South West Healthcare

Information Search Planner

This information search planner will prompt you to identify particular search concepts and strategies, and systematically record the information sources and material types which are relevant to your research

Formulate your question

1. **Summarise your topic** (be as descriptive as possible – the words listed here can be used when searching databases and other resources)

Using a search planner helps you formulate your research question and better understand the type of information you are looking for. A good research question is researchable, you don't already know the answer to it, it is reasonable and clearly focused. Three search concept tools you may find helpful are;

PICO ECLIPSE SPIDER

PICO – Reviews of interventions for health

P Patient or population
I Intervention
C Comparator or Control
O Outcomes

Example Question: What is the accuracy of clinical tests to diagnose superior labral anterior or posterior lesion in adults?
Richardson, W.S., Wilson, M.C., Nishikawa, J., & Hayward, R.S. (1995). The well-built clinical question: A key to evidence-based decisions. *ACP Journal Club*, 123(3) A12-A12.

ECLIPSE – Health service management searches

E Expectation - what does the search requester want the information for?
C Client Group - who is the service aimed at?
L Location - where is the service sited?
I Impact - what is the change in the service, if any, which is being looked for? What would constitute success? How is this being measured?
P Professionals - who delivered the service?
S Service - for which service are you looking for information? For example, outpatient services, nurse-led clinics, intermediate care.

Wildrige, V., & Bell, L. 2002. How CLIP became ECLIPSE: a mnemonic to assist in searching for health policy/management information. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 19(2) 113-5

Example Question: How can the discharge procedure from the hospital to the community for people with head injuries be improved?

SPIDER – Qualitative evidence synthesis

S Sample
PI Phenomenon of interest
D Design
E Evaluation
R Research type

Cooke, A., Smith, D., & Booth, A. 2012. Beyond PICO : The SPIDER Tool for Qualitative Evidence Synthesis. *Qualitative Health Research*, 22(10) 1435-1443

Search Strategy Planner
Clinical Scenario:
Formulate clinical question in the PICO format
Population: Male ☐Female ☐Both ☐ Infant☐ Child ☐Adolescent☐ Young Adult☐ Adult☐ Aged ☐Aged, 80 and Over☐ About Condition: **I**ntervention: **C**omparison: No intervention ☐Placebo studies ☐Other intervention: **O**utcome:
Formulate clinical question in the ECLIPSE format (Evaluating services Health Management & Policy)
Expectation **C**lient Group **L**ocation **I**mpact **P**rofessionals **S**ervice
Do you wish to restrict your search to: reviews ☐meta-analyses ☐ clinical research ☐randomised control trials ☐ guidelines ☐

PICO	Example Question: *How well does a random urine protein to creatinine ratio diagnose proteinuria versus a 24-hour urine collection for protein?*	
	P (population):	the demography of the population (age, gender, race) the problem of the population (condition or diagnosis or symptoms) *e.g. people with diabetes*
	I (intervention):	what is the treatment under investigation *e.g. random urine protein to creatinine ratio*
	C (comparator):	comparison of intervention (specific: weight bearing exercise) alternative interventions (broad: any other treatment) control (nothing) *e.g. 24-hour urine collection for protein*
	O (outcome):	change in symptoms of the population reason for using the exposure *e.g. diagnosis of proteinuria*

ECLIPSE	Example Question: *How can the discharge procedure from the hospital to the community for people with head injuries be improved?*	
	E (expectations):	about improvement or innovation or information What have other people done? *e.g. improve the discharge procedure from the hospital to the community where rehabilitation will continue.*
	C (client group):	at who is the service aimed? *e.g. people with head injuries*
	L (location):	where is the service sited? *e.g. Community*
	I (Impact):	what is the change in the service which is being looked for? What would constitute success? How is this being measured? Similar to outcomes in PICO-format *e.g. continuity of care; patient satisfaction; sense of communication between professionals*
	P (profession):	who delivered the service? *e.g. hospital nurses, community staff, social services*
	S (service):	type of service being investigated *e.g. community rehabilitation service*
	Wildridge & Bell (2002) Health Info Libr J. 19(2): 113-5.	

