

THE EUROPEAN FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

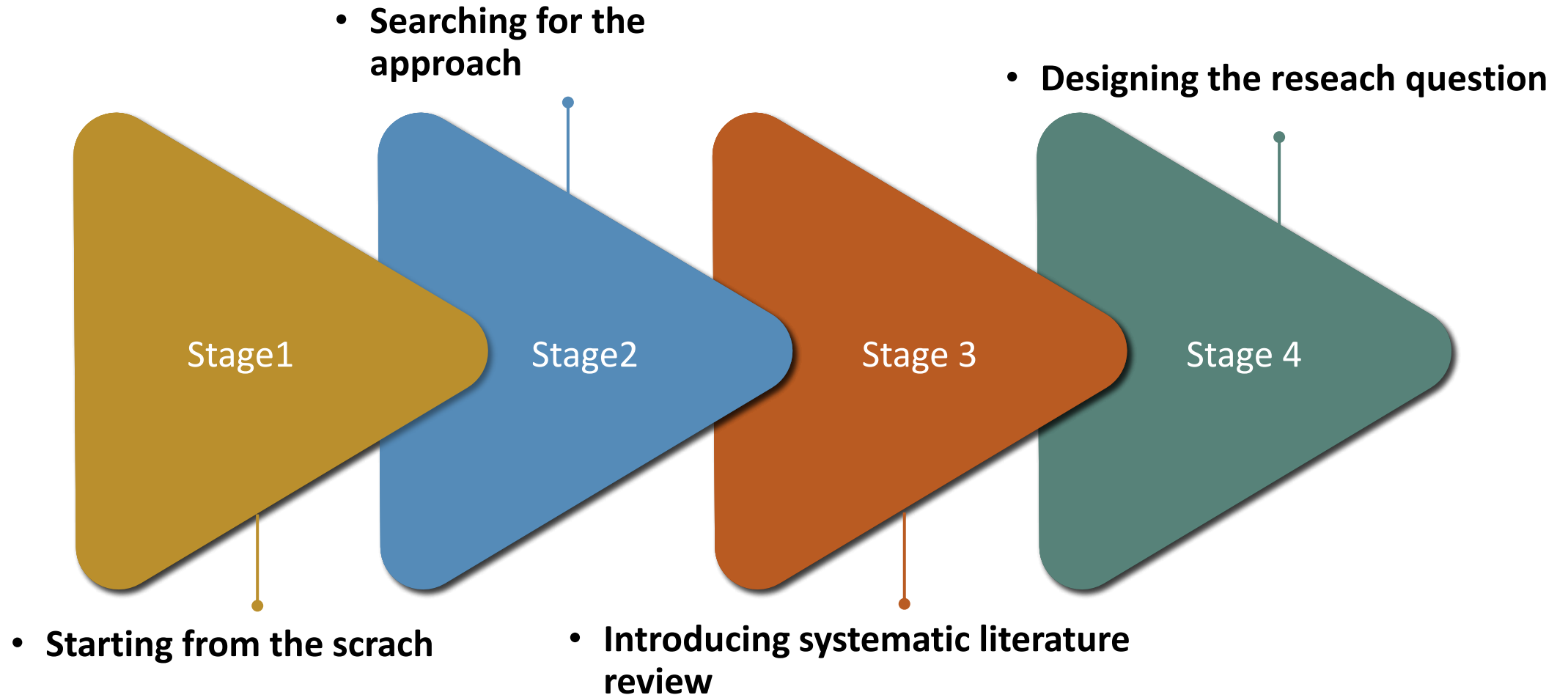
Training School
FAMILY SUPPORT SKILLS:
Creating an agenda for family
workforce skills research
development



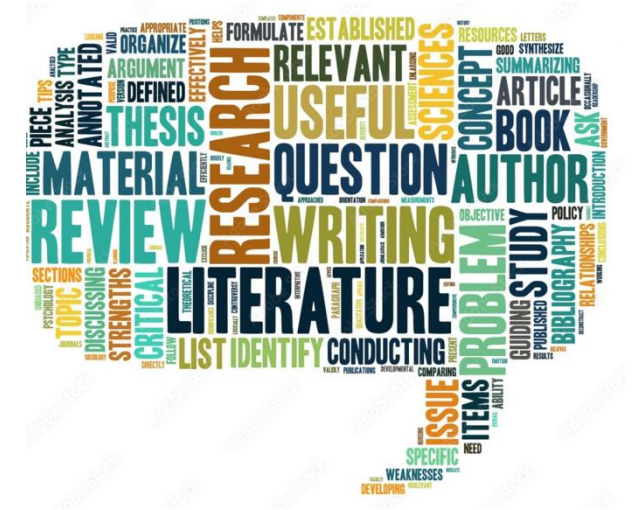
Family support workforce skills in empirical research

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Researching family support workforce skills



Systematic literature review



A systematic review is a rigorous and comprehensive method of identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing relevant research studies on a specific research question or topic.

Steps in a systematic review

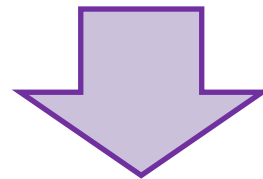


Why should we do a SR?

Intractable amount of information. Lack of time, capacity and resources to find, evaluate and interpret all the evidence and incorporate it into professional practice.

Useful to:

- ❖ Resolve contradictory results
- ❖ Address issues where clinical practice is uncertain
- ❖ Confirm the adequacy of current practices
- ❖ Highlight the need for future research...



Ultimate goal: Summarize evidence and help people understand it.

Why should we do a SR?

