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Unfolding the Concept of Convenience Voting: Definition, Types, Benefits and Barriers.

Master's thesis

HAGM; Technology Governance and Digital Transformation

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I hereby declare that I have compiled the thesis independently
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List of Abbreviations 1

CODE:	Cost of Democratic Elections
ETIS:	Estonian Research Information System
E-voter:	Electronic voter
E-voting:	Electronic voting
HAVA:	Help America Vote Act
ICCPR:	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
International IDEA:	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
OHCHR:	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
StArt:	State of the Art through Systematic Review
UK:	United Kingdom
UFSCar:	Federal University of São Carlos
US:	United States of America
VBM:	Vote by Mail
WHO:	World Health Organisation
E.G.	Example

ABSTRACT

Elections are the cornerstone of democracy. With each turn in an election cycle, voting reforms have evolved, consequently birthing convenience voting. Convenience Voting is based on accessibility, legitimacy and customer-centric philosophy. The recent decline of democratic participation and postponement of elections due to the Covid19 pandemic has further prompted some countries to explore convenience voting as an alternative to election day voting. The main aim of this thesis is to unfold the concept of convenience voting as there is a lack of clear understanding of its definition, use of terminology and its types. This thesis uses the meta-synthesis approach to conduct a systematic literature review of 131 papers to address the overarching research question 'How is convenience voting defined in academic literature'. The main findings are that convenience voting methods are primarily defined according to a change in time and place from election day voting. Based on the literature review, there are currently twenty-three convenience voting methods with at least eleven bearing synonyms. In light of this, this thesis (i) clearly defined convenience voting based on academic literature; (ii) presented a systematic literature review of the types of convenience voting; (iii) highlighted an overview of the benefits and barriers to convenience voting (iv) defined the types of convenience voting; (v) classified types of convenience voting into relevant archetypes and finally (vi) proposed a refined definition of convenience voting. Therefore, the findings led to the recommendation that governments should consider adopting convenience voting methods in preparation for the current and future pandemics/predicaments to uphold electoral integrity. Additionally, future research should use clear definitions and synonyms of each voting type when addressing convenience voting. Electoral assistance and relevant stakeholders should also have a unified definition and view of convenience voting and its methods to avoid misunderstandings and slowing down research.

Keywords: *Convenience voting, Internet Voting, E-voting, Absentee voting, Early voting, Election-day voting, Vote by Mail, Remote voting, Absentee voting*

1   INTRODUCTION

George J Nathan often said that "Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote." Evidence shows that this powerful civil right in recent times seemingly has been taken for granted with a notable decline in voter turnout globally (Solijonov, 2016). In the United States, as many as half of the eligible voters still do not vote in national elections (Rodriguez, 2020). A survey done in the UK found that citizens do not vote due to disillusionment, lack of knowledge, belief that one's vote would be wasted, and voter apathy (Cassidy, 2019). Thus, some countries have adopted alternative voting methods of election day registration and convenience voting methods to lure people into voting (Germann and Serdült, 2017).This thesis is investigating the concept of convenience voting; its definition, types, benefits and barriers.

While the prime goal in adopting these alternative methods is to increase voter turnout, countries now realise that this could be a necessity in order to accommodate situations such as a pandemic (Krimmer, Duenas-Cid and Krivonosova 2021). The Covid19 pandemic (An infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus (WHO, n.d)) revealed the strength of some systems that continued to run independently of human physical involvement. Some of these systems are education and money transfers; however, it also exposed the heavily dependent systems on it. The electoral system has been no exception to this dependency. At least 78 countries postponed elections during February 21, 2020, and April 2021 owing to the pandemic (IDEA International 2021). According to James and Alihodzic (2020), natural disasters such as pandemics are reasonable grounds to postpone an election as they pose a threat to human life. Humanitarian postponement of elections thus, according to the authors, is democratically legitimate. However, the periodic Principle of elections stipulates that elections should be held in regular intervals to be seen as legitimate. Thus, the authors advise that election integrity be safeguarded by introducing low-tech solutions such as early voting and postal voting, all of which are considered convenient voting methods.

The discussions by Krimmer, Duenas-Cid and Krivonosova (2021) draw two main scenarios that come to play when deciding to hold an election during a pandemic; "continue using the existing system but include measures to ensure the health of participants"; or similarly to James and Alihodzic (2020) suggestion, "look for alternatives among remote voting channels which

could ensure social distancing is guaranteed either by postal voting or internet voting." (p2). As the authors state, the challenge with the former is a plausible decrease in turnout, especially of vulnerable groups such as older people and other Covid-19 high-risk groups.

Statistics show that over 79 countries decided on the former and conducted national elections using traditional election day methods by implementing safety measures recommended by the International IDEA. These safety measures range from ensuring social distancing, use of handwashing facilities or hand sanitisers, ventilation of the polling station, the cleaning of voting materials, and personal protective equipment for polling officials (Asplund et al. 2021). However, this presented several challenges. Studies point out that some of these include "lack of funding, technical glitches, legitimacy concerns" and, as highlighted by Krimmer, Duenas-Cid and Krivonosova (2021), 'low turnout' (Maizland 2020). It can be argued that this also contributed to a plausible rise in Covid-19 infections. Ultimately, the stress from the pandemic to electoral systems brought out the need for States to broaden ways of participation in the democratic process even more. Krimmer, Duenas-Cid and Krivonosova (2021) discuss the latter scenario, postal voting and internet voting, as being credible options despite limitations. To many, one word may come to mind when considering Postal and Internet Voting as an alternative method of voting: Convenience.

A widely used definition by Gronke (et al. 2008 p. 438) defines Convenience voting as "any mode of balloting" that makes voting "more convenient (less costly) by allowing voters to cast a ballot at a place and time other than the precinct polling place on Election Day." Orr similarly defines it as "relaxed administrative rules and procedures by which citizens can cast a ballot at a time and place other than the precinct on election day" (Orr 2014 p.152). This thesis uses Gronke (et al. 2008) definition as a working definition as this is the most used definition in academic literature. This will further be refined based on findings. Using this definition, we find that voting by post and via the internet rightfully falls under convenience voting methods. Other commonly known types of convenience voting include but are not limited to "phoning to a special system, casting a ballot early at a local elections office or voting centre" (Gronke et al. 2008 p.438). This list is not exhaustive, and thus the purpose of this study is to clearly define and map out all main ways of convenience voting.

While there have been several studies on the subject, there is a dearth of comprehension in terminology about types of Convenience Voting. Firstly, this is because the Research has been

partial and primarily focused on individual voting systems; secondly, the evolution of voting systems has happened, isolated and country-based. Thus, even the names of similar voting systems are different. As evidence, Gronke et al. (2008) point out that Postal Voting is referred to as Vote by Mail in the United States or as Absentee voting, whereas in Sweden, it is used to describe in-person voting at the post office. The authors additionally highlight that in some localities in the US, absentee balloting can be done in person (often referred to as early voting) or via mail. Thus, this has resulted in many localities not distinguishing between the two when reporting absentee ballot figures—arguably affecting the quality of Research in this field. Gronke et al. (2008) mention that in Oregon, a special computer program provided to persons with disability to fill out the ballot is referred to as e-voting whereas Keshk and Abdul-Kader (2007) define e-voting as "an election system that uses electronic ballots that would allow voters to transmit their voted ballot to election officials over the Internet …" (p. 237).

Moreover, what's described by Keshk and Abdul-Kader (2007) as e-voting is referred to as I-voting or online voting by Germann and Serdült, (2017). In defining the concept, we find that what Gronke et al. (2008) refer to as convenience Voting (postal voting, internet voting methods) is referred to as Special Voting by Arseneau and Roberts (2019). As a result of this lack of clarity, the development of a convenient voting system has somewhat been chaotic with literature using different terminology to describe the same voting method. To further exemplify other instances that may breed erroneous conclusions, Absent voting, as defined by Laing et al. (2018) refers to a form of voting where the voter casts their vote on Election Day at a voting centre outside the electorate for which they are registered. This can easily be confused with Absentee Voting, which essentially is voting by mail. These and many other scenarios are slowing down the research advancements in Convenience voting.

This Research is relevant to democratic Governments seeing as elections are at the core of democracy. Higher voter turnout increases the legitimacy of an election and thus the elected government. However, the declining democratic participation since the beginning of the 1990s, as highlighted by Solijonov (2016), raises concerns by election stakeholders. Nonetheless, while the decline in voter turnout can be attributed to various factors, the difficulty of Election Day voting has not made the situation any easier. Convenience voting plausibly offers a solution to dealing with the challenges of Election Day voting, such as long queues, lack of time, geographical distance, to mention but a few. It is presumed that convenience voting may lead to an increase in voter turnout. The truth of this matter is subject to further investigation.

Regardless of the outcome, the findings will provide relevant insight for Governments and relevant stakeholders.

This Research is especially relevant in the light of anticipated future pandemics and predicaments. Scientists argue that this will not be the last of the pandemics that the world shall experience in the coming years (Constable & Kushner 2021). It thus is expected that countries will grow in interest and adoption of convenience voting methods to circumvent disrupting democracy through postponing elections or putting lives at risk.

As the interest in this concept rises, it is vital to develop a clear understanding of Convenience Voting and comprehend its implications on elections. Thus, this thesis aims to unfold the concept of convenience voting.

The objectives of this thesis can be summarised as follows:

- Identify and describe the main characteristics/themes of convenience voting.
- Review the current state of the art in Convenience Voting research, identifying its types, benefits, and barriers.

To guide the study, the author formulated one overarching Research question and two sub-questions.

How is convenience voting defined in academic literature?
      1) What are the types of convenience voting?
      2) What are the benefits and barriers of convenience voting?

To achieve this aim, this thesis uses a meta-synthesis approach for a systematic literature review and translation of results of different research papers in convenience voting.

The author conducted this research within the 'Cost of Democratic Elections' project commissioned by the Estonian Research Council (PUT 1361). CODE Research project is a collaboration between TalTech (Estonia) and the Estonian Research Council (Estonia). The main aim is to research the complexities resulting from the introduction of multiple voting channels, mainly to support the convenience of voters. The current case study was the final piece of the four-year project. The author of this thesis was directly involved in this project as part of the research team, thus collecting and reviewing academic literature in the field of convenience voting, analysis, and writing an academic paper. Consequently, this thesis,

including parts of the findings from the literature review and meta-synthesis analysis, will form part of the planned academic publication, with the author of this thesis doubling as a co-author.This thesis is organised in the following manner. Chapter 2 presents a theoretical background on convenience voting. Chapter 3 discusses Research Methodology. Chapter 4 features the Findings of the Research Questions and the Discussions of Sub-question two. Chapter 5 presents a Discussion of the findings of the leading research question and subquestion one. Lastly, Chapter 6 offers the Conclusions.

2   THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1   Towards a Comprehensive Understanding of 'Convenience Voting'

Definition. In discussing Convenience Voting, it is essential to define the subject matter. Oxford dictionary defines Convenience as "the state of being able to proceed with something without difficulty." Drawing from this, one may define Convenience Voting as 'Voting without difficulty', which agreeably is the goal of convenience voting. Similarly, McAllister and Muller (2018) allude to participation being made easy. According to Keshk and Abdul-Kader, (2007), convenience voting is when a voting method enables a voter "to cast votes quickly with minimal equipment or skills" (p. 238). Seemingly in agreement, Mcdonald, Shino and Smith (2015) quote former Democratic Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrik in describing convenience voting as whenever a law expands access to the ballot and makes it easier for people to register and vote (Shino and Smith, 2005).