Plan your search strategy

2. **Apply the concepts** as described below to assist in filling out your search planner

Searching tips:

Boolean operators: are a means of combining search terms to broaden or narrow search results

AND -	narrows a search	teenage* **and** ''drug abuse''
OR -	broadens a search	teenage* **or** adolescen* or youth* **or** "young adult''
NOT-	used to exclude terms from a search	aids **not** ''hearing aids''

Phrase searching: This requires terms to be searched in the exact order specified within the quotation marks **" "**

"global warming" "prescription drugs"

Brackets are used to (group terms together) so they are searched first. Search: (animal OR mammal) AND habitat

Result: information on animals or mammals and habitat.

Truncation: Find word variations or alternate spellings by adding a truncation symbol to the end of terms. Common symbols are ***** or **!** or **?**

adolescen* will find: adolescent, adolescents, adolescence,

Identifying key concepts:

Synonyms *(related terms):*	Words or phrases that have a similar meaning	*e.g. youth, teenager, adolescent*
Plurals:	More than one	*e.g. child, children*
Variant spellings	**C**onsider American and English terms and spelling	*e.g. Organisation organization*
Acronyms, Abbreviations	May need to be written out in full	*e.g. WHO – World Health Organisation*
Broader terms	General terms	*e.g. computer networks*
Narrower terms	Specific terms	*e.g. Internet*
Medical Subject Headings	Indexed heading	

Example using our search template. *For the question: Do intake clinicians at South West Healthcare comply with standards of best practice in suicide risk assessment during intake/admission assessment?*

PICO	MeSH Terms	Synonyms	Keywords
P	Adult; Aged; Aged, 80 and over; Adolescents	Elderly, Senior, youth, teenage*, teens	Adults Australian Victoria*
I	Practice guideline; guideline; practice guidelines as topic; Education; Risk Factors; Risk Assessment; Diagnostic Tests, Routine	Clinical practice guideline; Training; Benefit-Risk Assessment; Risk; Admission Tests, Hospital; Preadmission Physical Examination; screening tools;	Best practice guideline; policy; procedures; care pathway; patient care plan; Australia Assessment tool suicide risk assessment tools
C (Medical condition)	Suicide Mental Health	Mental hygiene	

Identify search terms, keywords, phrases, synonyms and alternate terms			
PICO	**MeSH Terms**	**Synonyms**	**Keywords**
P			
I			
C			
O			

ECLIPSE	**MeSH Terms**	**Synonyms**	**Keywords**
E			
C			
L			
I			
P			
S			

3. **Keep a systematic log** of recorded database searches

Search Strategies (use Boolean Operation, e.g. AND, OR, NOT)	**Databases**	**No. of Result**
Example: (Oceanic ancestry group OR Aborigines, Australian OR Australian Race) **AND** (Health promotion OR health campaigns OR Promotion of health) **AND** (School health promotion OR School health Services) Subject Limiter: Health Promotion Location Limiter: Australia	EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS): MEDLINE complete, CINAHL, Clinical Key, Pro-Quest Nursing, Ovid Nursing	118

Refine your results

You can now refine your results by adding limiters. Applying limiters to your search will allow you to focus your results to the most pertinent and relevant content.

Further considerations

Any terms to exclude?
Any limitations (eg timeframe, geographic region, demographics)?

Information sources brainstorming

- Information is available from a wide range of sources, including print, electronic and multimedia
- You may need to consult many different sources to satisfy all research needs
- Stay on top of information by setting up alerts for those sources identified as key to your research

Key scholarly formats (peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, reports, books, systematic reviews etc…)

Key unpublished formats (working papers, government reports, pamphlets, posters, conference posters, blogs etc…)

Key Journals on my topic:

Key conferences in my research field:

Key authors and/or collaborative teams: (e.g. search *Scopus* and *ISI Web of Science* databases - citation counts)

Key organizations and web sites:

