What is a Systematic Review?

A "high-level overview of primary research on a focused question" utilizing high quality research evidence through: 1) Identifying 2) Selecting 3) Synthesizing and 4) Appraising selected literature.

Steps to Conducting a Systematic Review: PIECES

P: Planning The methods of the systematic review are generally decided before conducting it

1. Identify your research question. Register your protocol (optional)
2. Define inclusion and exclusion criteria. What will be included in your search?

I: Identifying Searching for studies which match the preset criteria in a systematic manner

3. Search for studies, Run your searches in relevant, and collect ALL of the retrieved records

E: Evaluating Sort all retrieved articles (included or excluded) and assess the risk of bias for each included study

4. Select studies for inclusion based on pre-defined criteria by two or more independent reviewers
5. Evaluate the risk of bias of included studies using a Risk of Bias tool

C: Collecting/Combining Each study is coded with preset form, either qualitatively or quantitatively synthesize data

6. Extract data from included studies using a data extraction tool

E: Explaining Place results of synthesis into context, strengths and weaknesses of the studies

7. Present results and assess the quality of evidence, including detailed methodology and meta-analysis, if the studies allow. Provide recommendations based on the body of evidence.

S: Summarizing Report provides description of methods and results in a clear and transparent manner

8. Find the best journal to publish your work.

Systematic Review Tools

Systematic Review Toolbox
http://systematicreviewtools.com/index.php

Software for Systematic Reviewing
http://hlwiki.slais.ubc.ca/index.php/Software_for_systematic_reviewing

Systematic Review Tools
https://lib.guides.umd.edu/SR/managing [Tools Tab]
Questions? Contact a Librarian

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