Gronke et al. (2008) offer a more comprehensive definition of Convenience voting citing it"as any channel making voting more convenient (less costly) by allowing voters to cast a ballot at a place and time other than the precinct polling place on Election Day" (p. 438). Likewise, Orr (2014) writes, "Convenience voting involves 'relaxed administrative rules and procedures by which citizens can cast a ballot at a time and place other than the precinct on election day" (Orr, 2014; Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, 2007; Gronke et al. 2008). Goerres and Rabuza (2018) describe Convenience Voting as the "big family of policies that remedies problems with substantial opportunity costs of voting." The authors cite that "if voters can omit the inflexible precinct-level voting act as is possible in many electoral democracies, lower aggregate turnout due for those with high social opportunity costs would be omitted". Similarly, McAllister (2018) highlights that for participation to be made as easy as possible, "... election authorities have progressively relaxed the requirement that other than in exceptional circumstances, voters must cast their ballot only on election day (McAllister and Muller, 2018). In contrast, a different term describing similar attributes of convenience voting is found in an article by Arseneau and Roberts, (2019). They write about special voting in New Zealand, enabling electors to cast their vote when overseas, voting outside their electorate, voting remotely, or are not on the printed roll for their electorate. They may be cast in advance or on polling day. However, according to Arseneau and Roberts (2019), not all votes cast in advance are considered special votes as what matters is where the vote is cast and when the voter enrolled. The authors expound, citing that most advance votes are ordinary votes and are

part of the preliminary result; however, overseas votes are special votes and are included only as part of the official count (Arseneau and Roberts, 2019).

Conclusively, these definitions coincide with the working definition of this thesis and the very essence of the definition of 'convenience'. That said, we must also consider that only Gronke (et al. 2008) offers a concrete definition of convenience voting. Apart from its wide usage, this is another reason it is the working definition of this thesis.

Based on the above definitions, we see that Convenience Voting involves implementing laws that make voting easier. However, to acquire insight into the implications of Convenience voting brings about the ease of voting, it is critical to understand 'how hard' it has been to vote in the past. An excellent place to start is having an overview exploration of the electoral process.

The Electoral Process. An election is "the process of choosing a person or a group of people for a position, especially a political position, by voting" (Oxford, n.d). International IDEA refers to elections as the cornerstone of democratic governance and political stability (Elections | International IDEA, n.d). Mesfin (2008) similarly alludes to Elections as the founding pillars of a democratic political system regardless of whether it is fragile or established (Mesfin, 2008). Article 25 (b) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) states that every citizen has the right "…to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors" (United Nations, n.d). In line with this, Article 21 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 states that:

> "Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. "

> "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. (OHCHR | Universal Declaration of Human Rights, n.d, article 25)"

According to (Hinz and Suksi, 2003), delving deeper into this highlight certain distinct features of an election which can be chronologically organised in the context of an election into eight principles: (i) periodic elections, (ii) genuine elections (iii) stand for election (iv) universal

suffrage (v) voting in elections based on the right to vote (vi) equal suffrage (vii) secret vote and (viii) free expression of the will of the voters. The authors further expound that voting on election day does not exhaust elections but rather the continuous character of elections implies an "ongoing process of cyclical nature" (Hinz and Suksi, 2003 p 3 par 1). Hinz and Suksi (2003) expound that the process will begin again when an election is done. Thus, these principles in their chronological order comprise the Electoral cycle. The Electoral cycle is a visual planning and training tool that aims to assist agencies, electoral officials, and other forms of electoral assistance to understand the cyclical nature of the challenges encountered in the electoral processes (Electoral cycle," n.d.). It is grouped into three main components: (i) pre-electoral period: The time for calling an election until the start of polling, (ii) the electoral period: the day or period in which the vote is cast and post-electoral period: time in which the results are announced, and a new election is called (Suksi 2003 as cited in Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007).

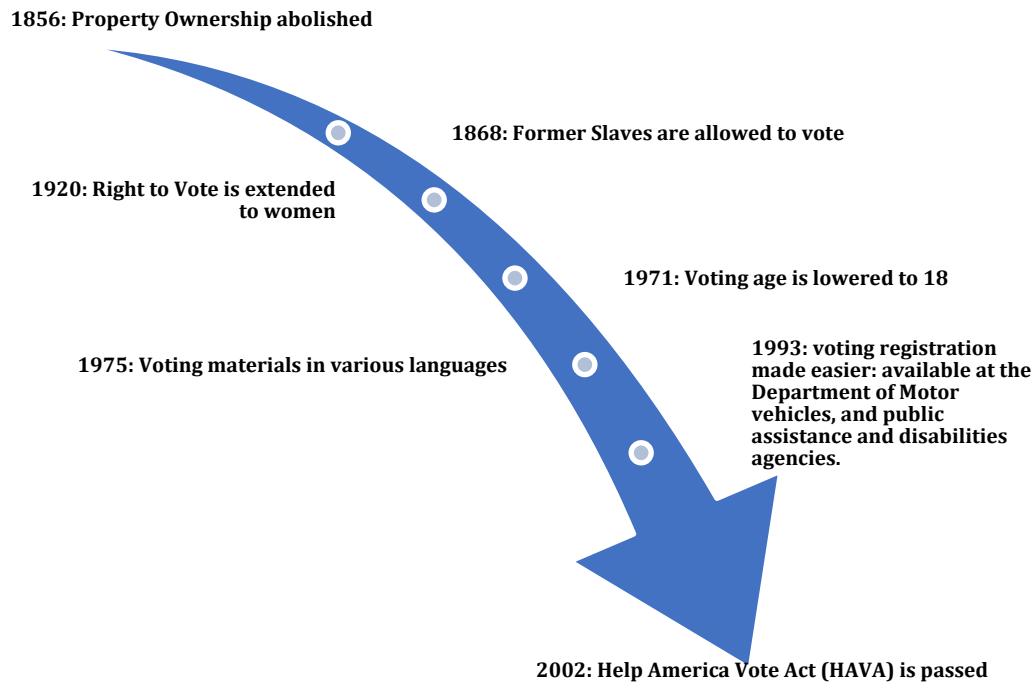**Figure 1. The Electoral Cycle (Hinz and Suksi, 2003)**
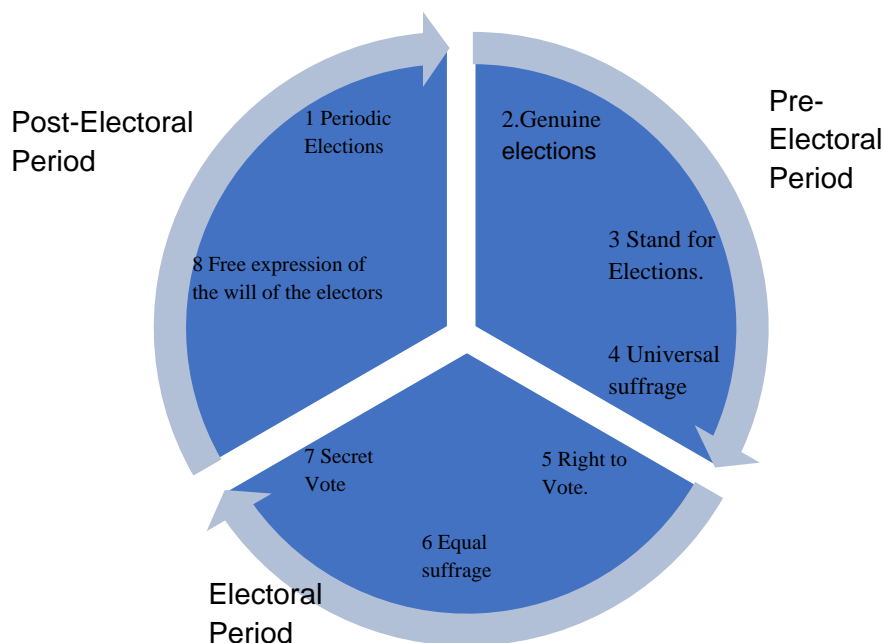
The primary purpose of the electoral cycle is to illustrate that "elections are not events, but processes" (Online Electoral Cycle, International IDEA). It aims at "longer-term commitments of funds, resources, a focus on sustainability within electoral institutions and an overall commitment to the democratic development of a country" (Online Electoral Cycle, International IDEA, n.d par 1).

According to Hinz and Suksi (2003), with each turn of the cycle, the performance of a country in an election should be re-evaluated to implement corrections in the next cycle. Hinz and Suksi (2003) advise that subsequent electoral cycles should display "an ever-better realisation of the right to participation and the human rights in general" (p.3 par 1).

Following Hinz and Suksi (2003) recommendation, perhaps Electoral Assistance should proactively consider Convenience Voting methods with every cycle. Arguably, thus far, it has brought about better realisations of voting through its commitment to the democratic process. Early voting, for instance, has been cited to presumably advance democratic government by making voting easier and convenient (Giammo and Brox, 2010). Solvak (et al. 2014) talks about E-voting being a convenient, time-saving mode of voting (Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014). Thus the very act of making voting easier arguably may be promoting democracy. A deeper analysis into the Principle of universal suffrage reveals that freedom to vote has evolved over the last couple of decades. Historically, freedom to vote has been limited. In Europe, the milestones of voting rights vary from country to country. However worth noting, the first European country to grant voting rights to women was Finland in 1902 (Miller, 2020), whereas Liechtenstein was the last in 1984 (Kirsty 2019). Switzerland was not too far ahead, having granted women voting rights in 1971. The Swiss canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden only gave women the right to vote on local issues recently as 1991 (Miller, 2020).

In the United States, during the 1700s, one could only vote if they owned land, were male, and white. In 1868, African American men could vote; however, women were still forbidden. Wyoming became the first state to legislate voting for women in its constitution in 1890. However, the right to vote was only extended to women in 1920 (US Voting Rights Timeline. -n.d.). Below is a representation of some milestones of the Voting timeline in the United States.

Figure 2: United States Voting Rights Timeline (US Voting Rights Timeline, n.d.)

1856: Property Ownership abolished

1868: Former Slaves are allowed to vote

1920: Right to Vote is extended to women

1971: Voting age is lowered to 18

1975: Voting materials in various languages

1993: voting registration made easier: available at the Department of Motor vehicles, and public assistance and disabilities agencies.

2002: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is passed

Evidently, as the years progressed, voting accessibility also went to be available to all races and all genders. In 1975, voting was made more accessible by incorporating voting materials in various languages to accommodate non-English speakers. In 1993, voting registration was made more accessible. More recently, in 2002, HAVA (Help America Vote Act) brought about a massive voting reform effort requiring States to "comply with the federal mandate for provisional ballots, disability access, centralised, computerised voting lists, electronic voting and requirement that first-time voters present identification before voting." (US Voting Rights Timeline, n.d. p.5 par 3). 'Disability access' and 'electronic voting' stand out as they feature attributes of Convenience voting, as will be discussed.

Nevertheless, we observe advancements with each electoral cycle towards improving the Universality of elections regarding who votes, where they vote, how they vote, and when they vote. As was previously mentioned, the cyclical nature of elections is meant to improve the

electoral process with each turn. A deeper look into the history and principles of Convenience Voting methods may reveal if and how convenience voting promotes the Universality of elections.

