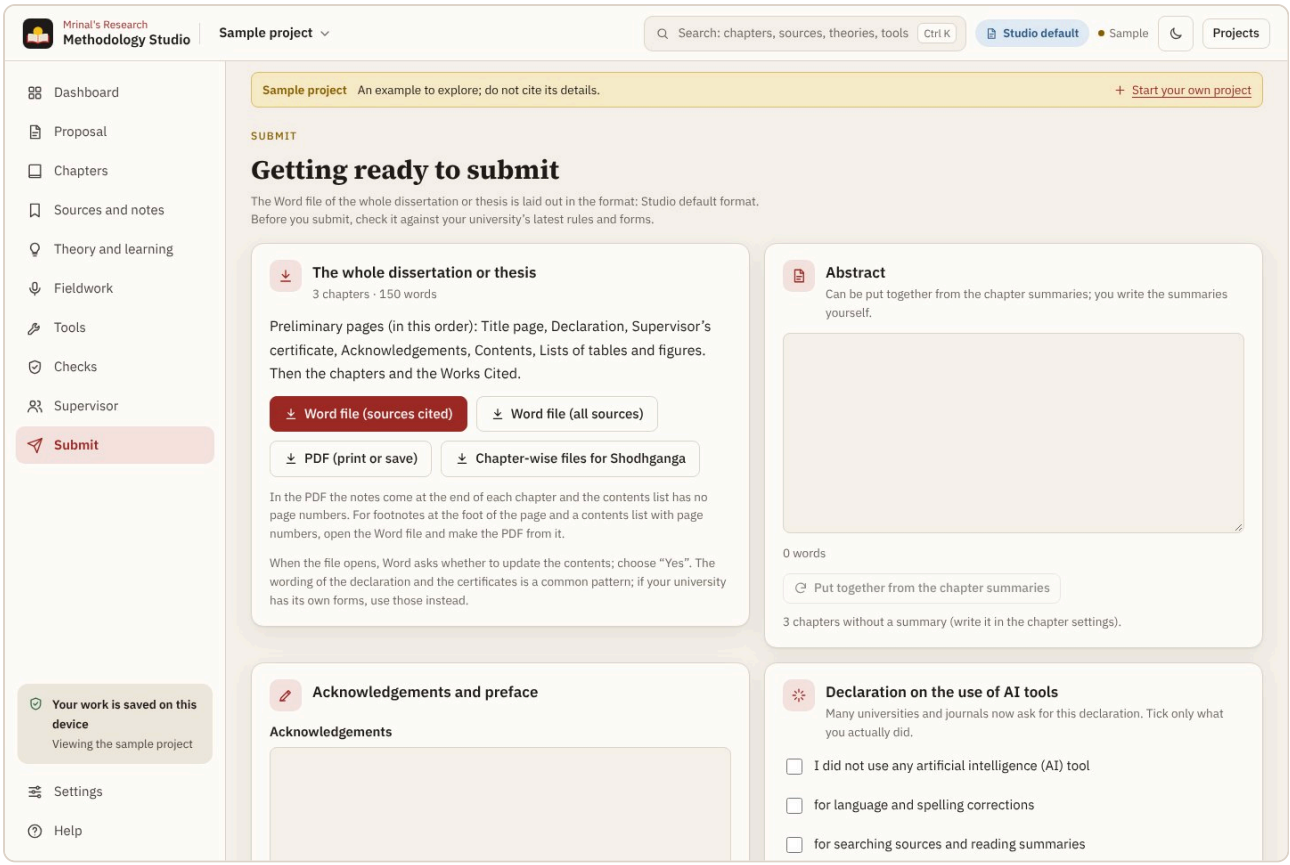


Figure 15.1: Getting ready to submit

Chapter 16

Saving, backups and the lock

Where your work is kept

Your work is saved in your browser's database (IndexedDB) on this device. It does not go to the studio's server. Only the key and device details when you buy and activate a key, and feedback when you send it, go to the server. Work from earlier versions of the studio moves into the database by itself when Version 1.0 opens.

