

Conduct a Literature Search: Worksheet

This worksheet is intended to help you develop and manage a comprehensive, transparent and reproducible search strategy for a literature review. Fill out the sections below and feel free to add as much information as you need for your project.

1. **Research question:** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/question>)

Aim for a focused and answerable question.

2. **Relevant articles** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/seed>)

These should be articles you would want to include in your final review. Add more to the list if you have them.

Reference 1:

Reference 2:

3. **Databases to use:** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/databases>)

Rigorous reviews should include multiple databases in order to avoid bias and be comprehensive. Add more databases to the list if you need them.

Database 1:

Database 2:

Database 3:

4. **Search Parameters:** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/parameters>)

What specific criteria are you looking for in your results?

Inclusion criteria:

Exclusion criteria:

5. **Search terms:** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/searchterms>)

Identify the main concepts from your research question and use the grid below to list synonyms and relevant subject headings.

Concepts			
Synonyms			
Subject headings			

6. **Search strategy:** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/strategy>)

Combine the search terms above using proper syntax for your first database.

7. **Search translations** (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/translate>)

Adjust the syntax and subject headings from your initial search to work with your additional databases.

Database 2 search strategy:

Database 3 search strategy:

Next Steps: (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/synthesis>)

Additional questions to consider:

- Where will you store and keep track of references? (see <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch/results>)
- How will you screen references?
- How will you appraise the quality of results?
- What is your plan for data extraction?
- How will you synthesize results?

For more information, see: <https://hslguides.med.nyu.edu/literaturesearch>

If you have questions, you can chat or e-mail us!

<https://hsl.med.nyu.edu/>

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Caitlin Plovnick