2.2 Convenience Voting

Convenience voting has grown considerably in popularity, with 73% of the electorate in the US opting for convenient voting methods in the recent 2020 election. All factors considered, it can be argued that the rationale behind this growth in popularity, as decoded by Laing (2018), rests on three principles of Convenience Voting: *Accessibility, Legitimacy* and *customer-centric philosophy.*

The Accessibility principle is based on the idea that citizens should not be barricaded from voting by their "age, place of residence, medical status", level of ability, or other factors. The Legitimacy principle addresses the concerns on the 'legitimacy' of an election when the turnout is low or when specific "segments of the voting population are unable" to vote (Laing *et al.* 2018). Galicki (2018) in agreement, writes that high voter turnout is closely linked to legitimacy as higher voter turnout is interpreted as a reflection of voters' trust and integrity of the electoral system (Birch as cited in Galicki, 2018). Rothstein (2009), however disagrees, citing that legitimacy should depend on the quality of government, not the quality of election. Nonetheless, Convenience voting reforms push the agenda of mitigating Voter decline through adopting convenience voting methods. Lastly, Laing (2018) explains that the Customer-centric philosophy draws from the demand for performance metrics to assess the quality-of-service provision and customer satisfaction of Government services. While Laing explains this from the Australian context, it more or less is a fit representation of what has become a universal Governmental agenda in embracing e-participation to rebuild trust and democracy (Lironi, 2016).

The adoption of Convenience voting methods varies from country to country. Places such as Australia adopted Convenient forms of voting as early as the 1800s to cater to those living outside Australian cities (Phillips 2013 as cited in Laing 2018). In America, over the past three decades, there has been a rise in electorate casting ballots before Election day. While there are not many historical figures on convenience Voting in the US, Gronke (et al. 2008) highlights some statistics. He points out that 14% of the electorate voted prior to Election Day in 2000, 20% cast non-precinct place ballots in 2004, and 25% did so in 2006. The number grew to 32%

in 2012 and to 43% in 2018(McDonald 2014; US Election Assistance Commission 2019 as cited in Shino & Smith). Data from the most recent 2020 election in America shows that 46% of the Voters cast their vote by mail, and 27% voted in-person before election day (Pew Research Center, 2020). Orr (2016) highlights that "convenience voting has been recast from a 'necessity' to support a select group of otherwise disadvantaged voters to a 'lifestyle option' available to all voters (Orr 2016 as cited in Laing 2018).

Convenience voting thus has evolved over the years. However, as much as its genesis stems from the early 1800s in some parts of the world, the notion of Convenience Voting only picked in the US in the 1980s when voting reforms aimed at Convenience took place (Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, 2007). According to the authors, these voting reforms opened absentee voting and early in person voting to all voters. These were the first forms of convenience voting initially intended for overseas military voters. These methods were then later made available to civilian registrants who couldn't make it to the polls or had difficulty doing so for reasons such as illness, old age, disability, or being out of town (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015). They, however, had to present a reason (excuse) that matches those allowed by the existing statute. Biggers and Hanmer (2015) explain that no-excuse absentee voting, on the other hand, removed this requirement for an excuse and thus permitted any registered voter to request a ballot and vote in this manner. In-person early voting allows one to vote early at either a satellite location or the county elections office by simply showing up (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015).

2.2.1   Who opts for Convenience Voting?

After an overview of elections and convenience voting, it is vital to understand who opts for these methods. Smith (et al. 2018) points out that the essence of convenience voting is "voter choice." The authors argue that many of the discussions on Convenience voting are focused chiefly on Postal voting and Early in-person voting. At the same time, in the real sense, this only represents Convenience for a particular select group. They argue that for some, voting on the weekend is just as convenient as remote electronic voting would be for others. We find that the choice of convenience voting method varies with several factors: voter's age, digital literacy, location, physical ability, amongst others.

Age: Bryant & Atkeson (2012) highlight that studies indicate that older citizens are more likely to vote in general than younger citizens. Powel (et al. 2012) point out that 70% of adults aged

over 60 years vote in the US Arguably the higher turnout in older citizens is because it "is a habit and for the retired voters, they don't have to bear the cost of working and voting on the same day" (Bryant, 2012 p5 par 1). Similarly, Garnett (2018) writes advance voting may attract elder voters as they have more free time and are more interested in politics. Nonetheless, Policymakers have made efforts to see whether additional efforts of making voting easier would improve voter participation generally but especially amongst young adults (Powell et al. 2012). Convenience voting methods such as internet voting have been taken into consideration for luring the youth. In a study conducted by Germann & Serdült (2014) in Switzerland, they found that most internet voters tend to be young between the age of 25-50 years, suggesting a curvilinear relation between age and I-voting. Studies conducted in Estonia reveal that people who opt for E-voting tend to be young better educated males (Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014). It is argued that the perceived cost of participation is higher for young adults ie: time required to go make a vote on election day or in securing an absentee ballot when one is travelling away from home.

Another influencing factor is level of Income. Germann & Serdült (2014) highlight that studies show that internet voting caters for the resource-rich thus favouring the already privileged in the society. Another study shows that those who voted early in North Carolina during the 2008 elections primarily had a higher income and had been registered a long time (Kropf, 2012). Agreeably, according to Stein and Vonnahme, (2008) "resource-poor voters did not benefit from the adoption of in-person early voting" (p.488). Garnet (2018) highlight that advance voters tend to be wealthier, more educated than their election day counterparts (Stein and Garcia-Monet 1997; Neeley and Richardson 2001 as cited in Garnett, 2018). Seemingly, Convenience Voters are found to be "politically engaged, conservative and from upper socio-economic levels". (Jeffe and Jeffe, 1990 as cited in Hall, Losco and Scheele, 2012)

Digital literacy is also a determining factor of the convenience voting option one opts for. A study in the US revealed that Computer anxiety was found to be related to the intent to vote online for both young adults and seniors (Powell *et al.* 2012).

Gender: Internet voting is primarily male dominated owing to internet knowledge and political interest being higher in this group (Baldersheim, 2004)**.** Similarly, Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, (2014) mention that E-voter tend to be young better educated males.

Proximity. Voters living closer to early voting sites are likely to cast their vote early (Gimple, Dyck and Shaw, 2006). People living outside the country of origin also benefit from convenience voting (Caldelli *et al.* 2010).

Physical Ability is another influencing factor. Studies show that many disabled people are likely to vote by mail rather than in-person early (Alvarez, Levin and Sinclair, 2012)**.** Alvarez (et al. 2012) also highlight that they are likely to choose traditional polling places over convenience voting alternatives, contradictory to Miller and Powell (2016), who find that voters with disabilities are less likely to vote. However, they agree with Alvarez (et al. 2012) that if they do use convenient voting methods, they are likely to vote by mail. Miller and County, (2016) cite that expanding voting by mail may increase turnout for persons with disability. According to Summers (et al. 2016), Visually impaired persons and those who read at basic levels face challenges when voting by mail and thus emphasise that increased accessibility is needed (Summers, Quesenbery and Pointer, 2016)**.**

2.2.2 Impact of Convenience Voting on Voter Turnout

Whether Convenience increases voter turnout perhaps stands to be the main question when it comes to advancing the cause of convenience voting. Garnett, H. A. (2018) explains that while early voting is increasing in popularity in Australia, Research shows that it merely makes a difference in turnout and may diminish the civic significance of election day (Burden et al. 2014 as cited in Garnett 2018). It is also argued that convenience voting basically attracts those who would vote any way. Contrastingly, (Menger and Stein, 2020) cite that there is supporting evidence showing that VBM elections increase voter turnout more so among infrequent voters. Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller (2007) find that there may be a modest impact of voting on turnout. Much of the literature did not offer conclusive evidence on the impact of Convenience Voting on voter turnout. However, the impact on turnout could very well be subjective to the voting method. This thus is an area that future Research can focus more on.

2.3 Summary of Chapter

Arguably, convenience voting maybe because of the electoral cycle seeing as with each cycle there is meant to be an improvement. Evidently, there has been an observable change in the accessibility of voting across race, gender, military voters. Over time, Convenience voting is closing barriers to voting based on location, time, and physical ability. Owing to the changing

times, as Orr (2016) allude to Convenience voting changing from a necessity for a select group to rather a lifestyle option. Both reasons perhaps warrant a growing interest in the field.

On the definition of convenience voting based on the literature, we observe a contrasting term used to describe convenient voting methods because of the isolated evolution of voting systems, mainly country based. An insight into voting methods, the difference between Absentee voting, vote by mail, and Early voting was not entirely clear. Therefore, this thesis will further investigate the concept of convenience voting and its types according to the research questions and objectives listed in Chapter 1. Subsequently, addressing problems related to Convenience Voting terminology and associated meanings creates a milestone in literature. It lays the foundations for future researchers to further expound on Convenience voting as an academic field and reduce conceptual misunderstandings.

3   RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

There are important aspects of Convenience Voting that require deeper analysis. Therefore, a systematic way to address this problem is key. This next section outlines the methodology adopted to answer the driving research questions of this thesis. It is essential to have a strong Research methodology as it provides the researcher with the methods and techniques to apply that are relevant for the chosen problem (Rajasekar et al. 2006). It also offers reliability and validity of the Research (Research support: Research methodology 2021). This Research is qualitative in nature. Often this type of Research aims to get the meaning, feeling and description of the situation (Rajasekar et al.2006) Therefore, a Meta-Synthesis Approach for Qualitative Research was found suitable to address the Research questions through a deeper review and analysis of the literature.

3.1   Meta-Synthesis Approach

Meta-synthesis is a "systematic method, beyond the scope of a literature review, through which the findings of a range of qualitative method studies on a topic can be evaluated and presented." (Edwards & Kaimal, 2016 p.6). Viewing the findings across multiple relevant literature as explained by Edwards & Kaimal (2016) offers additional insight. The goal of the meta-synthesis is to "elicit novel understandings from comparison and synthesis of the findings of multiple studies" (Edwards & Kaimal, 2016 p.6). This method enables researchers to integrate findings "across qualitative studies to discover patterns and common threads within a specific topic or issue" (Erwin, Brotherson and Summers 2011) In this case, the specific topic being 'Convenience Voting'. On the other hand, we have Meta-Analysis approach which is a "statistical procedure that attempts to integrate a body of quantitative research, often focused on reducing findings to a standardised metric such as a mean effect size" (Forness, 2001 as cited in Erwin, Brotherson and Summers, 2011 p. 187).

The Researcher chose Qualitative Meta Synthesis over Secondary Analysis because the subject of analysis is the findings from the various studies selected. Given that the current literature lacks a synchronistic blend of findings concerning certain aspects of Convenience Voting, this approach was used as it allows for a deeper insight into Convenience voting by identifying common themes, comparing, and contrasting different findings from past Research. One of the key objectives of this thesis is to synthesise the different terminology referring to the same type of convenience voting used across the globe. Thus, this approach is ideal for this purpose. Meta

Synthesis approach was also ideal as it recognises a 'broader approach to evidence-based research, practice, and policy by expanding how knowledge can be generated and used in our field' (Erwin, Brotherson and Summers, 2011). Thirdly, Qualitative Meta-synthesis helps 'make sense of multiple research studies, identify gaps and omissions and add more depth of dimension' (Major & Savin-Baden, 2010 as cited Erwin, Brotherson and Summers, 2011 p.188).

Accordingly, the meta-synthesis conducted in this thesis aims to reveal underlying connectors used in Convenience Voting and compile a synthesis of literature to translate existing studies into each other. Several approaches have been developed to conduct meta-synthesis reviews (See more at Edwards & Kaimal, 2016). They often share similar discrete steps, which start by "identifying a Specific Research question and then searching for, selecting, appraising, summarising and combining evidence to address the research question" (Erwin, Brotherson and Summers, 2011 p. 6).

3.1.1 The Process of Conducting Qualitative Meta-synthesis
The following are the steps of conducting a Qualitative Meta-synthesis.

