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© Sabine Rauchmann

Dr. phil. Sabine Rauchmann, M.Sc.

Support Services for Systematic Literature Reviews in Economic and Business Studies – How Can Business Librarians Cooperate

Agenda

1. Background
Definitions and Anecdotal Evidence
2. Best Practice
Service Models for Supporting Systematic Reviews
3. Knowledge Mountains and Gaps
Expertise and Research Needs for SLR in Economics and Business Studies
4. Expertise through Cooperation
Building Knowledge for SLR in Economics and Business Studies



1 Background

Definitions and Anecdotal Evidence

1.1 Systematic Literature Review

Literature Search

Research Method

[Traditional] Literature Review

Broad topic,
less specific questions answered;
wide range of studies and literature,
review process not defined or made explicit;
literature included according to interest or
line of argument; individual
papers may be discussed in depth;
areas of interest;
subjective conclusion

[Systematic] Scoping Review

Broad topic, less specific questions / broad
but explicit question answered;
range of study designs,
review process defined, made explicit +
reported as part of review;
predefined exclusion/ inclusion criteria;
all papers treated the same;
map of the literature;
more objective conclusion

Systematic [Literature] Review

Narrow topic,
well defined / focussed question answered;
only certain study designs,
review process defined, made explicit +
reported as part of review;
predefined exclusion/ inclusion criteria;
all papers treated the same;
synthesised in themes;
more objective conclusion

1.2 Evidence or Perception?

„In the last few years, business librarians have received an increasing number of consultation requests for systematic literature reviews.”

Where, how often, and for what kinds of research topics?

1.3 Recognized and Involved

Health

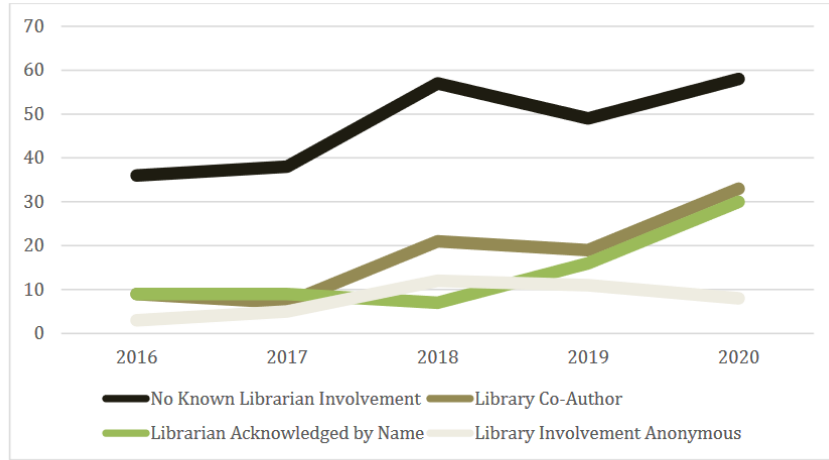
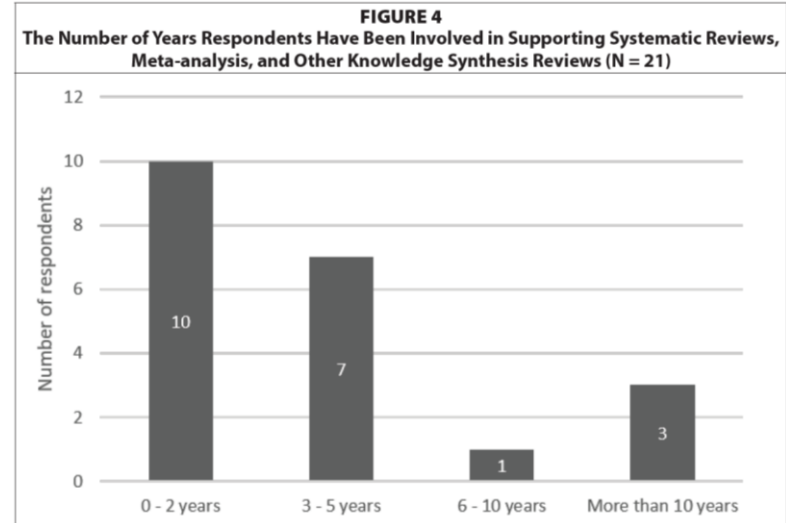