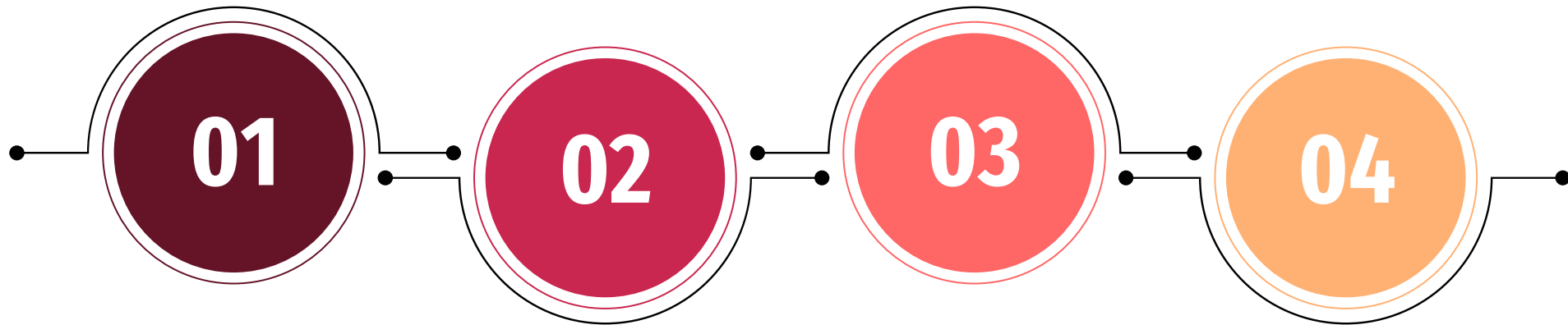
- 1. To identify gaps in the existing literature:** A systematic literature review can help to identify gaps in the existing literature and areas where further research is needed. By synthesizing the available evidence, researchers can identify areas where conflicting or incomplete findings exist, and prioritize future research efforts accordingly.
- 2. To inform evidence-based decision-making:** Systematic literature reviews are often used in healthcare and medical research to inform evidence-based decision-making. By synthesizing the available evidence, systematic literature reviews can provide clinicians and policymakers with a comprehensive and unbiased summary of the current state of knowledge on a particular topic.
- 3. To assess the effectiveness of interventions:** Systematic literature reviews are often used to assess the effectiveness of interventions, such as drugs, therapies, or public health campaigns. By synthesizing the available evidence, researchers can determine whether an intervention is effective, and under what circumstances it is most effective.
- 4. To evaluate the quality of research:** Systematic literature reviews can also be used to evaluate the quality of research studies. By synthesizing the available evidence, researchers can assess the rigor of the methodology used in previous studies, and identify areas where further improvements are needed.

Narrative reviews

Broad perspective on topic (like a textbook chapter), no specified search strategy, significant bias issues, may not evaluate quality of evidence

Rapid reviews

Assessment of what is already known about a policy or practice issue, by using systematic review methods to search and critically appraise existing research. Completeness of searching determined by time constraints.



Systematic reviews

Comprehensive with minimized bias, based on specific question and criteria with a pre-planned protocol, evaluates quality of evidence. A systematic review can be either quantitative or qualitative.

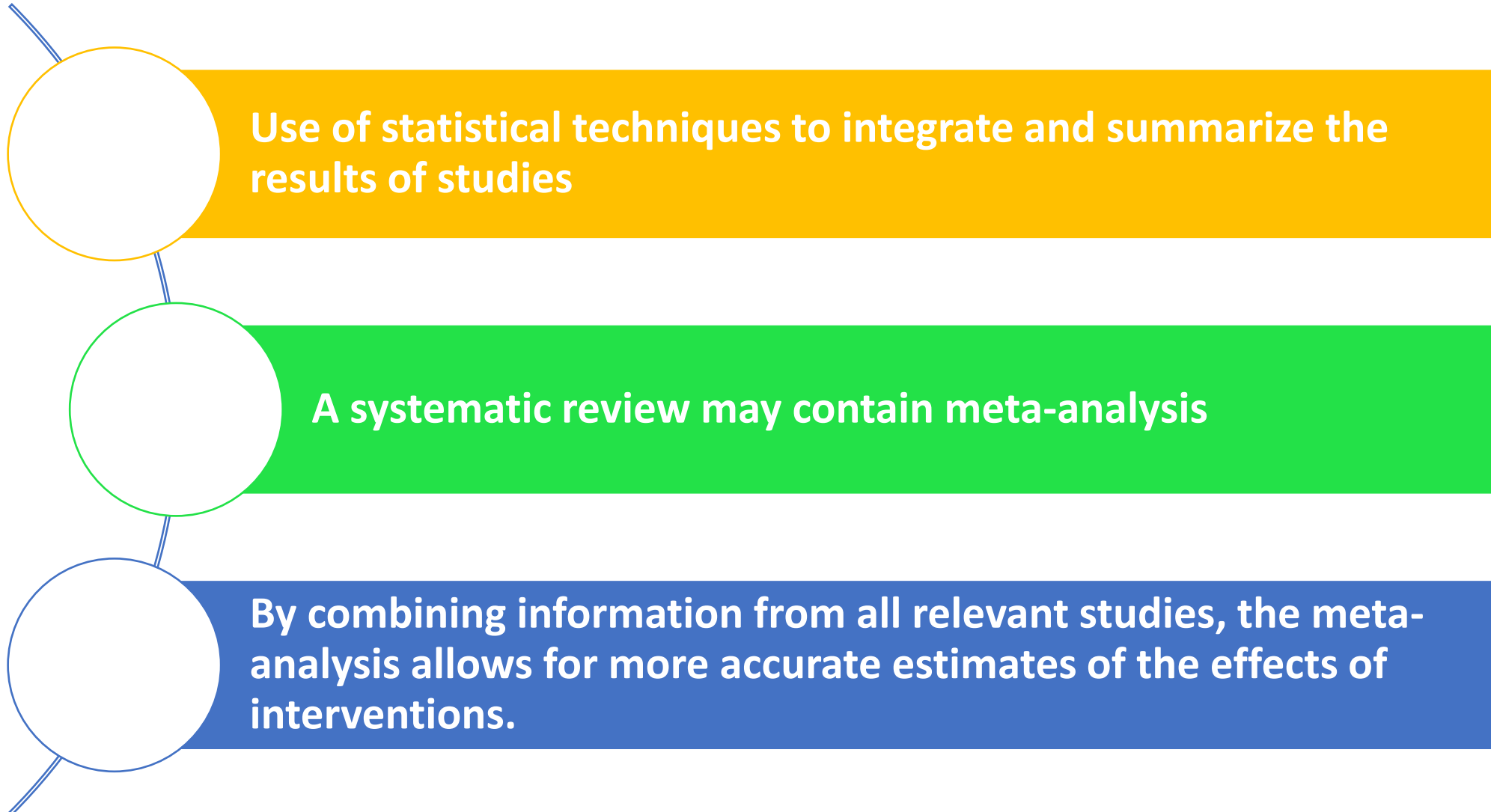
Scoping Reviews

An overview of the literature on a broader topic; often done to identify whether a systematic review is feasible.