1. *Formulate a Clear Research Problem and Question*

As in traditional research approaches, the first step is in establishing a relevant research question and purpose (Walsh and Downe, 2005). Researchers using the meta-synthesis approach need to develop a baseline understanding of the field of study so as to identify gaps, omissions and how studies relate to each other. In this thesis, the Research questions (Find more at the Introduction) were formulated after a preliminary study of the literature on Convenience voting was conducted revealing the need to cluster and synthesise existing knowledge in one place and advance it.

Figure 3: Steps of the Meta-synthesis Approach (Erwin et al. 2011)
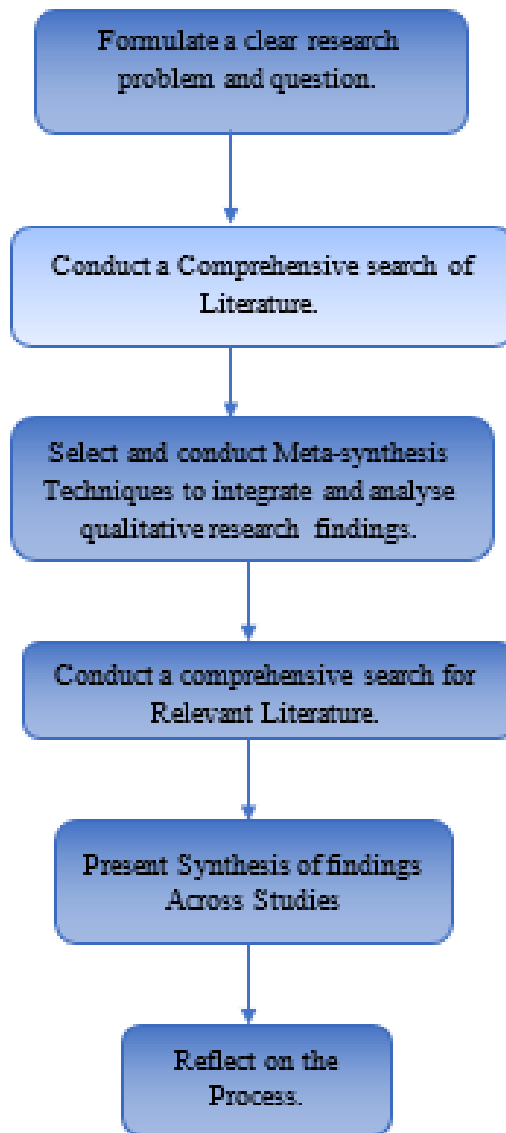
2. *Conduct a Comprehensive Search of literature*

In this phase, researchers identify keywords to locate literature within their specified range of date (Edwards & Kaimal, 2016). The current Research makes use of the 'berry picking model' by Marcia Bates (1989 p. 409) which explains that searches "begin with just one feature of a broader topic and move through a variety of sources." Users use several strategies such as footnote chasing, citation searching, journal run, area scanning, author searching, and subject searches in bibliographies and abstracting and indexing (Bates, 1989). Through these strategies, the information is collected bit by bit, enabling the query to be satisfied by a series of selections of individual references (Walsh and Downe, 2005).

To this regard, the following combination of keywords was used in investing relevant Convenience Voting literature and addressing research questions.

"Convenience voting"   "Assisted voting"

"Early voting"   "Proxy Voting"

"Absentee Voting"   "Postal Voting"

"Election Day Registration"   "Custodial Voting"

The query search was done on Web of Science, SCOPUS, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate. This provided for wider reach, reducing chances of bypassing useful knowledge. Citation searching from relevant articles guided in finding other relevant articles within the scope of study.

3. *Conduct Careful Appraisal of Research Studies for Possible Inclusion*
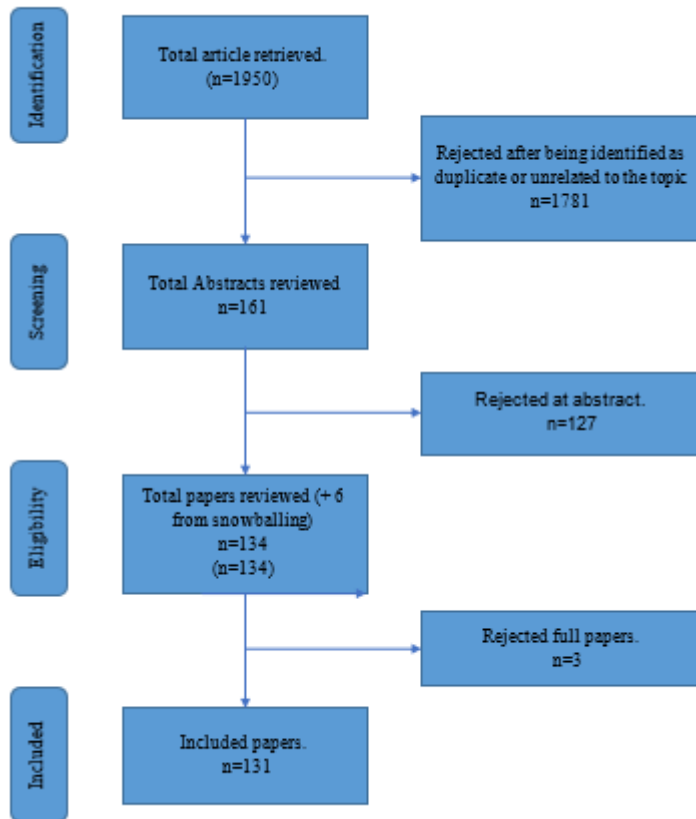
While there are existing frameworks, this Research did not adapt to a specific one. This allowed for flexibility in yielding deeper insight as there is not much existing literature on convenience voting. Nevertheless, the search for relevant literature, at this step Erwin, Brotherson and Summers (2011) suggest determining a criterion for inclusion. Papers were excluded if the following criteria was not met:

1. Research must be published since 2000

2. Research must be in English.

3. Research must be relevant to the research objectives and questions.

The search yielded 1950 articles selected from the Web of Science, SCOPUS, Google Scholar, and ResearchGate. Of these, 1781 papers were excluded based on unrelated topics and duplicates. Thus 161 papers were accepted. From this pool, we identified the most relevant articles by reviewing the abstracts and keywords. Consequently, 27 papers were excluded based on abstracts that were not in line with the aim of the study. 6 papers were collected through snowballing while searching for other papers. With a total of 134 papers left, 6 having been collected from snowballing, the next filtering step involved scanning the full text to determine relevance. Of this, 131 papers were found to fulfil our requirements to be part of the final meta-synthesis. The process is illustrated in the Figure below. For managing the data collection and paper reduction process, we used a specific software for conducting analysis of the state of the art of a given topic: START[1].

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[1] http://lapes.dc.ufscar.br/tools/start_tool

Figure 4: Selecting Relevant Literature for this Study

Identification	Total article retrieved. (n=1950)
	→ Rejected after being identified as duplicate or unrelated to the topic n=1781
Screening	Total Abstracts reviewed n=161
	→ Rejected at abstract. n=127
Eligibility	Total papers reviewed (+ 6 from snowballing) n=134 (n=134)
	→ Rejected full papers. n=3
Included	Included papers. n=131

4. *Select and Conduct Meta-synthesis Techniques to integrate and Analyse Qualitative Research findings*

At this step, Erwin, Brotherson and Summers (2011) explain that key concepts, themes, and metaphors from the findings are examined to relate the studies. It is important to maintain context and interpretation of original Research while striving to compile and edit findings (Erwin, Brotherson and Summers, 2011). This process begins with (1) First reading the studies while creating a grid of key concepts (2) Juxtapose findings to identify homogeneity of categories/codes/themes and to note discordance and dissonance. This can be done by the compare and contrast exercise (Walsh and Downe, 2005). Erwin, Brotherson and Summers (2011) explains that qualitative examinations, comparisons, and translations of the original studies bring forth higher levels of understanding in this phase of the meta-synthesis approach. To this regard, we uploaded all downloaded articles to NVivo (a computer program for data analysis). We used open coding to create categories identified when going through the abstracts. The papers were categorised into the following: (i) Definition (ii) Types (iii) Cost (iv)Benefits (v) Risk of Convenience Voting. Thereafter we read the full texts while adding onto this list of categories which eventually totalled to 101 (including sub-categories). We then highlighted and coded all relevant texts across the 126 studies into the 101 categories and sub-categories. Further analysis involved using axial coding to identify linkages between and among the codes. This process continued with reduction of the initial codes into major superordinate and ordinate coding categories identified as described by Erwin, Brotherson and Summers (2011).

5. *Present Synthesis of Findings Across Studies*

Walsh and Downe (2005) explain that this step involves synthesising translations to draw 'more refined meanings, exploratory theories and new concepts.' Effective presentation of the findings is required with consideration of the different audiences that will benefit from the Research to practice. Researchers may use visual displays such as charts, figures, tables to represent the findings which enables the readers to follow through the meta-synthesis process easily (Erwin, Brotherson and Summers, 2011). In adherence of this, the findings of this Research will be presented in the next chapter.

6. *Reflect on the Process.*

Erwin, Brotherson and Summers (2011) point out that it is important for the researcher to be self-reflective at each step. To this regard, we posed several questions in the different steps. For step one, we posed the following questions: 'Are the research questions clear?', 'Is the problem clearly defined?' 'Who is our target audience?'. In step 3 we posed the following, 'Is the literature collected relevant to the scope of study?', 'Should we broaden the scope to accommodate this article?' All through the study, the researcher reflected on the steps of the process to adjust and maintain the focus of the study.

3.2 Selection of tools used in the Meta-synthesis Approach.

For literature Review two tools were used; StArt Application and NVivo. StArt (State of the Art through Systematic Review) is a computational tool developed at Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar), in the Software Engineering Research Laboratory (LaPES) to support Systematic literature Review (Hernandes et al. 2012). A manual search of the literature was done on Web of Science, SCOPUS, and Google Scholar. Thereafter the search result was exported as a BibTex file which was then imported into StArt. This allowed for the researcher to conduct step 3 of the process in appraising the selected papers. Papers were categorised in 'Very High', 'High', 'Low' and 'Very Low'. All papers under 'Low' and 'Very Low' were eliminated whereas, papers under 'Very High' and 'High' proceeded for scanning of the full text.

To achieve step 4 in analysing the Qualitative Research findings, NVivo tool was used. NVivo is a software application that allows for the researcher to import, organise, and explore data with ease. This software was ideal as it allowed for proper organisation of the literature. Since

the chosen approach was a meta-synthesis approach, the software was useful in synthesising the findings from the multiple studies. This was because of the coding feature in NVivo. In NVivo, "coding is the process of gathering related material into a container called a Node. When you open a node, you can see all the references in the project coded to the node." (La Trobe 2020). We selected NVivo primarily because of its unique coding feature that allows one to code according to themes, relationships, and sentiments. Theme nodes 'represent the themes or topics found in the data, relationships record the connection between two items and Sentiment codes are positive and negative codes created by auto coding of sentiment.' (La Trobe 2020). Worth noting is NVivo supports both deductive and inductive approaches to coding. This research used an inductive approach.

3.3   Limitations of this approach

The Meta-synthesis is limited to high quality qualitative studies (Systematic reviews & other review types 2020). To assess the quality of the studies, selecting the relevant articles took a period of 8 weeks. This method also requires significant methodological skill and experience in qualitative methods. Given that the author doesn't have much experience, this challenge was mitigated through guidance from a research team. On top of the 8 weeks, it took 7 weeks to code the literature and to eliminate papers not within scope. It also takes quite some time to engage with the evidence and develop a theory. In its eventuality, it requires interpretation by Policymakers and relevant stakeholders (Systematic reviews & other review types, 2020).

