GETTING ORGANIZED FOR RESEARCH

OSOT 547
2018-2019
Overview of literature search in research projects

Tools and Techniques
- Which databases
- Finding papers for background and rationale
- Survey design and tests and measures

Staying Organized
- Saving searches
- Storing and using citations
ACTIVITIES - WORKSHOP

• Analyse topic
• Identify suitable databases
• Design and conduct efficient and effective search strategies using:
  – Boolean operators, controlled vocabulary (subject headings/descriptors) or keywords (text words) and their tools, Reverse engineering, Forward and Backward Reference chaining, specialized subject headings
• Find papers
• Being organized
  – Refworks
  – Saving searches and setting up alerts
LITERATURE IN THE RESEARCH FLOW

- ALREADY KNOWN
- SIMILAR

BACKGROUND

- METHODS
- SIMILAR

IDEAS

- LATEST
- CITATIONS

WRITING
Research Cycle: Ideal

(1) Develop topic
(2) Locate resources
(3) Interpret & Evaluate information
(4) Apply information & Cite sources

Photo courtesy of University of Illinois, https://researchguides.uic.edu/intro
Research Cycle: Actual

- Develop topic
- Locate resources
- Interpret & Evaluate information
- Apply & Cite sources

Photo courtesy of University of Illinois, https://researchguides.uic.edu/intro
LITERATURE REVIEW PROCESS

- Clearly articulate your question
- Identify the type of research that will best answer your question
- Conduct your research
- Gather your research
- Read and annotate – develop system for tracking themes. This may be through your citation management software, an excel sheet or a word document (see next slide)
- Write your review!
LITERATURE REVIEW PROCESS

- One popular tool is the Matrix Method, a table with headers to group identified themes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Article</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand patients’ understanding of brand substitution and opinions on copayment options for choice of medicine brand.</td>
<td>Lassing C; Ashton T; Davis P.</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>To better understand the views and experiences of New Zealand patients on switching between brands of prescription medicines and on alternative funding options for the provision of medicines.</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Self-administered questionnaire to selected patients at community pharmacies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renal patients’ views on generic prescribing and substitution; example from the United Arab Emirates.</td>
<td>Al Ameri MN; Mohamed W; Makramalla E; Shallhaub B; Tucker A; Johnston A</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Establish current patient awareness and understanding of generic drug substitutions.</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>Multiple-choice survey of 188 patients in 2 hospitals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LITERATURE REVIEWS

1. Plan
2. Identify
3. Evaluate
4. Synthesize
5. Explain
6. Summarize
RESOURCES

OSOT 547 COURSE GUIDE
• Slides, Links, Tutorials

TOOLS
• Databases & Refworks

People
• Librarians and Library staff
Where to search?

- GOOGLE SCHOLAR
- SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE DATABASES

Keywords
Advanced search:
- Date, title, articles

Keywords
Subject headings
Limits
Save searches
Transpose

Search terms
Twins: Subject Heading and Keyword

Hold hands with OR
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

MORE

A

B

AND

A

B
ADVANCED CONCEPTS

1. Keyword
   
   **Phrase searching**
   **Proximity** searching eg adj, near or within

2. Logic (mathematical)
   
   Use of brackets or parentheses

3. Subject headings
   
   Qualifiers
Words next to each other are searched next to each other AS A PHRASE

To search words next to each other use “ “
E.g. “eating disorders”
PROXIMITY SEARCHING

Ovid use ADJ

E.g. joint adj3 protection

Ebsco use N (near) or W (within)

E.g. joint n3 protection = either direction

Joint w3 protection = in same order
Order of Operations

**Generalized Search:**
eating disorders or women and self-esteem or media

will retrieve everything on eating disorders as well as ANY references to the terms women and self-esteem, PLUS everything on media.
Brackets (Parentheses)

Focused Search:
(eating disorders or women) and (self-esteem or media)

Controls the query to only find articles about eating disorders or women that reference self-esteem or media.
Parentheses with Proximity

Focused Search:
(eating disorder* or anorexia or bulimia) adj3 ( woman or women or girl*)

Will find articles about different types of eating disorders among women and/or girls
SUBJECT QUALIFIERS

Available in Medline and CINAHL

Useful qualifiers for rationale/background:

- Economics
- Epidemiology
- Statistics
- Evaluation

What others might you use?
Search databases separately  
Save search history and name with database name and date  
Use Refworks  
To Paraphrase Carl Sagan’s “‘Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.’”

0 results is not evidence of 0
One strategy you’re familiar with:

Reference mining

Snowballing

- Web of Science
- Google Scholar
- Citing articles in Ovid
TIPS 2

Am I searching in the right place?
Have I used too many ANDs?
Can I find more synonyms?
Am I getting too many mis-hits?
Can I improve the search with proximity?
Can I meet with Charlotte or other librarians?

charlotte.beck@ubc.ca or wd.ref@ubc.ca
Finding scales

Scales

HaPI
MMY
Instruments (IN) drop down in CINAHL
Tests and Measures (TM) in PsycInfo
Dissertations/Theses

Surveys

Questionnaires
Subject headings for Validity and Reliability

Medline:

MeSH: Reproducibility of results

CINAHL

Cinahl Heading: Reliability and validity

PsycInfo

Thesaurus: Test reliability

Thesaurus: Test validity
Managing your research

Create team accounts in OVID and EBSCO

- Save searches
- Set up AUTO ALERTS

Use a bibliographic software program for

- Storing and organizing articles
- Doing in text citations
- Creating a bibliography

Refworks

Access via Indexes and Databases

Create a team account
Save citations and organize in folders
Process citations for publication
Reminders

Medline Tutorials at
http://guides.library.ubc.ca/Ovid

CINAHL Tutorials at
http://guides.library.ubc.ca/CINAHL

Practice your topic in OVID and in CINAHL

Download WNC for Refworks

View Youtubes under Help in Refworks