Getting started on your lit review

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UIC Library of the Health Sciences
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Today’s agenda

- Thematic literature reviews
- Approaches to searching for literature
- The best places to look for scholarly & non-scholarly articles
- Saving with RefWorks
- Q & A
Your librarian

Rosie Hanneke

- Librarian for SPH
- Library of the Health Sciences
- I can help with...
  - finding
  - organizing
  - citing
  - ...information
What is a literature review?

- A cohesive essay giving your reader the lay of the land: what’s the context for your research project?
- What we know
- What we don’t know (where are the gaps?)
- Thematic literature review - organize paper around themes, subtopics, theories, major ideas
What is it NOT?

- A book report or annotated bibliography
- An exhaustive list of everything ever written on your topic
- The place for you to add your own argument
What is your topic? → Break it into manageable parts

What are the **themes** guiding your review?

For example:

“Emergency departments are overcrowded, creating (among other problems) long wait times. This leads to decreased patient satisfaction. I’m interested in ways to improve ED throughput, thereby reducing wait times and improving patient satisfaction.”
Emergency departments

Patient flow

- Overcrowding
- Specialists
- Transfer to other departments
- Frequent flyers

Wait times

- Patient satisfaction
- Patient morbidity
- Adverse events
- Staff frustration
What are the “themes” (subtopics) within this map?
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Thematic review outline

- Factors influencing patient flow in the ED
- Attempts to improve patient throughput
  - Previous research studies & articles
  - Specific examples & how they were/weren’t successful
- Patient satisfaction
  - How it’s affected by wait times
  - Ways to improve
  - One intervention of interest - what is or isn’t known
Finding articles
Search tips & tricks

- Searching with **AND** combines terms. It gives you results that satisfy both search terms (only where the two overlap).
- Searching with **OR** gives you more! It gives you everything available for each term, including when they overlap.
- Use truncation * to search for all endings of a word. Medic* will find medicine, medical, medication, etc.
- Use “quotation marks” around a multiple-word phrase to find ONLY where those terms appear right next to each other.
Search terms

- Emergency department AND wait times
- Emergency department AND (wait times OR throughput OR patient flow)
- (wait times OR throughput OR patient flow) AND “patient satisfaction” AND “emergency department”
- (“patient satisfaction” OR “patient dissatisfaction) AND “emergency department”
What are you looking for?

- At least 15 scholarly references
- At least 15 non-scholarly references, e.g. articles, websites, reports
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Non-Scholarly</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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Scholarly

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- Written by experts in the field (scholars, researchers)
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- Abstract - Introduction - Methods - Results - Discussion

Non-Scholarly

- Websites, magazine articles, trade/business journals, newspapers
- Often written by journalists & businesspeople, not academic researchers
- Usually no peer review
- Often briefer in length, contain pictures/colors
- Shorter time to publication
Where to look - Scholarly

- Databases
  - library.uic.edu → Databases A-Z
  - http://researchguides.uic.edu/mha

- Health Sciences databases
  - PubMed

- Business databases (best bet - scholarly & non-scholarly)
  - Business Source Premier
  - ABI/Inform Global

- Google Scholar
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Look here for slides & recording
Search demonstration

View webinar recording to see live searching for scholarly & non-scholarly articles in library databases
Where to look – Non-scholarly

- Business databases
- Known organizations/websites
  - e.g. Advisory Board
- Google

Know of a great resource? Email Rosie to suggest for the MHA Capstone research guide: rhanneke@uic.edu
Important reminder!

- You should carefully review EVERY article you include for relevance, quality & potential bias

- ...especially information you find through Google
  - More likely to include commercial websites with bias or hidden agendas
  - Less likely to be “vetted” for quality

- Ask yourself: Why am I including this source?
  - What role does it play in the review?
  - Is it of high quality?
Evaluating your sources

- Currency
  - Are dates listed at all?
  - When was the page published/last updated?

- Reliability
  - Are sources/references listed?
  - What indicates that this is a trustworthy source?

- Author(ity)
  - What is the author’s expertise? Potential biases?
  - Use “About Us” section on websites

- Purpose
  - Is the purpose to inform, to entertain, to sell you something?
Saving, organizing, citing
Citation managers

- Applications that save your citations & help you create a bibliography in the correct format
- RefWorks (free through the Library)
- Zotero (free at Zotero.org)
- Others include Mendeley, EndNote

- Time permitting: RefWorks demonstration
- Make an appointment with a librarian for in-depth training on a citation management application
Need help? Ask!

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- Email
- In person
- Online (Adobe Connect)