3.4   Summary of Chapter

This chapter spells out the Research methodology applied to gather and analyse the data. It dealt with the methods used for the systematic literature review, the data collection and analysis procedure.

4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section focuses on the results of the data collection and analysis. The systematic literature review was guided by the overarching research goal, defining convenience voting and mapping out the main types, establishing a classification system setting archetypes for the types. For a more comprehensive study, the author investigated the benefits and barriers of convenience voting.

4.1 Systematic literature Review on Convenience Voting

The aim is to collect and analyse relevant information to derive an all-encompassing definition of convenience voting, its types, barriers, and benefits. Notably, Convenience Voting is an interdisciplinary topic with Public Administration, Political Science, Sociology, Computer Science and Law as the top five search areas in the Convenience Voting domain.

Worth noting is one paper may address more than one problem, and a problem may be related to several aspects of the research problem. As per the contribution of the analysed papers toward the Convenience Voting research, among 131 papers, 46 papers highlighted on the concept of convenience voting, as for Types, 123 papers featured at least one type of Convenience voting, 19 papers highlighted benefits of Convenience voting, 30 papers indicated challenges or barriers of Convenience voting.

The following four subsections outline the main results to address the aim of this study. Firstly (4.1.1) the definitions of Convenience Voting by scholars are presented, followed by (4.1.2) which states the types, synonyms and scholars who stated. Furthermore, (4.1.3) states the benefits as suggested by scholars and (4.1.3) presents the barriers found in the Convenience Voting literature.

4.1.1 Definitions of Convenience Voting

This subsection presents the results of the definitions found through the systematic literature review. The aim was to gather information on how the literature reflects on defining convenience voting toward a path of formulating a synthesised new definition, if necessary, based on findings. While some researchers define Convenience voting, e.g., Gronke et al. (2008), others describe attributes, e.g., Keshk & Kader (2007).

Table 1: Attributes of Convenience Voting

Attributes	Sources
● "to cast votes quickly with minimal equipment or skills"	(Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007, p 238)
● "Whenever we have a law that expands access to the ballot and makes it easier for people to register and to vote,"	Mcdonald, Shino and Smith (2015)
● Relaxed administrative rules and procedures by which citizens can cast a ballot at a time and place other than the precinct on election day"	(Orr, 2014) (Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, 2007)(Gronke *et al.* 2008)
● Voters must not cast their vote only on election day	(McAllister and Muller, 2018)
● Lowers social opportunity cost by omitting the inflexible precinct-level voting act	(Goerres and Rabuza, 2018)
● Special voting enables electors to vote overseas, vote outside their electorate, vote remotely, or are not on the printed roll for their voters. They may be cast in advance or on polling day	(Arseneau and Roberts, 2019).

4.1.2   Types of convenience Voting

Several types of convenience voting use different terminologies depending on the country. Out of 131 analysed papers on Convenience Voting, 123 papers featured at least one type of Convenience Voting. To answer the research Question 'What are the types of Convenience Voting?' To fulfil the research objective of synthesising the terminologies, below is a table consolidating the types, synonyms, and definitions of the different voting systems found in the Systematic literature Review.

Table 2: Types of the Different Forms of Convenience Voting

Voting Method/System	Other name	Sources
Absent voting		(Laing et al. 2018)
Assisted Voting		(Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, 2015)
Conditional Voting	Same-Day Voter Registration	(Same Day Voter Registration, n.d)
Custodial Voting	Institutional Voting/ Prison Voting	(Laing et al. 2018) ("Voting in jails," 2020)
Drive-in	Curbside Voting Drive-thru voting	(Laing et al. 2018)
Dropbox voting		(Collingwood et al. 2018)
Elector Visit	Home voting	(Laing et al. 2018)
Electronic Voting at the Polling Station	Poll-site voting	(Laing et al. 2018) (Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007)
Email		(Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007)
Fax		Gronke et al. 2008) (Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007)
In-person Early voting	In-person absentee voting, Early Voting, Pre-poll voting, Advance voting	(Laing et al. 2018) (Gronke et al. 2008) (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015). (Kropf, 2012)), (Cain, Todd and Tolbert, 2008)
In-person early voting with voting centers		(Gronke et al. 2008)
Internet Voting	Remote E-Voting	(Laing et al. 2018) (Gronke et al. 2008) (Germann and Serdült, 2014)
Kiosk Voting		(Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007)
Mobile Voting		(Laing et al. 2018)
No-excuse absentee voting		(Gronke et al. 2008), (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015), (Cain, Todd and Tolbert, 2008)
Provisional		Laing et al. 2018)
Proxy Voting		(Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, 2015)
SMS	Test Message	(Gronke et al.2008)
Telephone		Gronke et al. 2008)

Traditional Absentee Voting	Absentee Voting	(Biggers and Hanmer, 2015),), (Cain, Todd and Tolbert, 2008) (Gronke et al. 2008)
TV		
Vote-by-mail	Postal Voting	Gronke et al. 2008), (Laing et al. 2018), (Cain, Todd and Tolbert, 2008)
Weekend Voting		(Harris and Lewis, 2012)

4.1.3 Benefits of Convenience Voting

There are several benefits of convenience voting for both the voter and electoral administration. Out of 131 analysed papers, 19 featured benefits of convenience Voting. Some of the benefits for Voters drawn from the Systematic literature Review are: (i) Convenience: For instance, some voters attributed Convenience for their preference of using dropbox over vote by mail (Collingwood *et al.* 2018; Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014) (ii) Promotes Inclusivity of marginalised communities facing geographical barriers (Schroedel *et al.* 2020) (iii) Speed (iv) low physical costs eg E-voting (Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014).

Other benefits from an administrative point of view include (i) Counting process of votes speeded up with electronic voting (Henry, 2003) (ii) More accurate count of votes with Early in-person, absentee balloting and vote-by-mail (Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, 2007) (iii) Cost-saving; At least 59 Ontario municipalities have introduced online voting and eliminated paper voting to cut costs (Goodman *et al.* 2018, Krimmer, Duenas-Cid and Krivonosova, 2021). In 1998, Oregon anticipated saving at least $3,021,709 per year by eliminating polling place elections and conducting elections via Vote by Mail only. Seemingly, New Zealand saved an estimated $ US 3.6 million by conducting a referendum on compulsory savings held entirely by mail in 1997 (Karp and Banducci, 2000). According to (Gronke and Toffey, 2009), by reducing the election-day burden on precincts, administrative costs are lowered. (iv) Possibly decreases Voter disenfranchisement (Gronke and Toffey, 2009). (v) With easing the burden of voting, there is a likelihood of greater participation (Southwell, 2009). Research shows that easier voting methods may increase voter turnout (Fitzgerald, 2005)

Table 3: Benefits of Convenience Voting from a Voter Point of View

Benefit	Source
Convenience	Collingwood *et al.* 2018) (Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014)
Promotes Inclusivity	(Schroedel *et al.* 2020)
Speed	Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014).
low physical costs	Solvak, Vassil and Vinkel, 2014).

Table 4: Benefits from an Administrative Point of View

Benefits	Source
Faster Counting Process	(Henry, 2003)
More Accurate count	(Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, 2007)
Cost-saving	(Goodman *et al.* 2018, Krimmer, Duenas-Cid and Krivonosova, 2021), (Karp and Banducci, 2000), (Gronke and Toffey, 2009)
Likelihood of greater participation	(Southwell, 2009, Fitzgerald, 2005)
Possibly decreases Voter disenfranchisement	(Gronke and Toffey, 2009)

4.1.3.1   Discussion of Benefits of Convenience Voting

Perhaps one overlooked benefit of convenience voting in the literature is its effectiveness in upholding election integrity during natural disasters such as the Covid19 pandemic in 2020—an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus (WHO, n.d). According to James and Alihodzic (2020), humanitarian postponement of elections is democratically legitimate. However, the authors suggest mitigating strategies for safeguarding electoral integrity, such as postal voting and early voting, which have enabled countries such as the US and Germany (postal voting in Bavaria) to conduct elections during the pandemic (James and Alihodzic 2020). Thus, the author of this thesis proposes that future research should investigate the effects of postponing elections and adopting convenience voting methods as a plausible means of upholding electoral integrity during a pandemic.

While the literature covers a range of benefits, there seemingly is a lack of clarity pertaining to the impact of convenience voting on increasing voter turnout. Although some literature highlights a slight increase in voter turnout, most do not provide a clear picture. Thus, as previously mentioned in the Theoretical background highlights an avenue for future research.

4.1.4   Barriers of Convenience Voting

Of 131 papers, 30 highlighted a challenge or barrier of convenience voting. Some of the various challenges or obstacles highlighted in the literature are as follows (i) Lack of delivery of ballots to voters. Opponents of vote by mail elections argue that many ballots fail to reach the voter at their correct address, especially with the transitory members of the society (Southwell, 2009). (ii) Security risks. With remote internet voting, there is no way of ensuring that the voter is voting at their own free will or that there is no tampering of the computer or voting software (Henry, 2003). Smith (2014) similarly highlights that many critics are concerned about the security risk of internet voting. She mentions that the question lies in understanding how much risk is acceptable and who is willing to take it (Smith, 2014). (iii) Risk of regret among early voters. A common argument against early voting is that early voters miss out on information that comes out at later stages of the campaign, influencing them to vote differently on election day (Lago and Blais, 2019). (iv) Convenience voting may breed social inequalities. Slovak (et al. 2014) explain that existing technologies run the risk of increasing the already existing social inequalities between the actively engaged and marginalised. (Alvarez and Nagler, 2000; van Dijk, 2000, 2005; Margolis and Resnick, 2000; Putnam, 2001; Wilhelm, 2000 as cited in Slovak et al. 2014). Agreeably, Garnett (2018) suggests that early voting has the potential to

magnify the disparities in the population groups that tend to vote. Studies show that early voters tend to be people who would vote anyway and instead does not attract new votes *(*Garnett, 2018; Gronke and Toffey, 2009)*.* **(v)** Absentee voting carries risks of ballot insecurity, higher odds of error and fraud, and a reduction in public confidence (Burden and Gaines, 2015). (vi) Loss of tradition in neighbourhood connectedness to voting because vote centres disrupt standard neighbourhood precinct arrangement. Cortina and Rottinghaus (2019) explain that "voting is a habit and any changes may disrupt that habit" (Cortina and Rottinghaus, 2019). The authors highlight that some polling places may be farther away and that there may be more extended voting locations that discourage voters from voting. Additionally, they emphasise that vote centres present an informational obstacle to voters. (vii) Loss of ballot secrecy with Assisted voting (Lazer 2019). Orr (2014) critiqued convenience voting citing that it goes against the ritualistic nature of election day voting.

Table 5: Barriers to Convenience Voting

Barrier	Source
Lack of delivery of ballots to voters.	(Southwell, 2009)
Security risks	(Henry, 2003; Smith, 2014)
Risk of regret among early voters.	(Lago and Blais, 2019)
Convenience voting may breed social inequalities.	(Garnett, 2018)(Gronke and Toffey, 2009)
Election Fraud	(Burden and Gaines, 2015)
Loss of tradition	(Orr, 2014)(Cortina and Rottinghaus, 2019)
Lack of Ballot Secrecy	(Lazar, 2019)

4.1.4.1 Discussion on barriers to Convenience Voting

The barriers to convenience voting appear to vary from the voting method. For example, lack of ballot secrecy mainly affects voting methods that are exposed, such as kiosk voting or those involving another party, such as assisted voting and proxy voting. Convenience voting methods, however, are different and thus, the barriers to each voting method may be specific. Nevertheless, the findings address the sub-research question on the barriers to convenience voting. Perhaps the barrier on 'Loss of tradition' may be a blanket barrier to convenience voting. As highlighted by (Cortina and Rottinghaus, 2019) some people may be opposed to it because they enjoy the ritualistic nature of traditional election day voting. Future research perhaps can consolidate all barriers of convenience voting methods and highlight barriers that involve convenience Voting as a whole.

