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Systematic review literature search workshop

Welcome and introduction

December 1, 2011



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Introductions

What is your area of interest/faculty/department?

What are you currently working on?

What are you hoping to take away from today's session?



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Presenter introductions

Please feel free to contact us after the workshop.
Business cards available to take away.



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What is a systematic review?

- A review in which specified and appropriate methods that are intended to limit bias and random error have been used to identify, appraise, and summarize studies addressing a defined question. It can, but need not, involve meta-analysis.
- Includes a comprehensive search of all potentially relevant articles and the use of explicit, **reproducible** criteria in the selection of articles for review.

Sources: Cook DJ, Mulrow CD, Haynes RB. "[Systematic reviews: synthesis of best evidence for clinical decisions](#)". *Ann Intern Med.* 1997 Mar 1;126(5):376-80.;[BMJ Clinical Evidence](#).



What is a meta-analysis?

- A statistical technique that summarizes the results of several studies in a single weighted estimate, in which more weight is given to results of studies with more events and sometimes to studies of higher quality.

Source: [University of York, UK](#)



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Qualitative or mixed-method systematic reviews

- Qualitative research is concerned with the subjective world and offers insight into social, emotional, and experiential phenomena.
- Current trend toward development of a more systematic approach to the utilization of the complex evidence base, including research and non-research sources, both quantitative and qualitative findings.
- Many different approaches are in use or under development, e.g. Bayesian meta-analysis, critical interpretive synthesis, realist synthesis, qualitative cross-case analysis, meta-narrative mapping.

Sources: Mays N, Pope C, Popay J. "[Systematically reviewing qualitative and quantitative evidence to inform management and policy-making in the health field.](#)" *J Health Serv Res Policy*. 2005 Jul;10 Suppl 1:6-20.; [University of York, UK](#).



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The systematic review process

- Stage 1: Planning the Review**
 - Step 1 – Forming a review panel
 - Step 2 – Mapping the field of study
 - Step 3 – Producing a review protocol
- Stage 2: Identifying and evaluating studies**
 - Step 4 – Conducting a systematic search
 - Step 5 – Evaluating studies
- Stage 3: Extracting and synthesising data**
 - Step 6 – Conducting data extraction
 - Step 7 – Conducting data synthesis
- Stage 4: Reporting**
 - Step 8 – Reporting the findings
- Stage 5: Utilising the findings**
 - Step 9 – Informing research
 - Step 10 – Informing practice



Source: David Tranfield et al., (2004) "[Co-producing management knowledge](#)", *Management Decision*, Vol. 42 Iss: 3/4, pp.375 – 386.



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Useful sites

[Cochrane Collaboration](#): Prepares and promotes systematic reviews of primary research in human health care and health policy.

[Campbell Collaboration](#): Mission is to help people make well-informed decisions by preparing, maintaining and disseminating systematic reviews in education, crime and justice, and social welfare.

[EQUATOR Network](#): International initiative that seeks to improve reliability and value of medical research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies.

Others? Check the wiki.



Schedule

8.45am – 9.00am	Registration
9:00am – 9:30am	Introductions and overview (with refreshment)
9:30am – 10:30am	Planning the search: creating a framework, identifying searchable terms
10:30am – 10:45am	Refreshment break
10:45am – 12:30pm	Database search tips and techniques
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch on your own
1.30pm - 1.45pm	Considerations when applying for grants
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Selecting sources, including grey literature
2:45pm – 3:00pm	Refreshment break
3:00pm – 3:45pm	Managing and documenting the search strategy and reference process
3:45pm – 4:00pm	Hands-on practice, questions and workshop summary



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