

7-STEP SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS



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1 FORMULATE THE RESEARCH QUESTION



Consider guiding approaches such as:

- **PICO** (Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome)
- **SPIDER** (Sample, Phenomenon of Interest, Design, Evaluation, Research Type)

2 ASSEMBLE THE RESEARCH TEAM

2

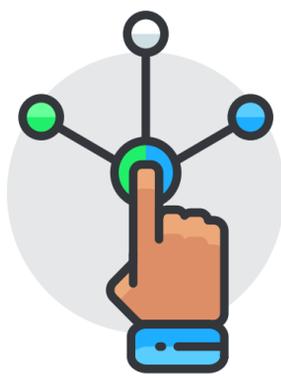
Strategically assemble a team with diverse expertise to answer the research question:

- subject matter experts
- information professionals
- Statisticians (for meta-analyses)
- Diverse stakeholders

Discuss time commitments, roles, and timelines with team members upfront



3 REGISTER A PROTOCOL



Registering a protocol of the review:

- Supports rigour in the review process
- Ensures efforts are not duplicated
- Complies with current journal requirements

4 DESIGN + EXECUTE SEARCH STRATEGIES

4

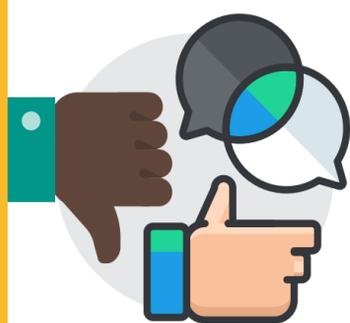
Collaborate with an information professional to:

- Design a comprehensive search strategy that includes multiple databases, hard searching of key journals, and grey literature
- Support meticulous record-keeping of all searches and corresponding dates

Keep in mind: Updating your search may be required if significant time has elapsed between initial search and journal submission



5 SCREEN FOR INCLUSION/EXCLUSION



Using inclusion criteria developed to answer the research question:

- At least two members should independently screen all titles and abstracts
- At least two members should independently screen full-text articles
- The availability of a third researcher in both stages as a tie-breaker is useful

6 ANALYZE + SYNTHESIZE DATA

6

To extract data from primary studies:

- Researchers should pilot a data extraction tool with at least two members. This tool will evolve in the initial pilot stages

Extracted data:

- Can be analyzed qualitatively or quantitatively (including through meta-analyses)
- Should be critically appraised using tools, such as MERSQI, NOS-E, or AMSTAR



7 WRITE UP THE REVIEW



All authors should:

- Participate in drafting and/or revision of the review manuscript

When writing:

- Ensure that the manuscript meets reporting guidelines (PRISMA, STORIES) of the journal
- Provide a cohesive discussion of findings in relation to existing literature (what will be valuable to stakeholders in their practice?)