4.2 Summary of chapter

This chapter presented the findings of the systematic literature review on the definitions, types, barriers and benefits of convenience voting. The discussions presented are mainly focused on the barriers and benefits of convenience voting.

5   DISCUSSION OF CONVENIENCE VOTING AND TYPES.

This Chapter presents a discussion of the findings. It has two main aims, firstly: synthesise and discuss the findings of this study on the definition and types of Convenience Voting, secondly: provide a recommendation for a classification system for the types of Convenience Voting and propose a new definition of Convenience Voting.

5.1   Definitions of Convenience Voting

The term 'convenience voting' was prevalent in the papers by Keshk and Abdul-Kader (2007), Mcdonald, Shino and Smith (2015), Orr (2014), Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, (2007), Gronke et al.. (2008), McAllister and Muller (2018), Goerres and Rabuza (2018). Conversely, the paper by Arseneau and Roberts (2019) uses the term 'Special voting' to describe what the other papers define as 'Convenience Voting'. This may further confirm that 'convenience Voting' has somewhat been evolving on country-based levels.

We find similarities in the definitions of Convenience voting through the occurrence of terms: 'relaxed rules', 'quick', 'easier'. The descriptions also illustrate that the time and place of a vote matters. While Gronke et al. (2008) definition of Convenience Voting is relatively straightforward, it is not as widely used in the literature as anticipated. Most of the literature did not define convenience Voting per se but described it according to its forms (Postal Voting, Internet Voting). Arguably, it does not quite encompass all voting methods. On further analysis of the voting methods, we do find other changing factors apart from time and place.

The following sub-section thus presents a further analysis of the types of convenience voting found in the systematic literature review, which will perhaps highlight the missing dimensions in Gronke et al (2008) definition.

5.2   Types of Convenience Voting

Based on the analysis of 123 papers, this sub-section presents a synthesised definition of each type of convenience voting and the synonyms based on academic literature. It also presents a discussion of these voting methods. Worth noting is not all 123 papers defined the type of convenience voting. Some articles simply introduce it or highlight it from a different aspect such as how it is used.

5.2.1 Definitions of types of Convenience Voting

From Analysis 23, voting methods were discovered. The following are a brief definition and another name of the Voting methods. In some voting methods, additional information such as where it is used and barriers are highlighted.

Absent voting is a form of voting where the voter casts their votes on Election Day at a voting centre outside the electorate for which they are registered, whether that be at intrastate, interstate, or international location (Laing et al. 2018).

Assisted Voting is a form of voting where a patient or an invalid chooses another voter to help them vote, including casting the ballot (Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, 2015). The risk in this voting method is a lack of secrecy while voting.

Conditional Voting also known as Same-Day Voter Registration is an opportunity to register and vote on the same day offered to voters who have not registered to vote or updated their registration before the deadline. It usually takes place at the county elections office, vote center or local polling place. (Same Day Voter Registration, n.d). It is done in California.

Custodial Voting, also known as Institutional Voting/ Prison Voting, entails Electoral authorities visiting institutions such as prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes to collect votes either before polling day or on polling day. In some States voting in prison can be done by mail, in others it is in person, whereas others have county officials visit the prison with ballot papers. (Laing et al. 2018) ("Voting in jails," 2020)

Drive-in Voting is also known as Curbside Voting or Drive-thru voting is a voting system whereby an election official brings ballots to an elector who has limited mobility so that they can cast their vote without leaving their vehicle (Laing et al. 2018) In some places such as North Carolina, there is a distinction between Drive-in voting and curbside voting whereby the former is open for all voters and the latter specifically for voters with limited mobility (Curbside Voting | NCSBE, n.d)

Dropbox voting is a form of 'Vote by Mail' voting system that allows Voters to drop their mail-in ballots into a secured box at designated sites (Collingwood et al. 2018).

Elector Visit also known as Home voting is a voting system in which an electoral official visits a voter's home address on Election Day and takes their vote because the voter is unable to leave their home (Laing et al. 2018).

Electronic Voting at the Polling Station, also known as Poll-site voting, requires a voter to physically attend a specific place to cast their votes, usually through electronic devices such as touch screen voting terminals. One is identified through conventional methods such as an ID,passport or any other form of identification. (Laing et al. 2018; Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007)

Email (Electronic Mail) is a remote Voting method where an approved voter receives his or her ballot paper and a special declaration form by email. The voter thus sends an email with a scanned version of their votes (PDF formatted) attached. This email is sent to the Local Election Official email address. If the vote is accepted, the emailed vote (PDF) is printed by the Election Official and put into an envelope to keep it safe until it is counted. (Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007)

Fax is A remote Voting method where an approved voter receives his or her ballot paper and a special declaration form by fax. Thereafter, they transmit the vote by fax to a pre-assigned number. Some places it is used: Alaska, Montana, some parts of Australia (Gronke et al. 2008; Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007). It solves the uncertain reception problem that postal voting systems have and is mainly supported as a contingency measure in case voters cannot cast their votes on time (Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007).

In-person Early voting is also known as In-person absentee voting, or Early Voting, or Pre-poll voting, or Advance voting is a form of voting that requires the voter to complete a ballot in person at a satellite location or at the county elections office prior to Election Day usually by simply showing up at the polling station. Voting is done with the same voting machinery used for early in-person and Election Day balloting. Example of where used: Australia, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, Iowa, Estonia (Laing et al. 2018, Gronke et al. 2008, Biggers and Hanmer, 2015, Kropf, 2012).

Internet Voting or Remote E-Voting is a system of voting that allows voters to cast their ballot paper over the internet through a web portal or specialised voting application on their computer

or smartphone. Usually, Voters are provided a method of signing into a secure website, including a unique form of identification, and cast their votes using a web browser. Some places where used: Estonia, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, New South Wales (NSW) and Western Australia (WA) (Laing et al. 2018; Gronke et al. 2008; Germann and Serdült, 2014)

Kiosk Voting is a form of a self-service Electronic voting system which entails having voting machines located in convenient locations such as malls, libraries or schools. It poses more challenges on security, privacy and coercion than the poll site system. (Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007) Example of where it is done: UK (pilots) (Self Service Kiosks, n.d). Voting is usually done on election day.

Mobile Voting is a voting system that entails taking votes by mobile polling teams in remote electorate typically conducted prior to polling day. (Laing et al. 2018)

No-excuse absentee voting is A system of Voting by mail in which the Voter has to apply for an absentee ballot, but no excuse is required. A few states allow permanent absentee status, but a voter must apply for an absentee ballot at each election in most states. (Gronke et al. 2008), (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015).

Provisional Voting is a voting system allowing voters to cast a vote even though their name does not appear on the electoral roll in which they claim to be enrolled or the voter's name is already marked off the electoral roll as having voted. Places used: Parts of Australia. (Laing et al. 2018)

Proxy Voting is a form of voting that entails having an authorised person (proxy) voting on behalf of the voter who is not present with the proxy in the time of voting. It eliminates gerrymandering. There is a challenge in the Insecurity about voting for the correct party and politician according to the individual's will without abuse (Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, 2015)

SMS also known as Test Message is a remote voting method where voters cast their ballot via SMS network by sending a text message (Henry, 2003). Example of where it is done: UK (pilots), Canada.

Telephone Voting is A voting method where voters cast their ballot via the phone. Example of where it is done: Vermont, Maine, Australia (Gronke et al. 2008)

Traditional Absentee Voting is also known as Absentee Voting is a system of Voting by mail in which the Voter has to apply for an absentee ballot and has to give an excuse: usually a limited number of reasons are allowed, such as being physically unable to get to a polling station, being in the military (domestic or overseas), living abroad, or being away at college (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015, Gronke et al. 2008)

TV is also known as Television Voting is a voting method where Voters cast their ballot via TV/SMS network. Example of where it is done: UK (pilots)

Vote-by-mail is also known as Postal Voting is A System of voting in which the voter receives the ballot by mail, generally a few weeks prior to the elections and the Ballots can be returned via mail or dropped off at satellite locations or at the county elections office. Some places it's used are Oregon, Washington, United Kingdom, Switzerland. (Gronke et al. 2008, Laing et al. 2018)

Weekend Voting is a voting system that allows the voter to cast their vote on a weekend (Harris and Lewis, 2012)

5.2.1.1 Discussion

One of the challenges that this thesis highlighted was the lack of clarity in terminology for Voting Methods. To exemplify, methods such as Absentee Voting, Vote by Mail and Early in Person voting were not so straightforward in definition. However, the systematic literature review has addressed the objective of identifying the types and synonyms of convenience voting methods. From the literature Review, it is comprehensive why Absentee Voting is used interchangeably with Vote by Mail and Postal voting in some literature. Evidently, Traditional Absentee Voting and No Excuse Absentee voting when done by mail are referred to as Vote by mail and when done in person is referred to as Early Voting (Gronke et al. 2008). Biggers and Hanmer (2015) write it as a Voting method and as a law. Thus, presumably, Traditional Absentee Voting is not a voting method per se but rather a law based in the US that allows

voters to cast their ballot via vote by mail or by early in person. Regarding whether a method is Remote or done via electronic means or any form of group, the next sub-section will attempt to categorise the types of Convenience Voting into Archetypes.

5.2.1.2 Archetypes of Convenience Voting

To guide the classification of the above-mentioned types of convenience voting into relevant categories, this thesis will use the classification system by Blamire (1998). Although he describes it in the context of Biology, Blamire points out that it cuts across all fields that require classification. According to the author, any system of classification requires four prerequisites: (i) Data or Evidence, (ii)The Appropriate Groups, (iii)Agreed Names, and (iv)Process and Priorities.

Firstly: Data or Evidence. According to Blamire (1998), a systematic study generates a large amount of data … which can then be used to determine the range of similarities and differences. In the context of this thesis, at least 23 methods of convenience voting methods were discovered.

Secondly: Devise appropriate groups. In this prerequisite, one is required to devise appropriate groups into which they can unambiguously place the subjects. Herein addressing the question: "do the groups relate to one another?". The author approaches this based on the findings from the literature Review as follows (see Table 3).

Table 6: Grouping of Convenience Voting Methods Under Overarching Category.

