

Key Considerations for Conducting Literature Reviews:



Advice from Librarians

By Robin Parker & Lindsey Sikora

01. Planning the Review

- Form a clear research question(s)
- Identify need for review
- Develop inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Build a team
- Identify resources and technologies



02. Identifying Studies

- Work with an information scientist to develop a search strategy and search appropriate databases
- Conduct a supplemental search for grey literature produced outside of traditional publishing venues



03. Evaluating & Appraising the Evidence

- Pilot your inclusion/exclusion criteria and adjust iteratively
- Consider using review management software to facilitate collaborative screening



04. Collecting & Combining Data

- Distill primary data to answer the research question(s)
- Pilot data extraction form and adjust iteratively
- Cross-check data captured with review purpose



05. Explaining the Synthesis

- Transparently and systematically draw data together to answer research question(s)
- Clearly explain synthesis and key decisions made by the team



06. Summarizing Findings

- Disseminate synthesis through text and visualizations within the report
- Follow standards/guidelines for reporting, if available
- Keep purpose and desired audience in mind



The PIECES framework is the work of Foster, M., & Jewell, Sarah T. (2017). Assembling the pieces of a systematic review : A guide for librarians. Rowman and Littlefield : Rowman & Littlefield

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