****Literature Search Planning   
& Documentation

**Name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Starting Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Completion Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

Topic / Research Question:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Divide the research question into thematic concepts/blocks

*Categorize all terms known to you into the different concepts (depending on the research question, you don’t need to fill in all concepts).*

**Concept 1:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Concept 2:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Concept 3:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Concept 4:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Identify top relevant papers = key papers (doing a scoping/exploratory search):

1. *Type in the most relevant search terms (in Google Scholar and/or PubMed). Use natural language terms (no MeSH terms, no truncation).*[Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/) **search string:** Click or tap here to enter text.[PubMed](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) **search string:** Click or tap here to enter text.
2. *The best matching publications will be listed on top (relevance ranking). Export all the ones, which you consider relevant for your research question, and note them below (copy/paste). You will need them to harvest search terms for your systematic search and/or as a test set to verify, if they are being found by your search strategy.*

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. *List all PMIDs of key papers and in one line (either copy/paste them one-by-one or extract them all at once by using the display options in PubMed (select “PMID” from the Format drop-down menu). You may want to run these in* [*PubMed PubReminer*](https://hgserver2.amc.nl/cgi-bin/miner/miner2.cgi)*, to analyze their textwords and MeSH terms (for later use in your systematic search).***PubMed IDs of key papers:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Block-building approach to searching: Concepts with subject headings and textwords

*Start out your systematic literature search with the 2-3 most relevant ones and only add more concepts and/or filters   
(i.e. for study types or time limits) if indispensable.*

**PubMed Number of results:** Click or tap here to enter text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Concept 1:  Topic: Click or tap here to enter text.  Remarks: Click or tap here to enter text. | *Subject Heading [MeSH]*  Click or tap here to enter text.  **OR**  *Textwords [Title/Abstract]*  Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **AND** | |
| Concept 2:  Topic Click or tap here to enter text.  Remarks: Click or tap here to enter text. | *Subject Heading [MeSH]*  Click or tap here to enter text.  **OR**  *Textwords [Title/Abstract]*  Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **AND** | |
| Concept 3:  Topic Click or tap here to enter text.  Remarks: Click or tap here to enter text. | *Subject Heading [MeSH]*  Click or tap here to enter text.  **OR**  *Textwords [Title/Abstract]*  Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **AND / NOT** | |
| Concept 4 (Limits/Filters):  Study types, time, etc.  Include Click or tap here to enter text.  Exclude: Click or tap here to enter text. | *AND (include)* Click or tap here to enter text.  *NOT (exclude)* Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Limits/Filters for article types:** Whenever filters are necessary, use **validated methodological filters**:

* Cochrane Search Filter for RCTs: <https://work.cochrane.org/pubmed>
* UTHealth (School of Public Health, Univ Texas): <https://libguides.sph.uth.tmc.edu/search_filters/pubmed_filters>

Run your search in additional databases (as needed, depending on the research question):

**Google Scholar** (<https://scholar.google.com/>) Number of results: Click or tap here to enter text.

*Covers also grey literature. Search also with German, French etc. terms. Search field only provides 256 characters, therefore save space by using the pipe sign (|) as replacement for the OR operator and a space between search terms instead of AND. When going through the results, it is enough to screen the first few pages (relevance ranking).*

**Copy/paste your Google Scholar search here:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**The Cochrane Library** (<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/>) Number of results: Click or tap here to enter text.

*Covers Cochrane Systematic Reviews and Cochrane Trials (CENTRAL). Search with textwords (no MeSH required if you have already searched PubMed – Cochrane does not assign additional MeSH terms).*

**Copy/paste your Cochrane Library search string here:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**ClinicalTrials.gov** (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/>) Number of results: Click or tap here to enter text.

*Covers on-going and completed trials to stay up-to-date on developments in your field. Keep the search as simple as possible and use the provided search fields for “Condition or disease” and “Other terms”.*

**Copy/paste your ClinicalTrials.gov search string here:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Embase.com** (<https://www.embase.com/>) Number of results: Click or tap here to enter text.

*Subscription needed. Strong in pharmaceuticals and medical devices. MeSH terms need to be substituted with Emtree terms.*

**Copy/paste your Embase search string here:**

Click or tap here to enter text.