LITERATURE SEARCHES & INTRO TO CITATION MANAGERS

PSW Emerging Writers Lunch & Learn Series

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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
### What do you want to learn more about?

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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?
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