

Reference interview for systematic review searches

Preparing

Pre-existing research

- Protocols for ongoing SRs
- Preliminary searches in Prospero, Cochrane Library, PubMed

Protocol

- Is a protocol written?
- Published in Prospero?

Relevant references

- Gold standard for search
- Useful for identifying search terms

Published searches

- Useful for identifying search terms
- Useful for identifying relevant databases

Where to publish?

- In a journal?
- Through an organization?

Use of any standards?

- Guidelines for
 - systematic reviews
 - literature search
- Reporting -> PRISMA
- Journals' instruction for authors
- Peer review of search -> PRESS?

Organizing the work

Project group

- Earlier experience with systematic reviews?
- Work in independent pairs?
- Contact person who can make decisions on behalf of the group?

A systematic review? Or a review done systematically?

- A systematic review should include quality assessment of included studies, will this be done?
- For other types of reviews, see Granth & Booth (2009).

Role of librarian

- Supervising or do the search?
- Will the search be published?
- Author of methodology chapter in review?
- Librarian as co-author/ acknowledgement?

Time frame and deadlines

- What is the time frame for the whole project?
- What is the time frame for the literature search?
- Will the search result be reviewed regardless of size?

The literature search

Is the research question clearly defined?

- Clear inclusion criteria?
- Clear exclusion criteria?

Framework research question

- PICO
- SPICE
- SPIDER
- Other...

Search sources and methods

- Reference databases
- Databases outside institution portfolio?
- Unpublished literature
- Gray literature, hand search, citation search

Search terms and phrases

- Subject headings, text words, phrases, concepts incl. variations
- Relevant study designs
- Which study designs answers the research question?

Limitation by languages or years

- Any limitations by language or year?
- Plan for managing studies in foreign languages?

Supplementary work

Documentation of literature search should include

- Name, affiliation and contact information of librarian
- Name of databases, incl which vendor
- Search date
- Copy of the literature search
- Number of references per database
- Number of references before and after duplicate check

Import to other software?

- Reference manager?
- Screening software?
- Which formats are required?

Review update?

- Update of literature search before publishing?
- Plan for updating the review?

Article access and requests

- Provide researchers with information on how to access electronic articles or request those who need to be ordered.

Notification when SR is published

- The librarian would be happy to know when the SR is published!

Aim of interview guide

- Increased requests for assistance with systematic review searching.
- Methodological knowledge vary in user.
- Methodological knowledge vary in librarian.
- Increase knowledge on systematic reviews, particularly methodological requirements.
- Clarify perception and expectations to the literature search.
- Strengthen knowledge about workload invested by librarians among researchers.
- Literature on reference interviews traditionally lack questions on methodology.

This interview guide is based on

- Published interview guides for literature searching.
- Methodology literature for systematic reviews.
- Own experiences.

The guide can be

- Used in meeting with research groups as topics needed to be discussed.
- A part of information on the library's services for systematic reviews.
- Used in in-house training of library staff.

References

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