What distinguishes SR from other methods?

	Systematic Review	Narrative Review	Scoping Review
Goals	Answer a focused clinical question Eliminate bias	Provide evidence on statements being made in the study or overview of topic	Used to identify parameters and gaps in a body of literature
Question	Clearly defined and answerable clinical question Recommend using PICO as a guide	Can be a general topic or a specific question	Broad research question
Source	Thousands of records searched from data bases	Few articles	Thousands of records searched from data bases
Research	Often quantitative	Qualitative	Synthesis more qualitative and typically not quantitative
Components	Pre-specified eligibility criteria Systematic search strategy Assessment of the validity of findings Interpretation and presentation of results Reference list	Introduction Methods Discussion Conclusion Reference list	Identify research question Identify relevant studies Selection of studies Chart the data Collate, summarize and report the results
Number of authors	Three or more	One or more	Three or more
Duration of the process	Months to years Average 18 months	Week to months	Months to years

Is a meta-analysis the same?

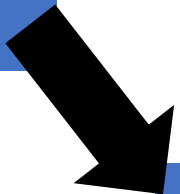


Steps for a systematic review



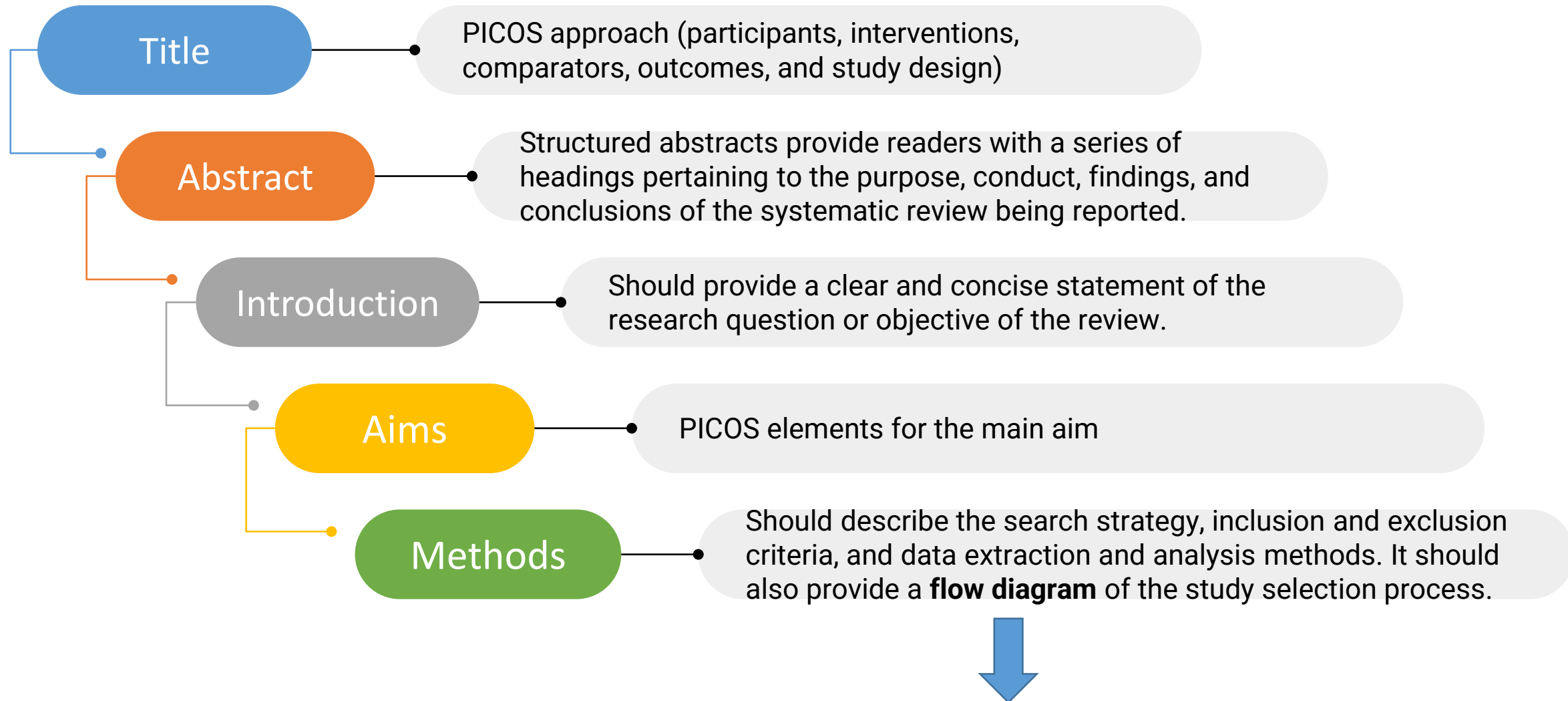
RECORD

- ❖ Sources
- ❖ Search terms (combined)
- ❖ What filters will we use (publication type, study type, dates, languages, remove duplicates...)
- ❖ Number of occurrences without filters
- ❖ Number of occurrences when applying filters
- ❖ Secondary references
- ❖ Process for selecting studies (screening, eligibility, if included in RS)

