

Information sheet

Literature searches as a basis for evidence-based research

Evidence-based research must involve the transparent use of previous research to answer relevant questions in a valid and efficient manner. [1,2].

A structured, transparent, and reproducible literature search is recommended to summarize the current state of knowledge and demonstrate the necessity of the planned research project. Accordingly, own research projects and the expected findings can be placed in scientific context, which is essential for the preparation of funding applications, study protocols and also (after appropriate updating) final publications [1].

In some cases, it may be opportune and useful to prepare a [«Systematic Review»](#) of the literature and publish it as an independent research project.

Formats

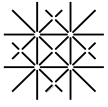
It is helpful to clarify early in the project planning which type of literature review is appropriate with regard to the own research context:

- a) Illumination of the scientific context («**Research in Context**») or a rapid review of the previous literature leading to the actual research question («**Rapid Review**»)
- b) Summarizing all available evidence as completely as possible («**Systematic overview /Systematic Review**»). Depending on the scope of the question to be investigated, two common types of review can be distinguished:
 - **Scoping Review** (evidence review without critical evaluation)
 - **Systematic Review** with or without meta-analysis (to answer a defined research question)

Support

In cooperation with the [University Medical Library](#), we offer methodological and statistical support in the planning and conduct of literature reviews and meta-analyses.

For free-of-charge consulting and further questions please contact us: contactform.dkfbasel.ch



References

[1] [Evidence-Based Research Series-Paper 2 : Using an Evidence-Based Research approach before a new study is conducted to ensure value.](#) Lund H, Juhl CB, Nørgaard B, Draborg E, Henriksen M, Andreasen J, Christensen R, Nasser M, Ciliska D, Clarke M, Tugwell P, Martin J, Blaine C, Brunnhuber K, Robinson KA; Evidence-Based Research Network. J Clin Epidemiol. 2021 Jan;129:158-166. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2020.07.019. Epub 2020 Sep 26. PMID: 32987159.

[2] [Evidence-Based Research Series-Paper 1: What Evidence-Based Research is and why is it important?](#) Robinson KA, Brunnhuber K, Ciliska D, Juhl CB, Christensen R, Lund H; Evidence-Based Research Network. J Clin Epidemiol. 2021 Jan;129:151-157. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2020.07.020. Epub 2020 Sep 23. PMID: 32979491.