THE LITERATURE REVIEW

How do I know I found everything?

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OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the difference between a well-written research question vs. a clinical question
2. Explain the best practices for systematic review of literature.
3. Describe the library resources available for research.
4. Save relevant citation for later use

DEFINITION

“A synthetic review and summary of what is known and unknown regarding the topic of a scholarly body of work, including the current work’s place within the existing knowledge.”

SUPPORTS RESEARCHERS BY...

1. Articulate clear goals
2. Show evidence of adequate preparation
3. Select appropriate methods
4. Communicate relevant studies
5. Engage in reflective critique

SPECTRUM OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW

Part of a Larger Work

Comprehensive

Selective

Introduction to a Journal Article
Thesis/Dissertation
Course Assignment
Review Article

Stand Alone Work
A COMPREHENSIVE LITERATURE REVIEW

- Narrative Review
- Systematic Reviews
  - Defined protocol for searching all relevant materials
- Thesis and Dissertation

A SELECTIVE LITERATURE REVIEW

- Introduction to Journal Article
  - Selecting high yield articles illustrating concepts/theories/methodologies of interest
- Case Report
  - Address the uniqueness of the case
  - Review the evidence to support clinical decisions

RESEARCH QUESTION

Research Question:
The objective of a study, an uncertainty or perceived deficit the investigator wants to resolve.
- Need to determine which clinical uncertainties could or should be studied and rationalizing the need for their investigation.

DEFINITION

FINER

- F – Feasible
- I – Interesting
- N – Novel
- E – Ethical
- R - Relevant

PICO(T)

- P – Population, Patient, Problem, Phenomena
- I – Intervention, Exposure, thing of Interest
- C – Comparison Group
- O – Outcome of Interest
- (T – Time)
THE SEARCH PROCESS

AN ITERATIVE PROCESS

EXAMPLE TOPIC

What are residents’ viewpoints of physician dress codes?

CONCEPTS

SEARCH BUILDING STRATEGIES

- Utilize limits/filters available within your database
- Build with connecting terms of AND/OR/NOT
DATABASES OF INTEREST

- Relevant Databases
  - MEDLINE (PubMed and OVID)
  - PsycINFO
  - CINAHL
  - ERIC: Educational Research Information Clearinghouse
  - HAPI: Health and Psychosocial Instruments

EXAMPLE

Topic: Teaching of Psychodynamic Psychotherapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
<th>Controlled Vocabulary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychodynamic Psychotherapy</td>
<td>Psychodynamic Psychotherapy</td>
<td>Teach*, learn*, instruct*, curricul*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAVE YOUR CITATIONS

- RefWorks
- EndNote
- Zotero

DATABASES OF INTEREST

- Cited Reference Search
  - Scopus
  - Web of Science
  - Google Scholar
- Example:

CITED REFERENCE SEARCHES

- Web of Science (229)
- Scopus (326)
- Google Scholar (703)

GREY LITERATURE

- Reports
  - Research
  - Technical
  - Government
  - Academic
  - Organizations
  - Clinical Trials
- White Papers
- Protocols
- Conference Papers
- Preprints
- Newsletters
- Blogs
- Web Sites
SYNTHESIS MATRIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Conclusions</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample</td>
<td>Purpose of Study</td>
<td>RCT, Cohort, Case Report</td>
<td>Randomized Controlled Trial</td>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Impact?</td>
<td>Areas for Improvement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TIPS

- There is no such thing as a perfect search.
- Searching is iterative.
- Explore multiple databases.
- Follow leads.
- Strive to be comprehensive.
- You will never find everything.
- Know when to stop.
- Collaborate with a librarian.

MY SEARCH PRINCIPLES

PULLING THE LIT REVIEW TOGETHER

- Consider the Author Guidelines for a publication
  - Limit of citations for an article type
  - Structure and limits for introduction/background sections
- Synthesize!
  - Pull the material from matrix
  - Outline from key points of what you think the reader needs to know about the topic
- The "Goldilocks Principle"
  - No laundry lists!
  - Select High-yield references
  - Ask for colleagues to review your manuscript/literature review section

RESOURCES
