



## Literature (Narrative) Review

A broad term referring to reviews with a wide scope and non-standardized methodology.

- Search strategies, comprehensiveness, and time range covered vary and do not follow an established protocol.

## Rapid Review

Applies systematic review methodology within a time-constrained setting.

- Employs methodological “shortcuts” (limiting search terms, for example) at the risk of introducing bias.
- Useful for addressing issues needing quick decisions.
- [HSHSL guide on Rapid Reviews](#)

## Scoping Review

Systematically and transparently collects and categorizes existing evidence on a broad topic or set of research questions.

- Seeks to identify research gaps and opportunities for evidence synthesis.
- May critically evaluate existing evidence, but does not attempt to synthesize the results in the way a systematic review would.
- [HSHSL guide on Scoping Reviews](#)

## Umbrella Review

Reviews other systematic reviews on a topic.

- Often defines a broader question than is typical of a traditional systematic review.
- Most useful when there are competing interventions to consider.

## Systematic Review

A methodical and comprehensive literature synthesis focused on a well-formulated research question.

- Aims to identify and synthesize all of the scholarly research on a particular topic, including both published and unpublished studies.
- Conducted in an unbiased, reproducible way to provide evidence for practice and policy-making and to identify gaps in research.
- May involve a meta-analysis.
- Much more time-intensive than traditional literature reviews.
- [HSHSL guide on Systematic Reviews](#)

## Meta-Analysis

A statistical technique for combining the findings from disparate quantitative studies.

- Uses statistical methods to objectively evaluate, synthesize, and summarize results.
- May be conducted independently or as part of a systematic review.

