

## CONDUCTING A LITERATURE REVIEW: KEYS TO SUCCESS!!



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*Good research reviews are the basis of evidence-based practice; the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values.*

### Key Points When Conducting a Literature Review

- A literature review must do these things:
  - Be organized around and related directly to the thesis or research question you are developing
  - Synthesize results into a summary of what is and is not known
  - Identify areas of controversy in the literature
  - Formulate questions that need further research

### Five Steps of a Literature Review

- Describe a clear, unambiguous question
  - What do you want to know?
- Identify the relevant work
- Assess the quality of the included studies
- Summarize the evidence
- Interpret the findings

### Identify the Relevant Work

- Decide on the most appropriate sources of information for your research question.
  - Look beyond your area of practice.
- Ask a librarian for advice!
- Decide on the best keywords for the search
  - Including alternative/related terms and spellings.

### Ask a Librarian

- Drop by the Reference Desk at the library.
- Call the library to ask a question
  - 717-544-5698.
- **Make an Appointment**
- Email reference questions to [cd004@lancastergeneral.org](mailto:cd004@lancastergeneral.org)
- **Ask Here PA**
  - A live online interactive chat reference service
  - Accessible through LGH Intranet

## Describe the Question

- Formulate a question to define the topic.
- Decide what you want to include and exclude.
- Consider.....
  - The interventions or exposures
  - The outcomes
  - The study designs
  - The population (geographic area, age, gender).



## How do you ask for information? Searching with Boolean Operators

- Combining words with **AND**, or and *not*.
- **Example 1: AND**
  - Use **AND** to retrieve citations containing all search terms.
  - Terms can appear in any order.
  - *Common cold AND antibiotics*-antibiotics may appear before common cold



## How do you ask for information? Searching with Boolean Operators

- Combining words with *and*, **OR** and *not*.
- **Example 2: OR**
  - Use **OR** to retrieve citations that contain one of the specified terms.
  - i.e.: *zinc OR vitamin C*



## How do you ask for information? Searching with Boolean Operators

- Combining words with *and*, or and **NOT**.
- **Example 3: NOT**
  - Use **NOT** to exclude terms from your search.
  - i.e.: *antibiotics NOT children*



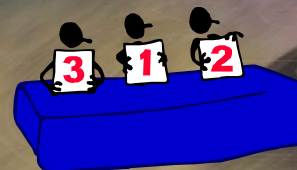
## Databases to Consider

- CINAHL Plus with Full Text
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- Nursing & Allied Health Collection: Comprehensive
- MEDLINE with Full Text



## CINAHL Plus with Full Text

- World's most comprehensive source of full text for nursing & allied health journals
- Provides full text for more than 750 journals indexed in *CINAHL*.



## Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

- Contains full text articles and protocols focusing on the effects of healthcare.
- Data is evidence-based medicine
- Often combined statistically (with meta-analysis)
  - Increases the power of the findings of numerous studies, each too small to produce reliable results individually.

## MEDLINE with Full Text

- World's most comprehensive source of full text for medical journals
- Provides full text for more than 1,450 journals indexed in *MEDLINE*.



## Nursing & Allied Health Collection: Comprehensive

- Designed for nursing and allied health professionals, students, educators and researchers
- Database provides full text for nearly 400 journals covering the areas of nursing, biomedicine, health sciences, consumer health and allied health disciplines.
- Nearly all full text titles included in *Nursing & Allied Health: Comprehensive Edition* are indexed in *CINAHL*.

## LG Resources

- LG Intranet

<http://intranet.lha.org/>

- College
- Library



## Critiquing the Literature

- Read the entire study carefully
- Examine the organization and presentation
- Identify terms you don't understand
- Highlight each step of the research process
- Identify strengths and weaknesses objectively
- Suggest modifications for future studies
- Determine how well the study followed the rules for ideal study.

(San Jose State University, 2005)

## Website Links

- <http://www.sonoma.edu/users/n/nolan/n400/critique.htm>
- [http://nursingplanet.com/Nursing\\_Research/critiquing\\_nursing\\_research.html](http://nursingplanet.com/Nursing_Research/critiquing_nursing_research.html)
- [http://www.google.com/search?q=understanding+the+research+critique+process&rls=com.microsoft:\\*&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1](http://www.google.com/search?q=understanding+the+research+critique+process&rls=com.microsoft:*&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8&startIndex=&startPage=1)
- <https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/brodg/www/Handout/critique.htm>

## Organizing the Research

Supportive Research Article 1						
Title/Author	Theory	Objective	Study Method	Data analysis	Findings	Personal thoughts

## Six Steps of the EBP Process

- Identifying the problem
- Finding the evidence
- Critiquing the merit, feasibility and utility of the evidence
- Summarizing the evidence
- Applying the ideas to practice
- Evaluating the results

ALL steps except application is included in the research critique process!

(Oncology Nursing Society, 2005)