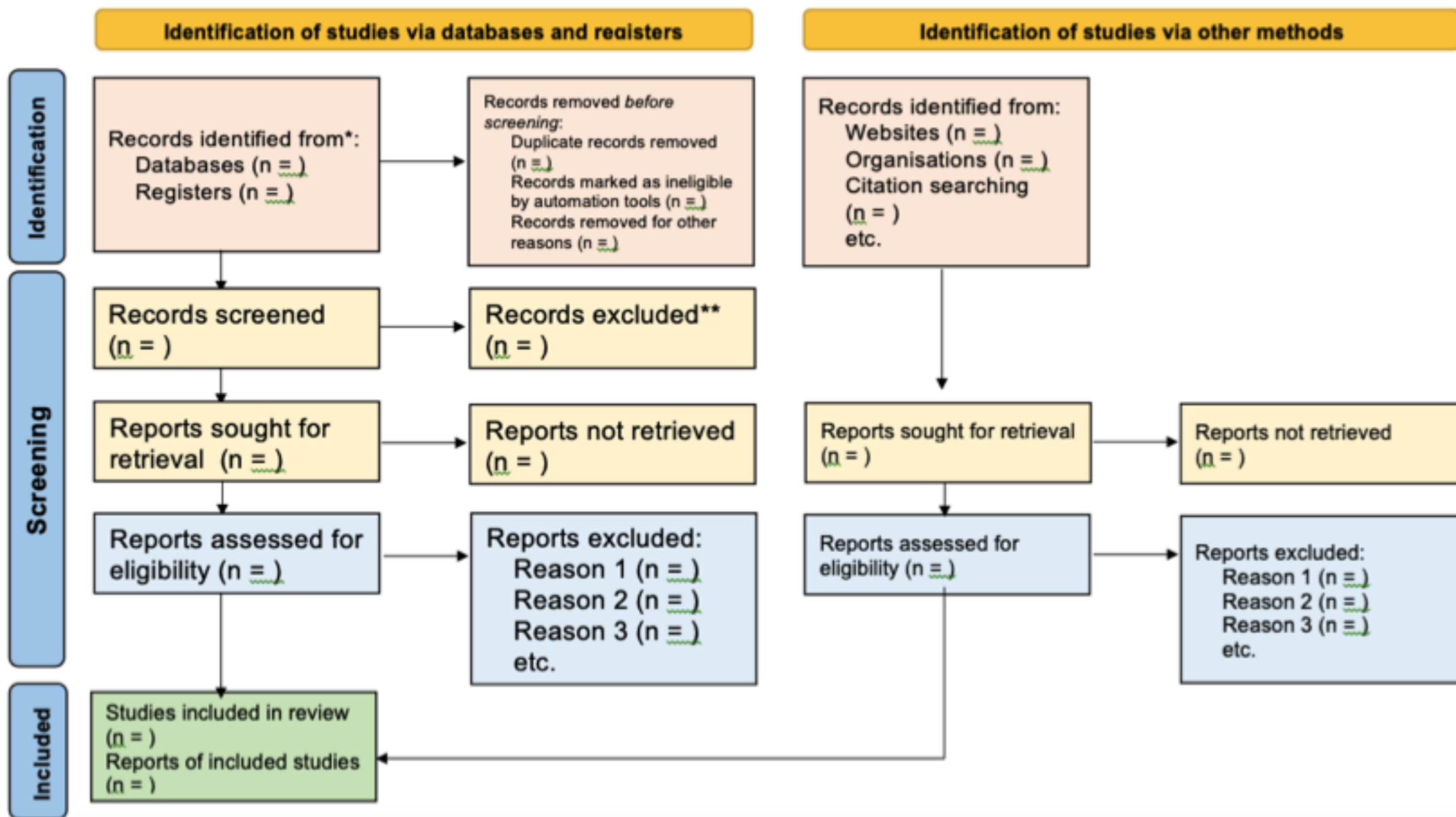


EXTRACT RESULTS SELECTED STUDIES

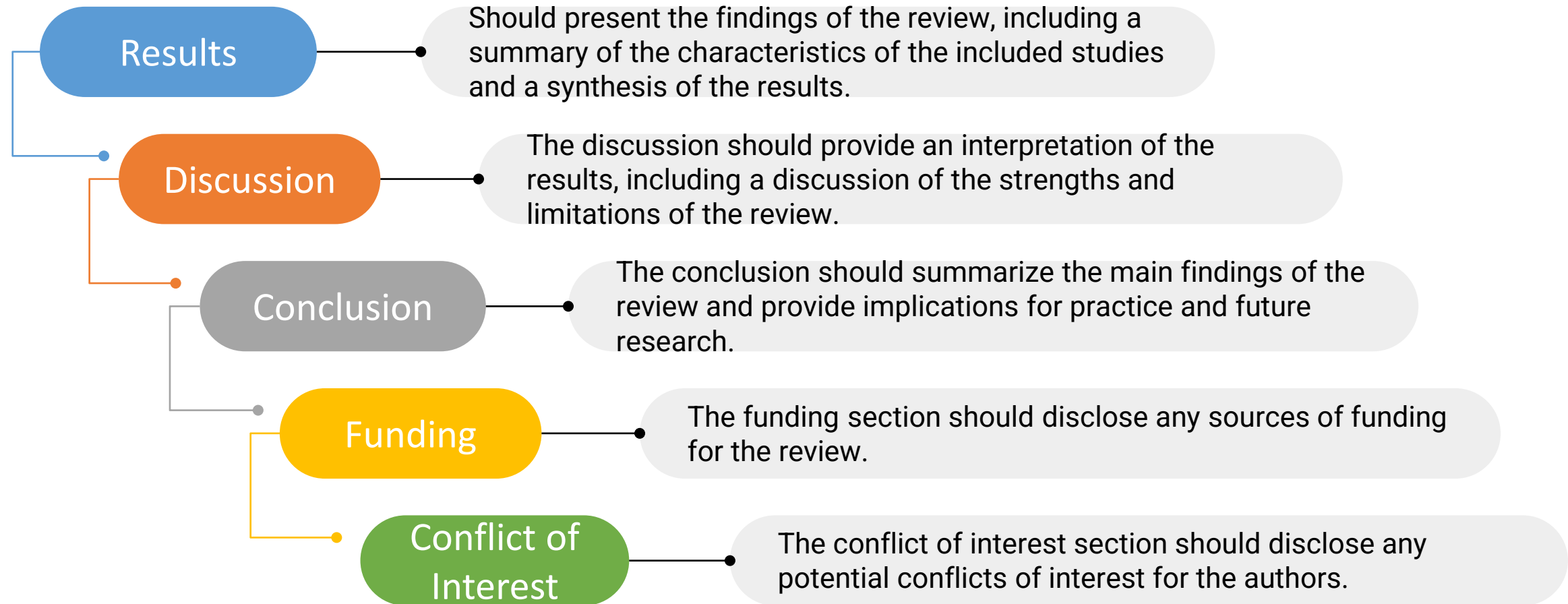
PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses)



PRISMA FLOW DIAGRAM 2020 / 2021



PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses)



Do we need to register the SR?

Systematic reviews should be registered at inception (at the protocol stage) to help avoid unplanned duplication and to enable comparison of reported review methods with what was planned in the protocol.

