



TYPES OF REVIEWS

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OR A LITERATURE REVIEW?

It's common to confuse systematic and literature reviews because both are used to provide a summary of the existing literature or research on a specific topic. This table provides an overview of the differences in systematic and narrative literature reviews:

| | Systematic Review | Literature Review |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Definition | High-level overview of primary research on a focused question that identifies, selects, synthesizes, and appraises all high quality research evidence relevant to that question. | Qualitatively summarizes evidence on a topic using informal or subjective methods to collect and interpret studies and results. |
| Goals | Answer a focused clinical question and eliminate potential biases. | Provides summary or overview of topic. |
| Question | Clearly defined and answerable question. Uses the recommended PICO framework as a guide. | Can be a general topic or specific questions. |
| Components | Pre-specified eligibility criteria, systematic search strategy, assessment of the validity of findings, interpretation and presentation of results, and reference list. | Offers the following components: Introduction, Methods, Discussion, Conclusion, and Reference List. |
| Number of Authors | Three or more. | One or more. |
| Timeline | Months to years. The average timeline for a systematic review is eighteen months. | Weeks to months. |
| Requirements | Thorough knowledge of topic. Perform searches of all relevant databases. Statistical analysis (<u>aka Meta-Analysis</u>) | Understanding of topic. Performs searches of one or more databases, |
| Value | Connects practicing clinicians to high quality evidence. Supports evidence-based practice. | Provides a summary of literature on a topic. |



TYPES OF REVIEWS

GENERAL REVIEWS

LITERATURE REVIEW/NARRATIVE REVIEW

- Board term refers to reviews with a wide scope that examine recent or current literature
- Does not follow established methodology or reporting guidelines
- Search does not need to be comprehensive or exhaustive
- Critical appraisal is not necessary
- A good choice for reviewing literature without following defined parameters and on a shorter time frame

EVIDENCE SYNTHESSES

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

- Seeks to answer a clearly defined research question formulated using a preexisting framework, ex: PICO
- Follows a standard/published methodology
- Comprehensive and exhaustive searching is required to find all scholarly research on the topic, including both traditionally published and gray literature
- Conducted in an unbiased and reproducible manner
- Must include critical appraisal of the literature
- Literature is synthesized in both narrative and tabular formats.
- Typically take 12-18 months to complete

RAPID REVIEW

- Applies systematic review methodology within a time-constrained setting
- Employs methodological "shortcuts" at the risk of introducing bias
- Useful for addressing issues needing quick decisions
- Shorter time-frame than a systematic review

META-ANALYSIS

- Should follow the methodology of a systematic review
- Literature is synthesized using a statistical technique for combining the findings from disparate quantitative studies
- Uses statistical methods /software to objectively evaluate, synthesize, and summarize results

SCOPING REVIEW

- Seeks to address a broader research question, set of questions, and/or identify gaps in research
- Follows a standard/published methodology
- Comprehensive and exhaustive searching is required to find all scholarly research on the topic, including both traditionally published and gray literature
- Conducted in an unbiased and reproducible manner
- May critically appraise literature but does not seek to synthesize or analyze data in the same manner as a systematic review
- May take longer to complete than a systematic review

UMBRELLA REVIEW

- Seeks to review other systematic reviews on a particular topic
- Follows a standard/published methodology
- Often requires a broader question than is typical for a traditional systematic review
- Comprehensive and exhaustive searching is required to find all evidence syntheses on a topic
- Conducted in an unbiased and reproducible manner
- May or may not include a meta-analysis
- Useful for when there are competing interventions to consider



WHAT TYPE OF REVIEW IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

