

Is this a systematic review?

The first step in writing a systematic review is determining whether or not a systematic review is the right format to answer your research question. There are many other kinds of reviews that share some of the same characteristics. The table below explains the differences between different types:

<p>Systematic review</p>	<p>A review which uses strict methods for finding, appraising and synthesising evidence to answer a specific research question. If they are done well, they are highly reliable and can be used to make clinical decisions or changes to policy¹. However, as all methods need to be explained and justified to control bias, conducting a systematic review requires a lot of resources in terms of time and manpower.</p> <p>Examples of systematic reviews include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacological interventions for apathy in Alzheimer’s disease • Risk-reducing mastectomy for the prevention of primary breast cancer • Water fluoridation for the prevention of dental caries
<p>Narrative review</p>	<p>May also be referred to as a literature review. Provides an overview of a topic to help readers understand the significance of new research², but may or may not involve a comprehensive search of the literature³. Narrative reviews can be written to⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise the current knowledge on a topic

¹ Boland, A., Cherry, M. G., & Dickson, R. (2014). *Doing a systematic review: a student’s guide*. London: SAGE.

² Cronin, P., Ryan, F., & Coughlan, M. (2008). Undertaking a literature review: a step-by-step approach. *British Journal of Nursing*, 17(1), 38–43. <https://doi.org/10.12968/bjon.2008.17.1.28059>

³ Grant, M. J., & Booth, A. (2009). A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 26(2), 91–108. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the history or development of a problem • Describe new developments in interventions and management • Conceptually integrate separate fields of research • Highlight issues and identify information gaps <p>Examples of narrative reviews include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of diet in symptoms of IBS in adults: A narrative review • What are the core elements of patient-centred care? A narrative review and synthesis of the literature from health policy, medicine, and nursing • Teacher attrition and retention: A meta-analytic and narrative review of the research
<p>Systematic literature review</p>	<p>A review that uses systematic review methods to search for and critically appraise existing research. Systematic literature reviews are more manageable than systematic reviews and are typically conducted as a postgraduate body of work⁴.</p> <p>Examples of systematic literature reviews include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-centered play therapy for youths who have experienced trauma: A systematic literature review • A systematic literature review of empirical evidence on computer games and serious games • Osteopathic care for spinal complaints: A systematic literature review
<p>Rapid review</p>	<p>A review that assesses what is currently known about a policy or practice issue. Rapid reviews provide a quick evidence-based summary of information by using systematic review methods to search for and critically appraise</p>

⁴ Grant, M. J., & Booth, A. (2009). A typology of reviews: An analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health Information & Libraries Journal*, 26(2), 91–108. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x>.

	<p>research⁴. They are typically completed in a shorter timeframe than systematic reviews, so the questions answered by rapid reviews tend to be very focused⁵.</p> <p>Examples of rapid reviews include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do people with existing chronic conditions benefit from telephone coaching? A rapid review • Elements of effective palliative care models: A rapid review • Quality of life assessment in domestic dogs: An evidence-based rapid review • A rapid review of the factors affecting healthcare students' satisfaction with small-group, active learning methods
<p>Scoping review</p>	<p>A review which assesses the nature and extent of published evidence available on a topic⁴.</p> <p>Reasons for conducting a scoping review include⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine the extent, range, and nature of existing research • To determine the value of undertaking a systematic review • To summarise research findings • To identify research gaps <p>Examples of scoping reviews include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy 2.0: A scoping review of social media use in pharmacy

⁵ Khangura, S., Konnyu, K., Cushman, R., Grimshaw, J., & Moher, D. (2012). Evidence summaries: the evolution of a rapid review approach. *Systematic Reviews*, 1(1), 10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/2046-4053-1-10>

⁶ Morris, M., Boruff, J. T., & Gore, G. C. (2016). Scoping reviews: establishing the role of the librarian. *Journal of the Medical Library Association : JMLA*, 104(4), 346–354. <https://doi.org/10.3163/1536-5050.104.4.020>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Assessing cognitive function in adults during or following chemotherapy: A scoping review</u> • <u>The use of flipped classrooms in higher education: A scoping review</u>
Integrative review	<p>A review which includes both qualitative and quantitative evidence to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the topic⁷.</p> <p>Examples of integrative reviews include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Interventions to reduce social isolation and loneliness among older people: An integrative review</u> • <u>The impact of education and training interventions for nurses and other health care staff involved in the delivery of stroke care: An integrative review</u>

⁷ Whittemore, R., & Knafl, K. (2005). The integrative review: updated methodology. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 52(5), 546–553.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2648.2005.03621.x>