<https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospero/>

<http://prisma-statement.org/Extensions/Protocols>

The image displays two website screenshots side-by-side. The left screenshot is the PROSPERO website, featuring the NIHR logo and the text 'PROSPERO International prospective register of systematic reviews'. It includes a green navigation bar with links like 'Home', 'About PROSPERO', and 'How to register'. A white box on the page says 'Welcome to PROSPERO International prospective register of systematic reviews'. The right screenshot is the PRISMA website, showing the 'PRISMA STATEMENT' and 'EXTENSIONS' tabs. The 'EXTENSIONS' tab is active, displaying the 'PRISMA for systematic review protocols (PRISMA-P)' page. This page contains information about the PRISMA-P statement, including its purpose and a list of authors: Moher D, Shamseer L, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart LA. It also provides the full citation for the 2015 statement and the 2015 elaboration and explanation paper.

PROSPERO
International prospective register of systematic reviews

PRISMA
TRANSPARENT REPORTING OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS AND META-ANALYSES

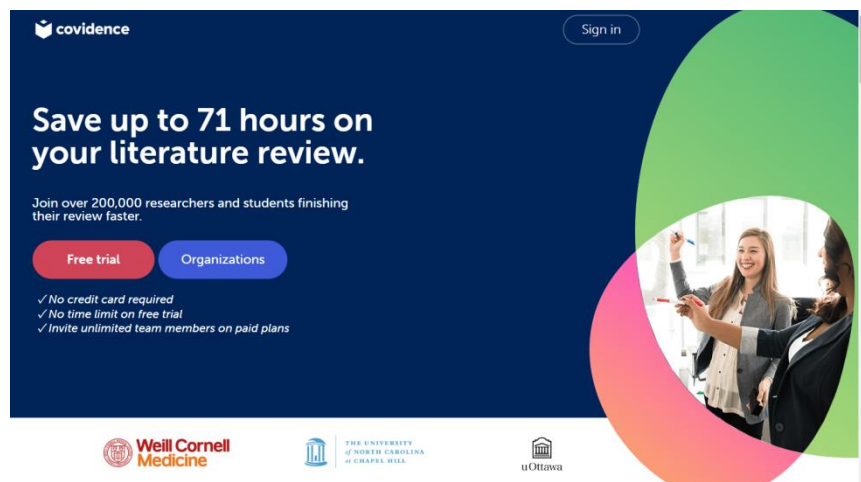
PRISMA for systematic review protocols (PRISMA-P)

PRISMA-P was published in 2015 aiming to facilitate the development and reporting of systematic review protocols. For more information about review protocols, see here

Statement paper:
Moher D, Shamseer L, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart LA. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. Syst Rev. 2015;4(1):1. doi: 10.1186/2046-4053-4-1

Explanation and Elaboration paper:
Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, Ghersi D, Liberati A, Petticrew M, Shekelle P, Stewart LA, the PRISMA-P Group. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ 2015;349:g7647. doi: 10.1136/bmj.g7647

Tools that help to conduct SR



covidence Sign in

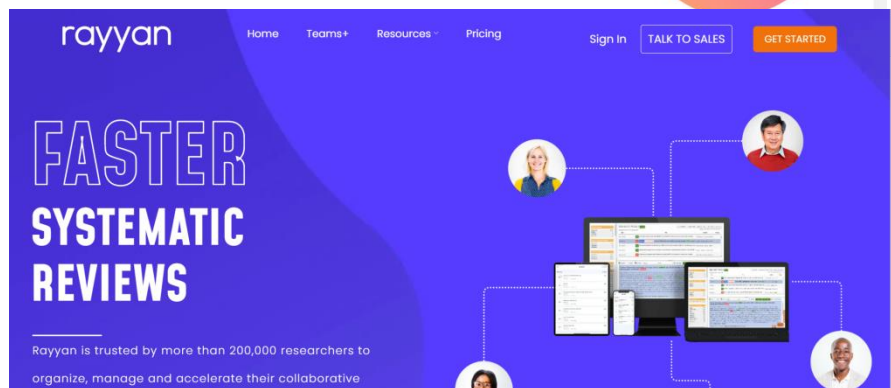
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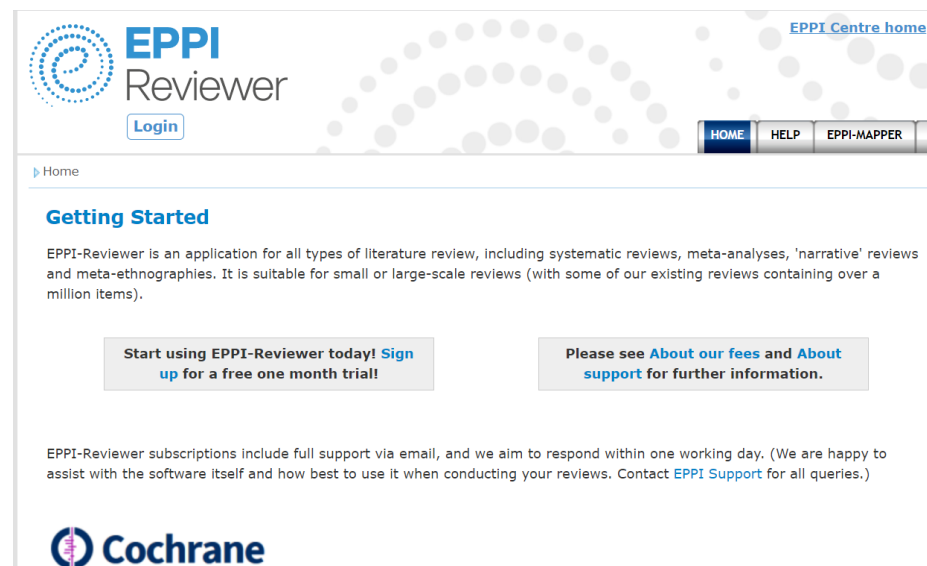
Logos: Weill Cornell Medicine, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, uOttawa