Category	Voting Methods	Source

Remote Voting	- Postal Voting
	    (i) Drop box Voting. - Electronic Remote Voting:
	    (i) Email
	    (ii) Fax
	    (iii) Telephone
	    (iv) Internet
	    (v) Television - Elector Visit/Home Voting - No Excuse Absentee Voting - Traditional Absentee
		Puiggali and Morales-Rocha (2007)
		
		Collingwood (et al. 2018)

Electronic Voting	- Electronic Voting at the Polling Station - Internet Voting - Kiosk Voting - Email - Fax - Telephone - Internet - Television	Keshk and Abdul-Kader (2007)
Early Voting	- No excuse absentee ballots - In-person early voting - Traditional Absentee	Gronke and Toffey, (2009), Gronke, Galanes-Rosenbaum and Miller, (2007)
Registration	- Conditional Voting - Provisional Voting	Laing et al. (2018)

	● Absent Voting	
Assistance	● Proxy Voting ● Elector Visit/Home Voting	Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, (2015), Laing et al. (2018)

Much as the above analysis presents some organisational level based on similarities of voting methods, it is not entirely clear what the defining change of the voting methods is. Thus, it is not quite clear what makes these methods convenient. Therefore, to find more appropriate groups that encompasses all the voting methods, guiding questions were formulated. This was guided by using the 'Wh' question words of Grammar whereby: 'Who' is used for a person, 'When' is used for time or date, 'How' is used for an amount or way, and 'Where' is used for place (Blagojevic, 2015). The following thus was the question categories: *Who casts the vote? When is the vote cast? How is the Vote cast? Where is the vote cast?* Below is a graphical representation of this analysis:

Thirdly, according to Blamire (1998), agreed names of the groups should be distinctive, unambiguous, and agreed upon by all users. Therefore, on further analysis to establish the names for the categories, it is observed that the 'When' and 'Where' of the 'wh' questions coincide with dimensions highlighted by Gronke et al. (2008) thus are a more distinctive and unambiguous route in grouping.

Drawing from Gronke's et al. (2008) definition of Convenience voting as "any channel making voting more convenient (less costly) by allowing voters to cast a ballot at a place and time other than the precinct polling place on Election Day" (p. 438), we derive two coinciding elements that change with the voting method: Time and Place. Based on this definition, we observe only one Voting method: Advance Voting that allows voters to cast their vote at a time and place other than precinct polling place. Thus, on an in-depth analysis of the techniques of Convenience voting, Gronke's definition arguably does not cover all existing voting channels. This is because convenience voting has evolved over the years and other voting methods incorporated. Additionally, the voting methods change in one or more dimensions from Traditional Election Day voting to fit the needs of different voters more suitably. As evidence,

Internet Voting changes in time as one can vote before the election day; it also changes in place as one can vote from anywhere; additionally, it changes in medium, as one does not use a paper ballot but a web platform to vote.

To exemplify further, Proxy voting neither changes in time nor place but rather in delegation. Moreover, conditional voting changes in neither place nor time but rather in time of recording. Therefore, this thus suggests that there are 5 changing elements that a convenience voting method undergoes exclusively or in combination: Change in: *time*, *place*, *medium*, *delegation* and *time of recording*. The following is a diagram representing the defining changes that convenience voting methods undergo.

Figure 4: Archetypes of Convenience Voting based on Defining Change (Source:Author)
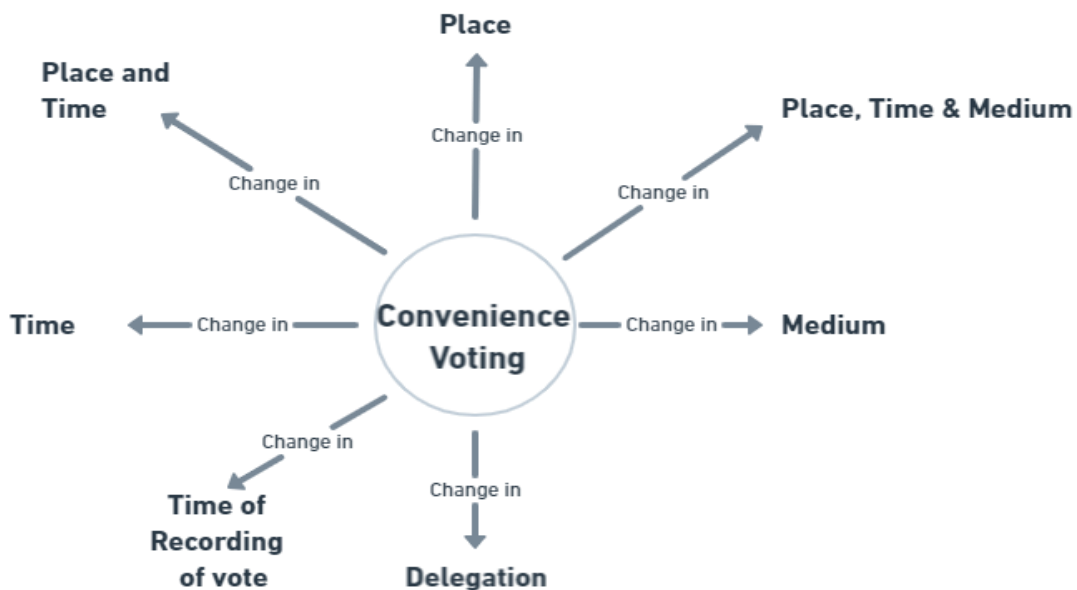
The last stage of classification according to Blamire (1998) is Process and Priorities. This entails putting the subjects into their appropriate groups. In this context, all identified voting types should be grouped accordingly. Thus, the author proposes that the voting methods be

clustered according to their defining change. The following is a brief description of the defining changes and the voting methods that change in that dimension.

Change in Time: This encompasses the time in which the voting method is executed. The main question in this is 'what time is the vote cast?'. Usually, on traditional election day voting, the vote is cast on a specific day that is set aside for voting known as the 'election day.' Thus, if there is a change in time in which a vote is cast, then the method is considered 'convenient'. Example: Early in Person Voting

Change in Place: This involves the place or location in which the vote is placed. Does the voter place the vote at a polling station, or at home or overseas? Thus, the main question here to be addressed is 'where is the vote cast?' Traditional election day voting involves casting the vote at a polling station. Thus, if the place changes from voting at a polling station, then the method is considered 'convenient'. Example: Kiosk Voting, Curbside Voting

Change in Medium: Change in medium involves the means in which the vote has been cast. Thus, the main question here is, 'How has the vote been cast?'. Traditional election day voting involves casting a paper ballot. Thus, if there is a change from using paper to cast a ballot, then the method is considered 'convenient'. Example: Electronic Voting at the Polling Station

Change in Delegation: This involves determining the person who has cast the vote. Traditional Election Day Voting entails that each citizen casts their own vote. The main question here is, 'Who has cast the vote?'. Thus, if there is a change in voter, then the voting method is considered 'convenient'. Example: Proxy Voting

Change in Time and Place: This involves a change in both the time and place. Example: Advance Voting in Vote Centers.

Change in Time, Place, and Medium: This encompasses a change in all three dimensions from casting a vote on election day, at a polling station and through a ballot paper. Example: Internet Voting

Change in Time of Recording: This dimension entails a change in time of recording of the registered voter. Usually this is before election day, but for conditional voting, the special provision is given. Example: Conditional Voting. Below is a diagram representing the voting methods categorised based on their defining change.

Figure 5: Convenience Voting Methods according to Archetypes
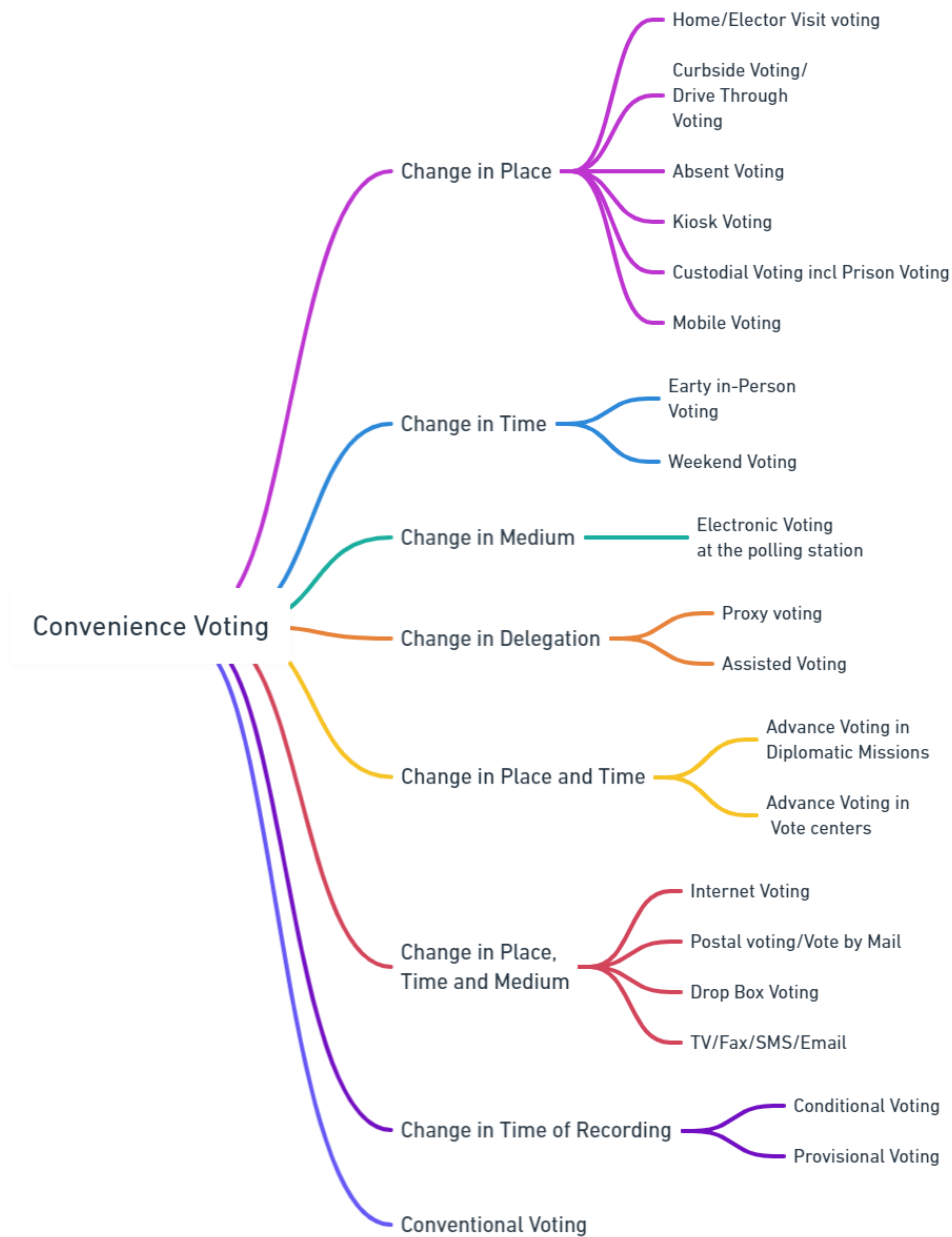
This method of categorisation thus provides a comprehensive analysis of the defining change in convenience voting. It is helpful for election assistance in establishing the change in the dimension needed for a specific scenario. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, a change in place of voting and medium has been necessary to minimise the spread of the virus through traditional Election Day voting. Another instance is for a person voting from overseas, a change in time, medium and place would enable electoral assistance to implement a voting method according to these dimensions. This framework thus can be used by electoral assistance in improving elections with each electoral cycle.

5.2.2   Redefining Convenience Voting

Based on the above analysis, the author proposes a new definition that explains Convenience Voting according to the defining change in the voting method.

Proposed definition: *Convenience voting is a voting channel or a set of voting channels that enables a voter to cast a vote quickly or with less difficulty at the place and/or time of their choice and/or by the medium and/ or person of their choice*.

5.3   Summary of chapter

This chapter presented and analysed the findings from the systematic literature review specific to the definition of convenience voting and its types.

6 CONCLUSION

The main aim of this thesis was to unfold the concept of convenience voting by bringing clarity to its chaotic representation in academic literature. This thesis did so by investigating the overarching research question: 'How is Convenience Voting defined in academic literature?' and the two sub-questions: (1) 'What are the types of Convenience Voting?' and (2) What are the benefits and barriers of Convenience Voting?'