Earlier drafts

The studio keeps the last state of each day for 30 days, and after that one a week. Open **Settings** → **Saving and backup** → **Earlier drafts**, or **Earlier drafts** on the writing page, choose a date, and bring back one chapter or the whole project.

Backups

- **Projects** → **Back up this project (.json)** saves a backup file.
- **Share a backup** (on phones that allow it) sends the file to yourself by WhatsApp, Drive, Bluetooth and the like. **Copy backup** copies it as text when a file will not download.
- **Open a backup file** or **Paste a backup** brings the work back on another device. A backup always opens as a new project, so nothing is overwritten.

> **Take care**
>
> If you clear the browser's data, change or lose your phone without a backup, the work cannot be recovered. Take a backup at least once a week and keep it off the device. When the last backup is more than 7 days old, the dashboard and the Projects button remind you.

Locking a project

If others also use your computer (in a lab, at a cyber cafe or at home), lock the project. In **Settings** → **Lock and security**, tap **Lock the project** and set a password of at least 6 characters. The text of a locked project is kept in encrypted form; nobody can read it without the password.

- When you lock, the studio gives a **recovery code**. Copy it or save it as a file, and keep it in a safe place.
- **Lock automatically when idle** closes the project after the time you choose. The lock button in the top bar closes it at once.
- Forgot the password? Tap **Forgot the password: enter the recovery code**, then set a new password.
- The backup of a locked project is locked too and opens with the same password.
- **Change the password** and **Remove the lock** are in the same place.

Take care

If both the password and the recovery code are lost, nobody can open the project, not even the makers of the studio.

Chapter 17

Feedback, help and contact

Sending feedback

Found a mistake, something that does not work, or have an idea? Choose **Send feedback** in the Projects menu, on the Help page or at the foot of the start page. Choose the type (bug, suggestion, content error, question or other), write the message and, if you would like a reply, your name and email or WhatsApp number. The form shows exactly what is attached: the app and version, your discipline, type of work and style, the section, your device and browser, the name and serial number on your licence, and the date. Your project and your key are never attached. Nothing is sent until you tap **Send** or **Send by email**.

Help

The Help page is always available, also in the preview: keys and devices, using the studio on Android, iPhone, Windows and Mac, keeping your work safe, charts and models, supervisors and departments, questions and answers, the privacy note and the open-source licences.

Contact

Studio	Mrinal’s Research Methodology Studio (for English Literature and Mass Communication), Version 1.0
Made on behalf of	AANK_A Creative Line · aank.org
Planning and content	Dr Mrinal Jyoti Goswami
Email (keys, orders and help)	mrinal.goswami2026@gmail.com

When you write about a key or an order, give the name on the key and the order number or the key’s serial number. Never send your whole key to anyone except the studio.