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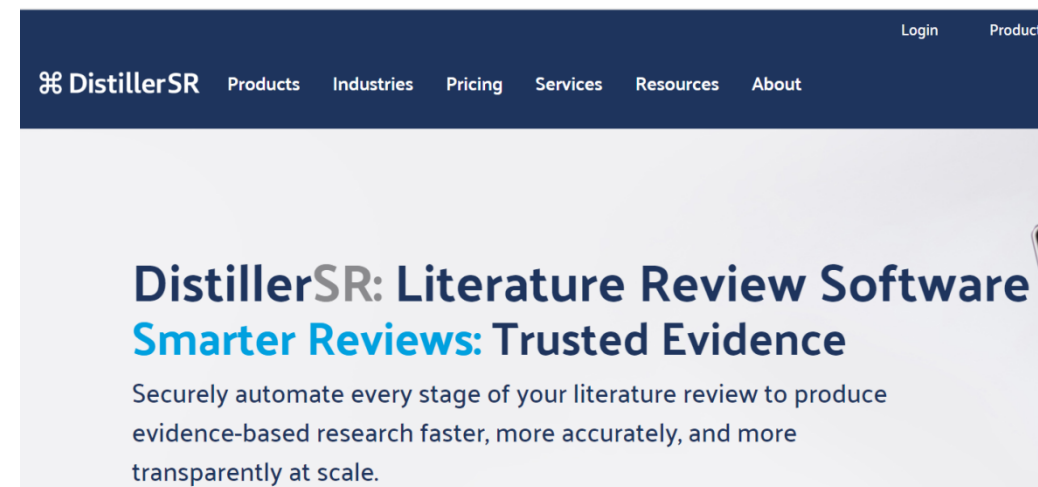
Getting Started

EPPI-Reviewer is an application for all types of literature review, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, 'narrative' reviews and meta-ethnographies. It is suitable for small or large-scale reviews (with some of our existing reviews containing over a million items).

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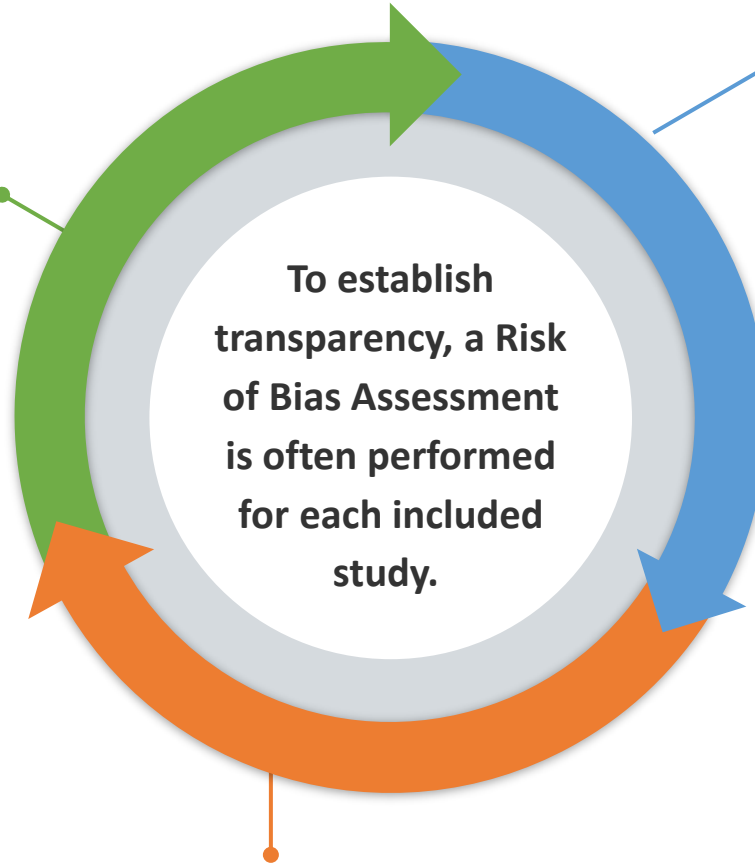
Tools that help to conduct SR

Functions	Covidence	Rayyan	EPPI-Reviewer	CADIMA	DistillerSR
Protocol development	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Database integration	✗	✗	PubMed	✗	PubMed
Ease of import & export	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Duplicate removal	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Article screening	Inc full text	Title & abstract	Inc full text	Inc full text	Inc full text
Critical appraisal	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Assist with reporting	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Meta-analysis	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cost	Subscription	Free	Subscription	Free	Subscription

Risk of Bias Assessment

Many tools have been developed to assess risk of bias:

- Cochrane Collaboration
- Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT)
- Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI)



Systematic reviews strive to eliminate bias in their findings. Individual studies that are included in a systematic review may include biases in their results or conclusions, for example design flaws that raise questions about validity of findings or an overestimate of intervention effect.

Risk of bias assessment generally is not required with evidence synthesis methods outside of systematic reviews. However, this may depend on the evidence synthesis method that you are utilizing.

Risk of Bias Assessment

	Aschwanden 2001	Blattler 2003	Feng 2011	Huang 2010	Isma 2007	Junger 2006	Liu 2013	Manganaro 2008	Rahman 2009	Romera 2006	Romera 2008	Schellong 1999	Trujillo-santos 2005
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	?	?		+	?	+	?		?	?	?	?	
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	+	+		?	?	+	?		?	?	+	?	
Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)	?	-		-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	+	+		?	+	+	?		-	?	?	+	
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	+	+		-	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	
Other bias													

No	Author /Year	Is there an adequate rationale for using a mixed methods design to address the research question?	Are the different components of the study effectively integrated to answer the research question?	Are the outputs of the integration of qualitative and quantitative components adequately interpreted?	Are divergences and inconsistencies between quantitative and qualitative results adequately addressed?	Do the different components of the study adhere to the quality criteria of each tradition of the methods involved?
1	Mutenyo et al., 2019 [67]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Corcoran & Wakia, 2016 [68]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Kidman, Smith, Piccolo & Kohler, 2019 [69]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
		Are the participants representative of the target population?	Are measurements appropriate regarding both the outcome and intervention (or exposure)?	Are there complete outcome data?	Are the confounders accounted for in the design and analysis?	During the study period, is the intervention administered (or exposure occurred) as intended?
1	Collings, Vallee & Penning, 2013 [70]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2	Jordans, Ventevogel, Komproe, Tol & de Jong, 2008 [71]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

No	Author/ Year	Review questions clearly and explicit stated	Inclusion criteria appropriate for review	Strategy appropriate	Resources and sources used to search for studies appropriate	Criteria for appraising studies appropriate	Methods to minimize errors in data extraction	Methods used to combine studies appropriate	Publication bias assessed	Recommendations for policy or practice	Directives for new research appropriate
1	Nezafat Maldonado, Chandna & Gladstone, 2019 [60]	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
2	Marlow, Servili & Tomlinson, 2019 [61]	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
3	Mughai et al.2019 [62]	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
4	Lee et al., 2018 [63]	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
5	Semrud- Clikeman, 2017 [64]	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+
6	Saraswathy et al., 2015 [65]	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+

Table 2 the positive (+) sign illustrates, Yes, and the negative (-) sign indicates No.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0000967.t002>

Systematic review on family support workforce skills: conceptualisation, process and findings

Aim: to identify the current state of affairs regarding theoretical background, research findings and practice wisdom, and to provide a framework (or baseline) for the classification of family support workforce skills.

