

Love Your Literature Search

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Love (Planning and Documenting) Your Literature Search

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A systematic review is...

- A clearly stated set of objectives with pre-defined eligibility criteria for studies,
- An explicit, reproducible methodology,
- A systematic search that attempts to identify **all studies that would meet the eligibility criteria**,
- An assessment of the validity of the findings of the included studies, for example through the assessment of risk or bias, and
- A systematic presentation, and synthesis, of the characteristics and findings of the included studies.

-The Cochrane Handbook, section 1.2.2

Planning and Documenting

1. Refining the Research Problem
2. Defining Keywords
3. Querying with Boolean
4. Identifying Resources
5. Experiment with Searching
6. Record Searches, Record Results

Refining the Research Problem

- Is the scope too broad or too narrow?
- Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria
 - Study Type or Method
 - Date Range
 - Geography and Language
 - Population
 - Information Type

Defining Keywords

- Synonyms
- Terminology
- Variations

Places to look: Reference Material, MeSH, WoS Synonyms, WoS
Subject Terms

Querying with Boolean

- AND
- NEAR or ADJACENT
- OR
- * or ! or ?
- " "
- ()
- type:
- Avoid NOT. Exception: *NOT (MH "animals" NOT MH "humans")*

An example...

- 1 MH "Hip Joint"
- 2 MH "Hip Prosthesis"
- 3 MH "Acetabulum"
- 4 TI,AB "hip replacement*"
- 5 TI,AB "total-hip replacement*"
- 6 TI,AB "total joint replacement*"
- 7 TI,AB "hip surgery."
- 8 TI,AB "hip operation*"
- 9 TI,AB (hip N3 prosth*)
- 10 TI,AB (hip N3 arthroplasty)
- 11 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10

Adapted from Centre for Reviews and Dissemination [CRD] (2009) *Systemic Reviews*. York: CRD. https://www.york.ac.uk/media/crd/Systematic_Reviews.pdf p. 249

Identifying Resources

- Abstracts and Indices
- THEN full-text collections
- Union Catalogues

- Use other Libraries: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sconul-access>
- Use Inter Library Loans: <https://bit.ly/EdNapLibILL>

Experiment with Searching

- Searching Reference Lists
- Citation Searching (in WoS or Google Scholar)
- Hand Searching
- Contacting industry, manufactures, regulatory agencies
- Contacting other experts
- Alerts and Saved Searches

Record Searches

- Which database, register, or journal
- Which service provider
- Which platform
- Date conducted
- Period covered
- Issue or version used
- Exact search strategy for each database in full with total hits and set numbers
- Copy/Paste searches as run

Record Results

Source	Coverage	Date Run	Number of Results	Results Included
MEDLINE	1966-	01/03/2018	83	15
BIOSIS	1926-	05/03/2018	42	7
CAB Abstracts	1973-	06/03/2018	11	2

Citation	Research Question	Method	Findings	Comments
Blogs, J. (2017)	Counselling in incarceration	Action Research with sample of 25	Positive	First documented use of Action Research in this area

An example with Appendix...

The following databases were searched for relevant studies: ASSIA (via CSA 1990 to 06/March/06); CENTRAL (via Cochrane Library issue 2/2006, 12/April/06, 12/April/06); CINAHL (via WebSPIRS 1990 to 2006 wk 4, 01/April/06); DH-Data (via Datastar 1994 to 14/March/06, 14/March/06); EMBASE (via Dialog 1974 to 2006 week 8, 16/March/06); MEDLINE (via Ovid, 1966 to week 10 2006, 15/March/06); PsycINFO (via Datastar 1806 to 2006 week 2, 17/March/06). The search strategies used text words and relevant indexing to capture the concept of preventing the uptake of smoking in young people. The full strategies are shown in the appendix. The reference lists of included papers were assessed for additional relevant studies and the journal Tobacco Control was handsearched for the period January 2000-June 2006. The following websites were searched: National Guideline Clearinghouse (www.guideline.gov/15/Oct/06) and Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) (www.ash.org.uk/16/Oct/06).

Adapted from Centre for Reviews and Dissemination [CRD] (2009) *Systemic Reviews*. York: CRD. https://www.york.ac.uk/media/crd/Systematic_Reviews.pdf p. 251

An example without an Appendix...

The following databases were searched from inception to March/April 2006 for relevant studies: ASSIA, CENTRAL, CINAHL, DH-Data, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PsycINFO. The literature search used the following terms (with synonyms and closely related words): “smoking” combined with “prevention” and “young people”. The searches were not limited by study design or language of publication. Further studies were identified by examining the reference lists of all included articles, handsearching the journal Tobacco Control from 2000 to 2006, and searching relevant websites. **The full list of sources and the search strategy are available from the authors.**

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