Has a review already been done on your topic?
Learning objectives

- Know where to search for published reviews and reviews in progress on your topic.
- Describe where you can register your own review protocol.
Why search for reviews and protocols?

- If someone else has published a recent, well-conducted review on your topic, or has a review underway, you might consider refining your question.
- If you find a review on a topic similar to yours, it may be useful to look through their search strategy and included studies.
- If you find a protocol similar to yours, you might reach out to the team to collaborate.
Sources to search for health reviews and protocols

- Epistemonikos (published reviews)  
  www.epistemonikos.org/

- Prospero (protocols for in-progress systematic reviews)  www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO
Reviews and protocols in other subjects

- Google Scholar search for topic words and **allintitle:systematic review** (or scoping review, or review protocol)
- Subject-specific database search with publication type limit “review” or “systematic review”
- Some disciplines have their own review repositories. Find a selected list at: [go.library.ubc.ca/mngR5g](go.library.ubc.ca/mngR5g)
Registering a protocol

Journals increasingly expect protocol registration. You can register in:

- **PROSPERO:** systematic reviews in health only. No scoping reviews; long delay in registration; potential to be declined.
- **Open Science Framework:** immediate registration possible. Any topic or review type.

Several journals also publish protocols.
Why register your protocol?

Reasons include:

- Avoid duplication of effort
- Increase transparency
- Reduce bias
- Raise awareness of your work pre-publication

Activity: searching for reviews and protocols

Choose one of these resources to search for existing reviews or protocols on your topic:

- [www.epistemonikos.org/](http://www.epistemonikos.org/)
- [www.crd.York.ac.uk/PROSPERO](http://www.crd.York.ac.uk/PROSPERO)
- Check Google Scholar with topic keywords and allintitle:systematic review (or scoping, or protocol)