

LITERATURE SEARCHES & INTRO TO CITATION MANAGERS

PSW Emerging Writers Lunch & Learn Series

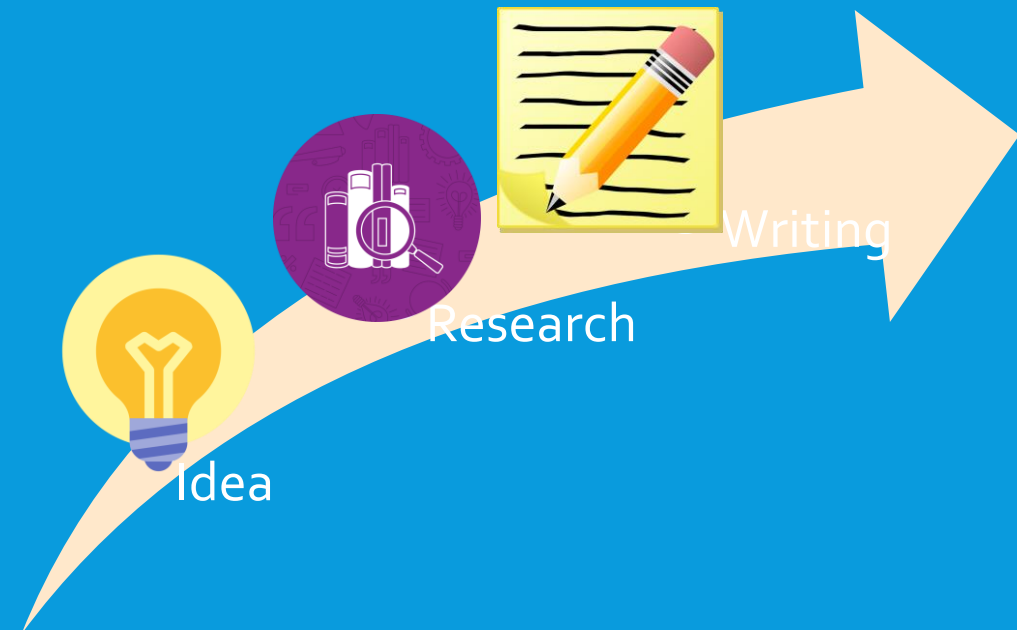
Audrey Kostrzewa, PharmD, MPH, BCPS
Concordia University Wisconsin School of Pharmacy

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the importance of determining the purpose behind why you are looking for information, what you are writing, and having a plan to stay organized.
- Explain various considerations when it comes to literature searching.
- Describe and demonstrate basic search functionalities in a secondary database.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH YOUR LITERATURE SEARCHES?

- Are you exploring an **idea** for research or a project?
 - Gaining background knowledge
 - Attempting to find gaps in the literature
 - Discovering how others might have approached a topic or measured an outcome
- Are you performing the **research** itself?
 - Systematic review, meta-analysis, scoping review
- Are you in the **writing** process already and need some additional references?
 - Editorials, commentaries, etc.



WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?

- Systematic Research Project – robust methodology and determined a priori
 - Systematic Review
 - Meta-analysis
 - Scoping review
- Journal and Article Type
 - Often determines reference limit and citation style

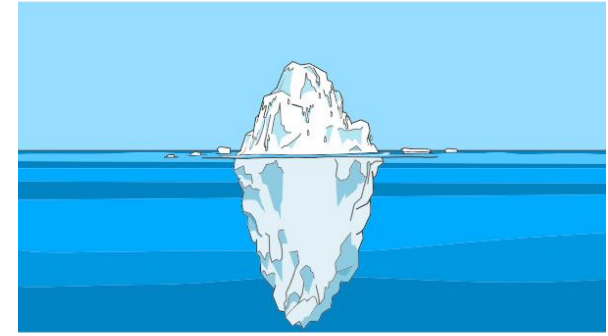
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN TO STAY ORGANIZED?

- ANSWER: Reference Management Software (more from Dr. Margolis)
 - *Bare bones expectation if you don't use software: Use your own system with place holders (e.g., brackets with highlights; [Smith 2012]). Do not number superscripts until the very end when using AMA style.*
- Why? MAJOR Time Saver – browser plug-ins, word processor add-ons, building/sharing libraries, and MUCH more
- As you collect information and synthesize/organize, have a method for keeping track of which reference goes with which information (again, RMS can help!)
- If you're doing a systematic research project, there are more sophisticated tools

LITERATURE SEARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

- Primary, secondary, tertiary and hierarchy of evidence
- Reputable
- Search more than one database (there is more than PubMed®!)
- Use tutorials, FAQs, user guides, etc.
- Google Power Searching and grey literature
- Lean on your librarians!
- Don't reference anything you haven't read in its entirety

SOME LIT SEARCHING HOW-TOS



What do you want to learn more about?

Non-PubMed® databases	PubMed®: MeSH Terms
PICO	PubMed®: Single Citation Matcher
Boolean operators	PubMed®: Clipboard
Advanced searching	Grey Literature
Filters	Google Power Searching

RESOURCES

- PubMed®
 - [PubMed® FAQ & User Guide](#)
 - [PubMed® Online Training](#)
 - [PubMed® MeSH Tutorials](#)
- Many college and university libraries have libguides and how-to videos
- [Power Searching with Google](#) – free, online, self-paced course

QUESTIONS?

audrey.kostrzewa@cuw.edu