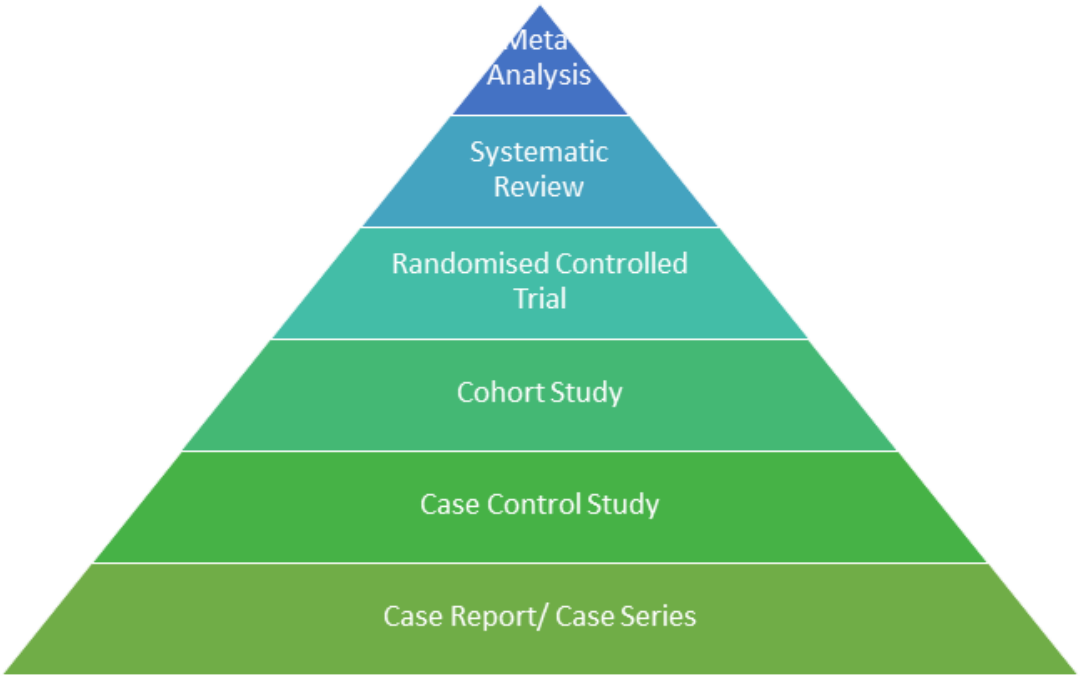
Result: numbers of hits

- Are they relevant?

Full text found? If not ... follow through with Full Text Finder, InterLibrary Loan, Google Scholar?
Will you export/save the citation to RefWorks/Endnote?

Determine the level of evidence

As you review the journal articles, select those that have the highest level of evidence, such as a meta-analysis or a systematic review.



Studies defined:

Meta-Analysis: A systematic review that uses quantitative methods to synthesise and summarise results.

Systematic Review: A summary of the medical literature that uses explicit methods to perform a comprehensive literature search and critical appraisal of individual studies.

Randomised Controlled Trial: Participants are randomly allocated into experimental or control groups and are followed over time for the variable/ outcomes of interest.

Cohort Study: Identifies participants who currently have a certain condition or receive a treatment and are followed over time and compared with another group of people not affected by the condition.

Case Control Study: Identifies participants who have a certain outcome (cases) and participants without that outcome (controls).

Case Report/ Case Series: A report on one or more participants with a particular outcome.

Adapted from: Jensen, K. 2017. Evidence-based practice: 7 steps to the perfect PICO search, EBSCO.

Need More Help…

Look for our library guides or speak to the librarian about:

Reference Management

Selecting Databases to search

Using a Search Filter

Example search filters that have been created to make search coverage/capture greater:

- Bereavement, Grief and Loss
- Contraception
- Dementia
- Cancer
- Opthalmology
- Heart Failure
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Lung Cancer
- Palliative care
- Primary Health Care
- Residential Aged Care
- Stroke Search Filter

What does a search filter look like? This example is of the prebuilt Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health filter used in PubMed.

(((((australia[mh] OR australia*[tiab]) AND (oceanic ancestry group[mh] OR aborigin*[tiab] OR indigenous[tw])) OR (torres strait* islander*[tiab])) AND medline[sb]) OR ((((au[ad] OR australia*[ad] OR australia*[tiab] OR northern territory[tiab] OR northern territory[ad] OR tasmania[tiab] OR tasmania[ad] OR new south wales[tiab] OR new south wales[ad] OR victoria[tiab] OR victoria[ad] OR queensland[tiab] OR queensland[ad]) AND (aborigin*[tiab] OR indigenous[tiab])) OR (torres strait* islander*[tiab])) NOT medline[sb]) AND English[la])