

Future Work Statements at SOUPS

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Research Questions

RQ1: How do SOUPS research articles include future work statements?

RQ2: To what extent do researchers address future work statements from SOUPS research articles?

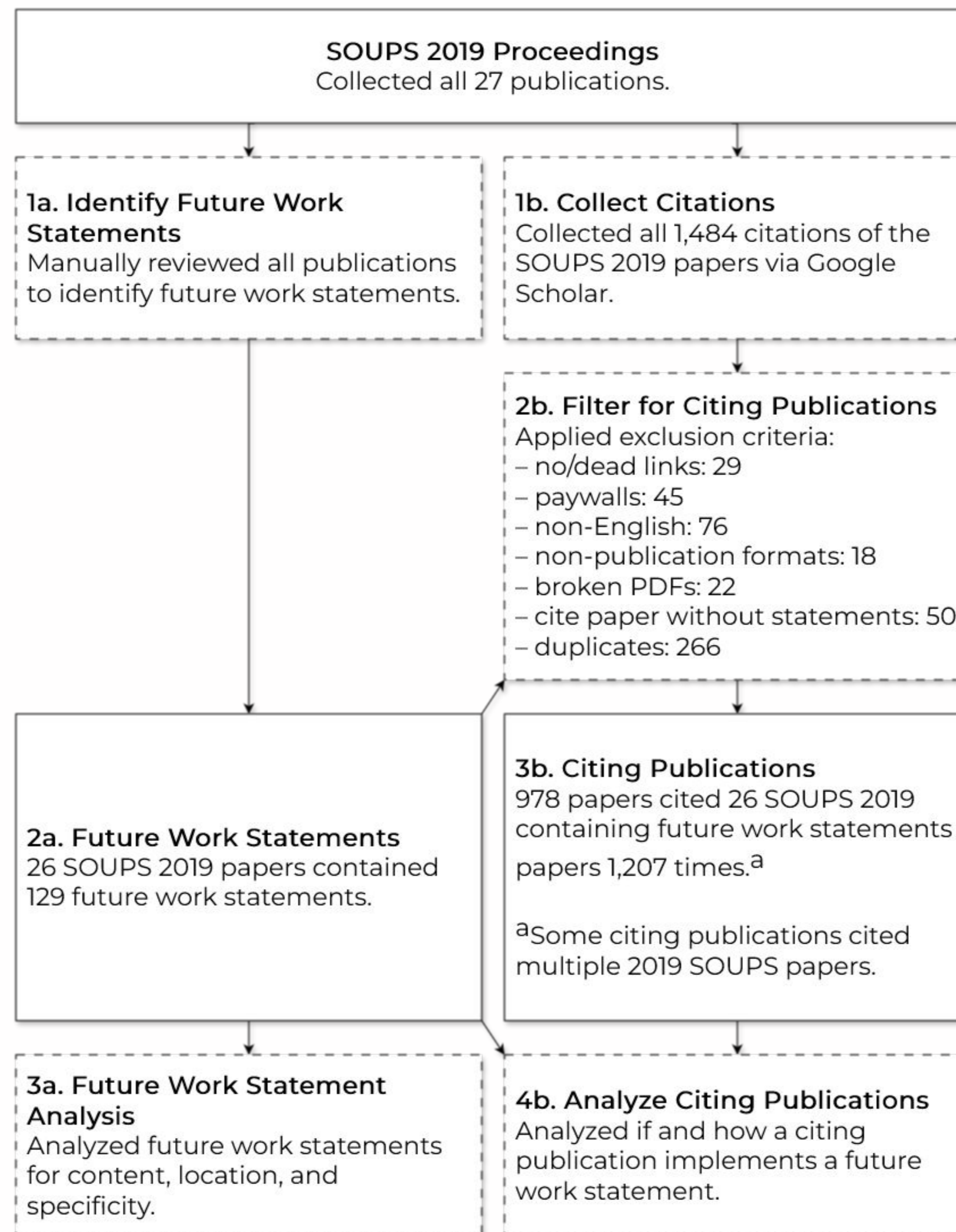
Motivation

- *Future Work Statements (FWS)* are included in many research publications
- FWS suggest directions to advance academic research, e.g., follow-up work, replications.
- FWS might stimulate how fields evolve and could impact the overall body of knowledge.
- Community lacks understanding of how FWS are used, and whether they are implemented.