It was conducted according to the PRISMA guidelines for conducting and reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses

Article

Workforce Skills in Family Support: A Systematic Review

Nevenka Zegarac¹, Anita Burgund Isakov¹, Cristina Nunes²,
and Ana Antunes^{3,4}

Research on Social Work Practice
2021, Vol. 31(4) 400-409
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Systematic review of Family Support workforce skills:
conceptualization, process, and findings

Research report

Developed by Anita Burgund Isakov, Cristina Nunes, Nevenka Zegarac & Ana Antunes

Updated on March 30th, 2021

Inclusion criteria were considered

(a) families living with their children and families using family support services.

(b) the timeframe covered was from 1995 to February 2020. Articles published prior to 1995 were excluded because of the modernization of family support services across the world;

(c) the sources and languages included peer-reviewed articles published in scientific journals in English.

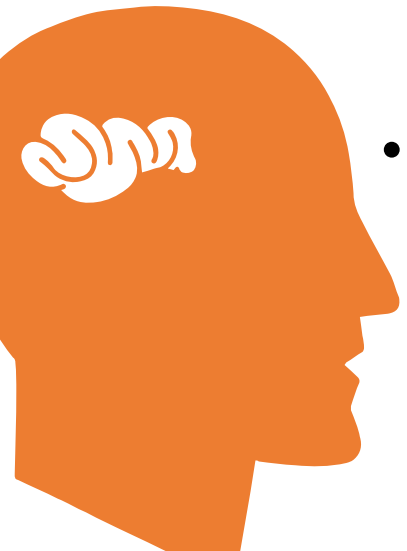
40 papers were extracted from six data bases.

Search method



Two search methods were followed to identify the studies:

- An Internet-based search of the literature and a scan of the reference lists of articles that were found in the previous search and deemed relevant.
- The following electronic databases were searched: (i) PsycInfo, (ii) MedLine, (iii) PsycArticles, (iv) ERIC, (v) Web of Science, (vi) Psychology, and Behavioral Sciences Collection.
- An iterative search on each electronic database was carried out by matching two sets of terms, including both truncated and thesaurus terms



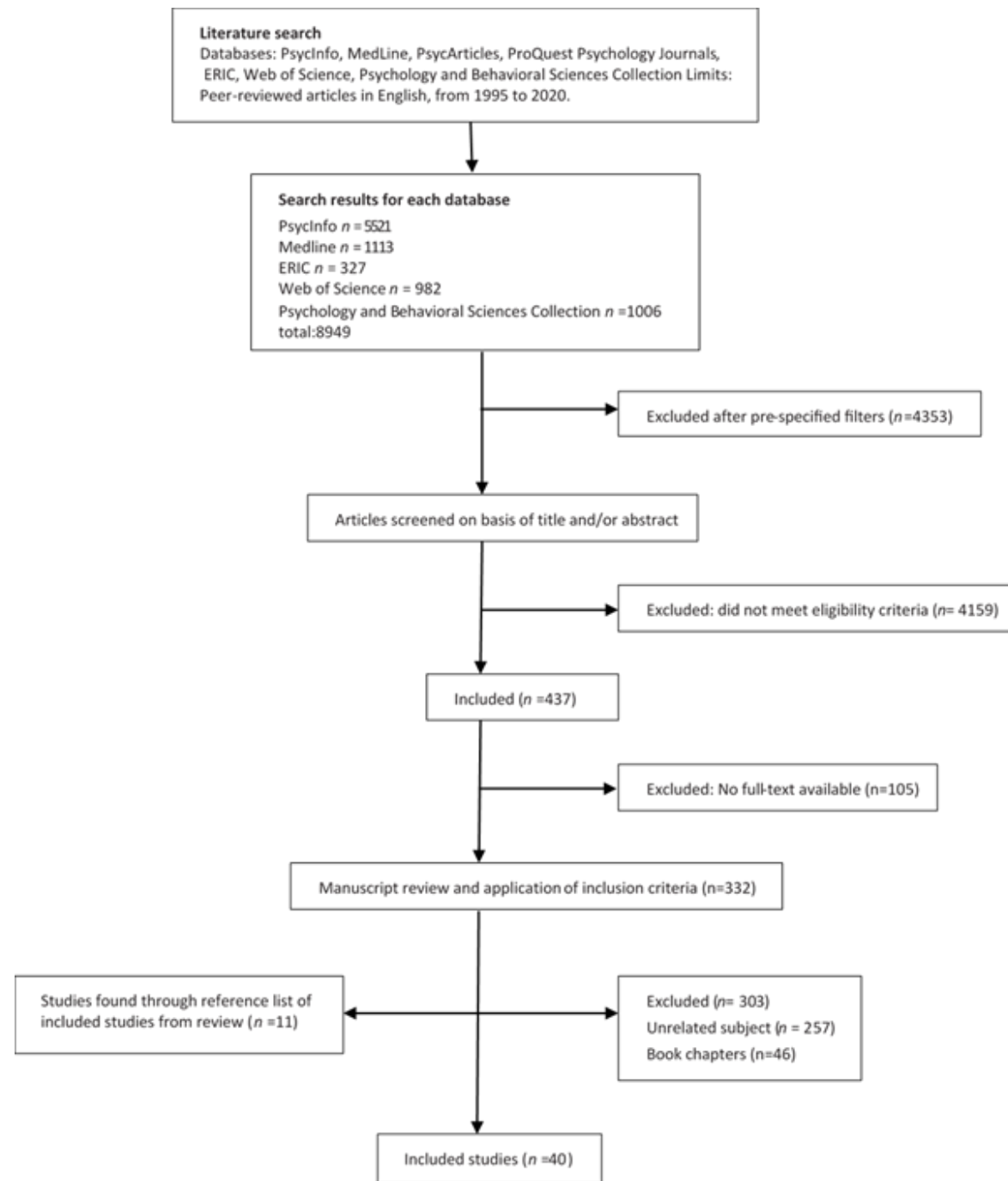
Samples of truncated and thesaurus search for PsychInfo

