

Systematic review: A process manual and database comparison tool for the librarian\information specialist

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A systematic review is a primary study which synthesizes information from other studies by using an explicitly defined, systematic, transparent and reproducible methodologies. The aim of a systematic review is to provide new insight into a topic defined by a specific research question from which conclusions can be drawn and decisions can be made. There are five stages in the process of performing a systematic review. The exhaustive search phase is time consuming and requires expertise and a variety of skills, therefore it is recommended that it be carried out with the assistance of an information specialist/librarian who can assist and contribute to the entire process. The purpose of this project is to create a detailed process manual for the information specialist\librarian supporting researchers performing a systematic review and create a database comparison tool for translating searches between academic databases. The project entailed finding related protocols, books, journal articles and online tools, as well as an in-depth investigation of seven academic databases. The final product includes a comprehensive 36-page document in English containing detailed working instructions for all stages of a systematic review and a tool for translating searches that compares the databases in 12 parameters. These have contributed greatly to the establishment of a consistent and uniform work procedure for the medical library staff and will serve as a basis for the development of a checklist to monitor the work process, to enhance the peer-review process and serve as a basis for a formal library work procedure.