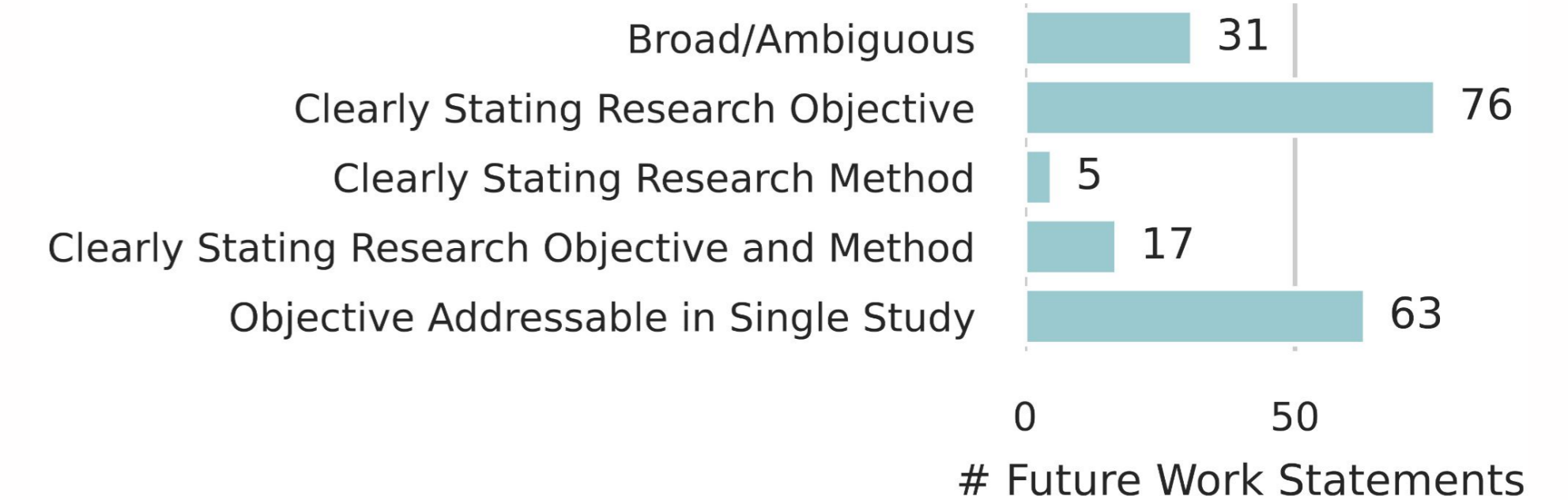
Definition: Future Work Statement

A *future work statement* is a passage in a research article that *suggests* future work *ideas* that the research community could address.

Method



FWS Content



Implementation of FWS

- **Only 8 of 129 FWS were implemented** in 7 publications.
- **Authors rarely implement their own FWS.**
- **Publications might be inspired by earlier papers, without acknowledging FWS from prior publications.**
- **Ambiguous:** “[...] We suggest practical security as an area for future work. [...]”
- **Research Objective and Method:** “[...] In future work, it would be useful to catch behavior changes closer to the moment those behaviors occur, perhaps through a diary study. [...]”

Recommendations for FWS

- **If making a FWS, be specific:** Use insights to describe a research goal or question and its method
- **Make FWS findable:** Ideally, within the *Discussion* in a subsection named *Future Work*
- **Acknowledge when FWS shaped own research**

