

Systematic Review Service, Northwell Libraries

“Examining the review process reveals that the librarian's multiple roles as an expert searcher, organizer, and analyzer form an integral part of the Cochrane Collaboration's criteria for conducting systematic reviews. Moreover, the responsibilities of the expert searcher directly reflect the key skills and knowledge depicted in the ‘Definition of Expert Searching’ section of the Medical Library Association's policy statement, ‘Role of Expert Searching in Health Sciences Libraries.’”¹

Mission

The mission of the library’s systematic review team is to engage collaboratively with researchers to provide comprehensive expert searching in a timely and accurate manner.

Protocols

- The researcher should follow the appropriate [PRISMA guidelines](#) for conducting and reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses.
- The researcher should be prepared to provide a clearly defined research question and if appropriate, in the PICO format. If a question is too broad, the topic will require review by both the librarians and the researchers.
- The consultation with the librarians for the comprehensive expert search method and strategies include:
 - Initial scoping literature review. If the scoping literature review does not result in a significant number of citations, the topic will require further review by the researchers and librarians.
 - Identifying keywords and appropriate headings
 - Inclusion and exclusion criteria
 - Database selection
 - Project timeline
- Librarians will conduct a thorough search of appropriate databases, which will be decided collaboratively by the researcher and librarians. Recommended databases may include but are not limited to:
 - Embase
 - Eric
 - Web of Science
 - CINAHL (Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature)
 - Cochrane Library
 - Psycinfo
 - Pubmed
 - Scopus
 - Web of Science
- The inclusion of hand-searching and/or grey literature will be discussed between the researcher and librarians.

- The total time to completion will depend on the complexity of the systematic review. Librarians will try to accommodate various timelines as much as their schedules will allow.
- Once the literature search portion is complete, the librarians will then import the final citations into Endnote/Endnote Web, de-duplicate, and download the citations into an Excel file. The Excel file will contain the full reference for all citations including books, dissertations, and journal articles. Requirements needed during the citation management phase, should be addressed with the librarians ahead of time.
- The researchers will be responsible for the critical appraisal and analysis portions of the systematic review
- A librarian will write the literature search methodology section for the submitted manuscript, maintain records of search results, and follow up with alerts and updates as needed.
- Since the librarians play a pivotal role as expert searchers¹ in the systematic review, contribute to the write-up of the methodology, and review the final manuscript, it would be common practice, and encouraged to list the librarians as co-authors. Please refer to the Northwell Health policy GR098: Authorship on Scientific Scholarly Publications.
- The researcher is responsible for locating full text articles that are accessible through the Northwell Health Library. (EMIL)
- Interlibrary loan charges will be applied to obtain articles that are not subscribed to by Northwell Health Libraries. The library will cover the cost of interlibrary loans up to a certain number. After that, ILL fees will be passed onto your department or grant. A fund number will be required before the remainder of the articles are ordered, although there will be only one fund transfer at the end of the project.

Contact Information

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Bibliography

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