When addressing the overarching research question on how convenience voting is defined in academic literature, the working definition of this thesis by Gronke et al. (2008), was the most widely used definition. The authors described Convenience Voting "as any channel making voting more convenient (less costly) by allowing voters to cast a ballot at a place and time other than the precinct polling place on Election Day" (p. 438). This definition highlight two dimensions that change in comparison to election day: time and place. An analysis of other definitions of Convenience Voting highlighted a recurrence of two descriptive words: "easily" and "quickly". In addressing sub-question (1), 23 types of convenience Voting methods were discovered and defined: Electronic Voting at the Polling Station, Internet Voting, Kiosk Voting, Email, Fax, Television, Telephone, SMS, Conditional Voting, Provisional Voting, Assisted Voting, Proxy Voting, Weekend Voting, Custodial voting, Drive in, Elector Visit/ Home voting, Absent Voting, Mobile Voting, Traditional Absentee Voting , No excuse Absentee, Vote by Mail, In Person Early Voting, and In person early voting with voting centres.

Identifying the types of Convenience Voting methods consequently addressed the research objective: 'Review the current state of the art in Convenience Voting, identifying its types, benefits, and barriers.' Sub-section 5.2.1 addressed the research problem of a lack of synthesis in terminologies and definitions by outlining the definitions of each voting method and their synonyms. At least 11 types of voting methods had synonyms, with some having as much as four other names (e.g., In-person Early Voting). Vote by mail is essentially Absentee balloting in the US when done via mail. At the same time, in person, early voting is essentially Absentee balloting when voting is done in person before the election. In other words, Absentee Voting can either be via mail or early in person. Thus, this terminology is used interchangeably in most literature that focuses on the US. Some literature also refers to Internet voting as Absentee Voting.

Nonetheless, the author found it critical to categorise the voting types according to a form of similarities. From the literature review analysis, five overarching categories (5.2.1.2) were identified based on a common attribute: Electronic Voting, Remote voting, Early Voting, Registration and Assistance.

 However, on further analysis, this was found to be insufficient. Thus, drawing from the working definition of this thesis, 'time' and 'place' were highlighted as the changing dimensions in Convenience Voting. An in-depth analysis of the Voting types guided by Blamire (1998) classification system, highlighted five archetypes determined by the defining change of each voting method - exclusively or in combination: Change in: *time*, *place*, *medium*, *delegation* and *time of recording.* The author established this five Archetypes to help classify the voting methods and define convenience Voting. Based on the analysis, the author found that the working definition of this thesis by Gronke et al. (2008) could be refined accordingly to accommodate the aforementioned changing dimensions. Thus, this resulted in the proposed definition in subsection 5.2.2. stating, "*Convenience voting is a voting channel or a set of voting channels that enables a voter to cast a vote quickly or with less difficulty at the place and/or time of their choice and/or by the medium and/ or person of their choice".*

In addressing sub question (2) on the barriers and benefits; it was found that some barriers associated with convenience voting include: digital divide, social inequalities, delay in postal voting, loss of tradition, fraud (4.1.4) whereas some benefits are: possibility of increased voter turnout, inclusivity of marginalized groups, reduced costs, speed (4.1.3).

This thesis encountered some limitations that the reader should be aware of when making an interpretation. (i) Owing to the defined restrictions of a master thesis with regards to the length of this paper, some findings from the coding processes were not featured in this paper. (ii) Most of the articles analysed in the literature review are mainly in the US context, thus limiting the holistic approach intended. (iii) The proposed classification system has not been approved by experts

While this thesis defined each voting type; (i) it would be key for future research to also focus on the costs, benefits and barriers to each voting method. (ii) To avoid misunderstandings, the author of this thesis suggests that future research perhaps should include the synonym of voting type when expounding on it. (iii) Research in this field can also be improved by addressing the research objectives outside of a Master thesis context which can be limiting. Future research

can also delve deeper and on a wider scale to incorporate a balance in the acquired papers based on jurisdiction. (iv) Research on Convenience Voting should be well organised and unified. Researchers should use clear definitions and synonyms of each voting type when addressing it in literature. Election Assistance and relevant stakeholders should also have a unified definition and view of Convenience voting and its methods to avoid misunderstandings and slowing down research. Lastly, (v) Governments should consider adopting convenience voting methods in preparation of the current and future pandemics/predicaments in a bid to uphold electoral integrity.

Lastly, in terms of contribution, this thesis (i) clearly defined Convenience Voting based on academic literature (2.2); (ii) presented a systematic literature review of the types of convenience voting (4.1.2); (iii) highlighted the benefits and barriers to convenience voting (4.1.3 and 4.1.4); (iv) defined the types of convenience voting (5.2.1); (v) classified types of convenience voting into relevant archetypes (5.2.1.2) and finally (vi) proposed a refined definition of convenience voting (5.2.2). Thus, this thesis may be of great value to governments, researchers, electoral assistance, and industry professionals in making decisions about adopting appropriate convenience voting methods based on the defining change. Secondly, it has the potential to advance improvement of the electoral cycle with each turn and perhaps as Hinz and Suksi (2003) write, subsequently lead to an "ever-better realisation of the right to participate."

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8 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Table Representing the types of voting methods and their definitions.

Voting Method/System	Other name	Technique	Sources
Absent voting		A form of voting where the voter casts their votes on Election Day at a voting centre outside the electorate for which they are registered, whether that be at intrastate, interstate or international location.	(Laing et al. 2018)
Assisted Voting		A form of voting where a patient or an invalid chooses another voter to help them vote, including casting the ballot for them -Lack of secrecy while voting	(Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, 2015)
Conditional Voting	Same-Day Voter Registration	An opportunity to register and vote on the same day offered to voters who have not registered to vote or updated their registration before the deadline. It usually takes place at the county elections office, vote center or local polling place. Example of where it is done: California	(Same Day Voter Registration, n.d)
Custodial Voting	Institutional Voting/ Prison Voting	A voting system that entails Electoral authorities visiting institutions such as prisons, hospitals and nursing homes to collect votes either before polling day or on polling day In some States voting in prison can be done by mail, in others it is in person, whereas others have county officials visit the prison with ballot papers.	(Laing et al. 2018) ("Voting in jails," 2020)
Drive-in	Curbside Voting Drive-thru voting	A voting system whereby an election official brings ballots to an elector who has limited mobility so that they can cast their vote without leaving their vehicle In some places there is a distinction between Drive-in voting and curbside voting whereby the former is open for all voters and the latter specifically for voters with limited mobility	(Laing et al. 2018)

Dropbox voting		A form of 'Vote by Mail' voting system that allows Voters to drop their mail-in ballots into a secured box at designated sites.	(Collingwood et al. 2018)
Elector Visit	Home voting	A voting system in which an electoral official visits a voter's home address on Election Day and takes their vote because the voter is unable to leave their home.	(Laing et al. 2018)
Electronic Voting at the Polling Station	Poll-site voting	A form of voting that requires a voter to physically attend a specific place to cast their votes, usually through electronic devices such as touch screen voting terminals. One is identified through conventional methods such as an ID,passport or any other form of identification.	(Laing et al. 2018) (Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007)
Email		Voting methods where an approved voter receives his or her ballot paper and a special declaration form by email. The voter thus sends an email with a scanned version of their votes (PDF formatted) attached. This email is sent to the Local Election Official email address. If the vote is accepted, the emailed vote (PDF) is printed by the Election Official and put into an envelope to keep it safe until it is counted.	(Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007)
Fax		A Voting method where an approved voter receives his or her ballot paper and a special declaration form by fax. Thereafter, they transmit the vote by fax to a pre-assigned number Example of where used: Alaska, Montana, some parts of Australia -solves the uncertain reception problem that postal voting systems have.[11] It is mainly supported as a contingency measure in case voters cannot cast their votes on time.	Gronke et al. 2008) (Krimmer, Triessnig and Volkamer, 2007)
In-person Early voting	In-person absentee voting, Early Voting,	A form of voting that requires the voter to complete a ballot in person at a satellite location or at the county elections office prior to Election Day usually by simply showing up at the polling station. Voting is done with the	(Laing et al. 2018) (Gronke et al. 2008) (Biggers and

	Pre-poll voting, Advance voting	same voting machinery used for early in-person and Election Day balloting. Example of where used: Australia, Texas, Georgia, Tennessee, Iowa, Estonia	Hanmer, 2015). (Kropf, 2012)
In-person early voting with voting centers		A form of 'In-person early voting system however voting centers are created that are not linked to a particular precinct as in 'In-person early voting.' Some places where used: Colorado	(Gronke et al. 2008)
Internet Voting	Remote E-Voting	A system of voting that allows voters to cast their ballot paper over the internet through a web portal or specialised voting application on their computer or smartphone. Usually, Voters are provided a method of signing into a secure website, including a unique form of identification, and cast their votes using a web browser. (Gronke et al. 2008) Some places where used: Estonia, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland, New South Wales (NSW) and Western Australia (WA.)	(Laing et al. 2018) (Gronke et al. 2008) (Germann and Serdült, 2014)
Kiosk Voting		This is a form of E-voting which entails having voting machines located in convenient locations such as malls, libraries or schools -poses more challenges than the poll site system. -Some forms of intervention to ensure Security, Privacy and to prevent coercion are necessary[6] [7] Example of where it is done: UK (pilots)	(Keshk and Abdul-Kader, 2007)
Mobile Voting		A voting system that entails taking votes by mobile polling teams in remote electorate typically conducted prior to polling day. Some literature refers to this as Home Voting	(Laing et al. 2018)
No-excuse absentee voting		A system of Voting by mail in which the Voter has to apply for an absentee ballot, but no excuse is required. A few states allow permanent absentee status, but in most states, a voter must apply for	(Gronke et al. 2008), (Biggers and Hanmer, 2015).

		an absentee ballot at each election. (Gronke et al. 2008)	
Provisional		A voting system allowing voters to cast a vote even though their name does not appear on the electoral roll in which they claim to be enrolled or the voter's name is already marked off the electoral roll as having voted. Places used: Parts of Australia	Laing et al. 2018)
Proxy Voting		A form of voting that entails having an authorised person (proxy) voting on behalf of the voter who is not present with the proxy in the time of voting. -eliminates gerrymandering Insecurity about voting for the correct party and politician according to the individual's will without abuse[9]	(Bosquet, El Massioui and Mahé, 2015)
SMS	Test Message	A voting method where voters cast their ballot via SMS network by sending a text message Example of where it is done: UK (pilots), and Canada	
Telephone		A voting method where voters cast their ballot via the phone. Example of where it is done: Vermont, Maine, Australia	Gronke et al. 2008)
Traditional Absentee Voting	Absentee Voting	A system of Voting by mail in which the Voter has to apply for an absentee ballot and has to give an excuse: usually a limited number of reasons are allowed, such as being physically unable to get to a polling station, being in the military (domestic or overseas), living abroad, or being away at college.	(Biggers and Hanmer, 2015). (Gronke et al. 2008)
TV		A voting method where Voters cast their ballot via TV/SMS network Example of where it is done: UK (pilots)	
Vote-by-mail	Postal Voting	A System of voting in which the voter receives the ballot by mail, generally a few weeks prior to the elections and the Ballots can be returned via mail or dropped off at satellite locations or at the county elections office.	Gronke et al. 2008) (Laing et al. 2018)

		Some places it's used are: Oregon, Washington, United Kingdom, Switzerland	
Weekend Voting		A voting system that allows the voter to cast their vote on a weekend	(Harris and Lewis, 2012)