

## Research Assistant Literature Review Worksheet

One of the most common tasks assigned to research assistants is to complete a literature review. Before you get started, it is important to determine the scope of the review.

Please discuss the following questions with your supervisor. The answers will help your librarian determine what training you might need to complete the review.

---

1. What type of literature review are you doing?

- ☐ A literature review as part of a larger study
- ☐ A stand alone literature or narrative review
- ☐ [Scoping review](#)
- ☐ [Systematic review](#)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

2. What is your research question?

3. What types of sources would you like to include in your literature review? Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Peer reviewed journal articles
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Theses and dissertations
- ☐ Conference proceedings
- ☐ Government documents and reports
- ☐ Market and industry reports
- ☐ Documents published by non-profits, think tanks, and/or professional associations
- ☐ Archival sources
- ☐ Other (please specify):

4. If you chose peer reviewed research articles, are you only interested in particular study types (e.g. quantitative only, etc.)?

5. Are there particular databases that your supervisor would like you to search for this project? If so, please list them below. Your Librarian may also suggest additional tools based on your project needs.

6. Do the sources have to be published within a particular time frame (e.g. last 5 years)?

7. Do the sources have to focus on a particular geographic area (e.g. are you only interested in sources focussed on Canada or would you be interested in research that took place in other countries)?

8. How would your supervisor like you to keep track of the sources you find?

- ☐ [Mendeley](#) (free citation management software)  
☐ [Zotero](#) (free citation management software)  
☐ Other (please specify):