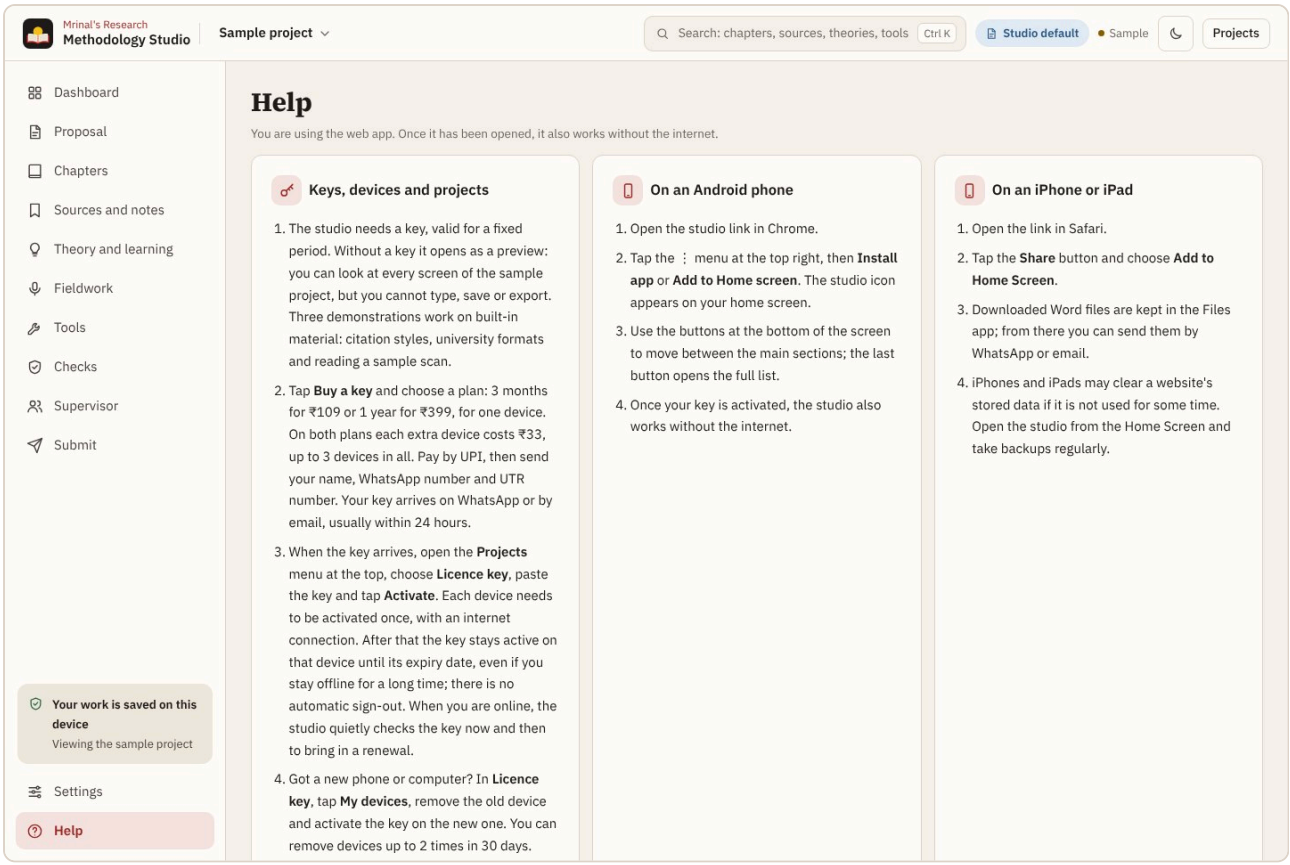


Figure 17.1: The Help page

Chapter 18

Frequently asked questions

Will the studio write my dissertation or thesis?
No. It guides you, shows what must be there and checks what is missing, but the research and the writing are yours.

Do I need the internet?
Only to open the studio the first time, to activate your key on a device, to fetch details from a DOI or ISBN, and to send an order or feedback.

My work from Version 1 of the studio: is it safe?
Yes. When Version 1.0 opens, it moves your projects into the browser's database by itself. Take a backup first all the same.

Which citation styles can I use?
APA 7, MLA 9, Chicago 18 (notes and bibliography, or author-date) and Harvard (Cite Them Right, 13th edition).

My university is not in the list.
Choose the closest format, tap Make your own format from this one and change what differs. Ask your department whether it has prepared a format file.

Can I write my thesis in the studio and finish it in Word?
Yes. Take the Word file at any stage. Changes made in Word do not come back by themselves; to continue in the studio, bring the file in with Import.

Can I move my work to my laptop?
Yes. Take a backup on the phone, send it to yourself, activate your key on the laptop (it counts as a device) and open the backup there.

I forgot the password of a locked project.
Use the recovery code. Without the password or the code the project cannot be opened.

Does my supervisor need a key?
No. The review file opens in any browser, with no key and no account.

Can I cite the sample projects?
No. They are illustrations; their people, institutions, journals and interviews are fictional.

Can I open a backup from the Assamese or Bengali studio?
No. The studios are separate apps, and each opens only its own backups.

The studio still looks old after an update.
Close it completely and open it again while online. An installed app picks up the new version the next time it starts.