Figure 1. Truncated search strategy

TOPIC: ("family* support" OR "family* training" OR "support* families" OR "assisti* families" OR "skill*" OR "standard*" OR "good practice*" OR "ability") AND TOPIC: ("workforce" OR "professionals" OR "case worker" OR "supporter" OR "social worker" OR "psychologist") AND TOPIC: ("child*" OR "adolesc*" OR "youth")

Figure 2. Example of thesaurus search for PsycInfo

(SU.EXACT("family support") OR SU.EXACT("family training") OR SU.EXACT("supporting families") OR SU.EXACT("assisting families") OR SU.EXACT("skill") OR SU.EXACT("standard") OR SU.EXACT("good practice") OR SU.EXACT("ability") AND SU.EXACT("workforce") OR SU.EXACT("Professionals") OR SU.EXACT("case worker") OR SU.EXACT("supporter") OR SU.EXACT("social worker") OR SU.EXACT("psychologist") AND SU.EXACT("child") OR SU.EXACT("adolescence") OR SU.EXACT("youth") found 0 results.



Data Analysis

- Included: author(s) and date of publication, title, aim, country, type of study/information, data collection method, data analyses, sample size, and main findings.
- Clients of the studies have been recognized and divided in four categories:
 - (1) families of neglected/abused children or in care,
 - (2) families with children affected by behavioural problems,
 - (3) families with children with disability, and
 - (4) minority ethnic parents.
- The professionals in the 40 studies reviewed were mainly social workers (N=22, 55%), followed by child protection workers (including social workers, psychologists, and others, N=14, 35%), psychologists (N=3.8%), and paediatricians (N=1.2%).

SYNTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH

	Author(s)/ (Year of publication)	Aims	Main findings /Conclusions	Strengths & Limitations
1	Bridge, G. (1999)	To consider child observation as a strategy for improving the quality of training for social workers engaged in service provision to disabled children and their families.	As social workers are among the main providers of services, their training needs in this area should be identified and strategies implemented. It has been apparent that knowledge may be developed from many subject areas and integrated by those observing through having the opportunity to see 'what others may not want to see' and learning to suspend judgment.	As we shall see from the brief history of social work involvement with disabled children later in this paper, there is an urgent necessity to improve training and thereby the quality of service provided to clients. Possible scientific bias.
2	Harrison, R. S., Boyle, S. W., & Farley, O. W. (1999)	To determine the effectiveness of a 12-week family-based intervention for troubled children.	Family-based interventions provided by social workers were associated with improved psychosocial functioning on the part of parents and children with behavioural problems.	The effectiveness of booster sessions, in which parents and their children can have periodic mini sessions to review concepts previously learned but adjusted to the developmental needs of families with adolescents, also needs to be examined.

SYNTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH

Author(s)/ (Year of publication)	Country	Type of study			Sample size			Data analyses			Family support workforce skills topics		
		Qual study	Quant study	Lit review	Small scale	dna	Big studies	Thematic analyses	dna	Descriptive/ Inferential Statistics	Professionals' qualities	Technical skills	Specific knowledge
Bridge, G. (1999)	UK			+		+			+				+
Harrison, R. S., Boyle, S. W., & Farley, O. W. (1999)	USA		+		+			+		+			+
Littell, J. H., & Tajima, E. A. (2000).	USA		+				+	+		+		+	

Family support workforce skills

Were organized in three topics:

- (1) The qualities of the professionals (attitudes and attributes), accuracy, empathy, warmth, and genuineness are associated with higher satisfaction with social workers and other professionals
- (2) Technical skills included ways to empower and enable families; communication skills; planning skills, decision-making skills, problem-solving; time-management and organizational skills
- (3) Specific knowledge studies were scarcer. We identified eleven studies about technical and professional expertise, namely cognitive-behavioural strategies, training in child observation techniques, conducting plan evaluation or using specific assessment tools and motivational interviewing.

Conclusion

- This systematic review provided a very general concept of family support workforce skills.
- The data are not sufficient to present a strong, broad global perspective comparing different social, cultural and political conditions.

Limitations:

- English language
- 5 countries
- Only scientific papers

Family support workforce skills is an emergent concept and research related to it needs to be intensified to allow for the establishment of standardized guidelines for family support workforce skills.

Advantages of conducting a systematic literature review

Overall, a systematic literature review is a valuable research methodology that provides a rigorous and comprehensive overview of the existing research on a particular topic. It can be used to inform policy and practice, identify research gaps, and guide future research

01

Reduces bias. This is achieved by using a predefined methodology, which includes a comprehensive search strategy, predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria, and a standardized data extraction and synthesis process.

03

Increases precision and accuracy. This helps to ensure that the results are reliable and can be used to inform policy and practice.

05

Saves time and resources It allows researchers to avoid duplicating previous research and focus on areas where further research is needed.

02

Provides a comprehensive overview This helps to identify gaps in the literature and areas where further research is needed.

04

Facilitates evidence-based decision making It helps to identify best practices and effective interventions, and provides a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of interventions over time.



Potential pitfalls that researchers should be aware of:

Overall, researchers should be aware of these potential pitfalls and take steps to minimize their impact on the systematic review. This may involve being transparent about the selection criteria and methodology used in the review, conducting a comprehensive search of the literature, and using appropriate statistical techniques to account for heterogeneity in the included studies.

01

Publication bias This can lead to an overestimation of the effectiveness of interventions and a distorted view of the evidence base

03

Quality of studies If the quality of the studies is poor, the conclusions drawn from the review may be less reliable

05

Limitations of the review process This may lead to the exclusion of relevant studies and limit the conclusions that can be drawn from the review.

02

Heterogeneity. This can make it difficult to compare and synthesize the results of different studies and may lead to inconclusive or conflicting findings.

04

Time and resource-intensive: Systematic literature reviews are time and resource-intensive, and may require a team of researchers with expertise in the topic area, search methodology, and data synthesis techniques.



Usefull resources

- ❖ [Prisma Guidelines](#)
- ❖ [Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions](#)
- ❖ [JBIManual for Evidence Synthesis](#)
- ❖ [decision tree](#)
- ❖ [PROSPERO](#)
- ❖ [Systematic Review Toolbox](#)
- ❖ [PRISMA-S](#)

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