Paper Survey

Very often, literature survey is the first step in identifying
a research topic. This article describes few steps in literature
survey:

o Collecting recent research papers.
        - from library
        - from internet
        - Note: especially, from the proceedings of international
technical conferences. Many conferences have their own web site and
usually have abstracts published in web. This helps you to identify
what are current topics in the research community. You can go one step
further by looking up authors' personal page to download the paper.

o What I should do with all the research papers I've collected?

        You can write up one page summary for each paper with following
content:

1. Aim:
        What is the main purpose of this paper? What's the problem(s)
the author(s) attempt to attack?
        What is the ultimate goal for this research?
2. Contributions:
        What is the contribution of this paper to this field?
        How does this paper distinguish itself from others?
3. Limitations:
        What are the limitations of the proposed approach in this
paper?
        Does the proposed scheme limit to certain conditions?
4. Comparison:
        Is there any similar research papers available?
        If so, what is the difference among them?
5. Observation:
        What is my personal observation/opinions of this paper?
        Is there any alternative solution (or better solution) than the
proposed scheme?
6. Questions:
        Do not expect to fully understand all of the content in
this paper!
        Highlight the sections that you don't understand.

Make a copy of this checklist and attach it to each paper you read.
Shuffle it and organize it in any combination you prefer. You might
come up with different ideas and realize the connection among several
papers. Put the author and title of that paper on the top of this
survey sheet. You may include your own personal index number, if
available.

At the end, you should be able to classify all the published papers
into several categories. This helps you to organize all the research
papers and their contributions.