Fig. 1: Authorship over the 2016-2020 period

Business



(Premji, Splenda, & Young, 2022)

1.4 Awareness

- Bibliothekartag 2021
 - VDB Kommission für forschungsnahe Dienste: [Forschungsunterstützung an Bibliotheken – Positionspapier](#): „Beratungsservice für Systematic Reviews“
 - Dr. Andreas Ledl: [Systematic Reviews und Meta-Analysen als Forschungsunterstützung in den Human- und Sozialwissenschaften](#)
- Fachreferententagung Wirtschaftswissenschaften 2021: [Lightening Talk](#)
- Individual reports ([Splenda, 2020](#); [Liu, 2021](#))
- Increased number of consultation requests
- Workshop: [How to write a literature review](#) (LIRG, 2022)

1.5 Methods in Management Research

“The overall goal of our review is to improve the credibility and trustworthiness of management research by providing evidence-based best practices on how to enhance methodological transparency.” (Aguinis, Ramani, & Alabduljader 2018)

“Systematic review techniques are about to become the “new normal” in reviews of management research.” (Hiebl, 2021)

“We [...] discuss how systematic literature reviews may enhance management research and address current management research shortcomings.”
(Williams et al., 2021)

1.6 Anecdotal Evidence

„In the last few years, business librarians have received an increasing number of consultation requests for systematic literature reviews.”

Where, how often, and for what kinds of research topics?

- Exploring service models, including librarians' roles and scope of service
- Identifying knowledge and research needs for SLR
- Conducting systematic literature review(s)



2 Best Practices Service Models for Supporting SLR

2.1 Learning from the Best

Health sciences libraries & librarians

- Development of policies in healthcare based on scientific evidence (foundation, 1970-1989)
- Evidence movement: decision-making for politicians and practitioners (institutionalization, 1990-2000)
- Diversification of methods, types, users (diversification, 2001-)

(Hong, & Pluye, 2018)



2.2 Service Model 1: Consultant & Co-Author

Consultant

[...] a librarian can step in at different points of your systematic review [...] up to 15 hours

- Provide background information and resources on the systematic review process
- Recommend databases, protocol registration platforms, and citation management software
- **Suggest edits for your search strategy.** [...]

Co-Author

[...] a librarian will typically devote more than a year to partner with you on your systematic review

- Select databases and grey literature resources
- **Write the search strategy**
- **Translate searches to syntax of all databases**
- Perform searches and export them to citation management software
- Comment on the protocol
- Perform de-duplication, or train your team on the process
- Advise on the use of article screening software
- Write a portion of the methods section specific to searching

(Cornell University Library: [Evidence Synthesis Service](#); see also McKeown, & Ross-White, 2019)

2.2 Service Model 2: Standard, Academic, Premium

1. Review or refine your research questions or topic
2. Advise on finding existing systematic reviews¹⁶
3. Recommend databases for your subject area
4. Advise on developing a search strategy
5. Advise on grey literature sources
6. Support for managing references using EndNote
7. Advice on documenting search results (e.g. PRISMA)
8. Review or create up to three database searches
9. Edit search strategy based on results
10. Run the searches and extract the results
11. De-duplicate references and prepare an EndNote library
12. Contribute to the Methods section of the paper
13. Provide copies of search strategies for inclusion in the appendix

STANDARD 1-3 hours

ACADEMIC 3-5 hours

PREMIUM 5-20 hours

Available to Higher Degree by Research students, researchers and affiliates

Available to academic staff

Available to academic staff

Up to two research consultations

Up to three research consultations

N/A

N/A

Requires acknowledgement of librarian or library's contributions in the Acknowledgements section

Requires the librarian to be listed as co-author on the publication (with University Library affiliation)

(Luca, & Ulyannikova, 2020)

2.2 Service Model 3: Educative & Mediated

“Tiered search service boundaries should be scoped as part of the project plan, and then the specific approach negotiated with clients as part of each request. Search development is time-consuming, particularly during the learning stages as librarians build skill and confidence, and service boundaries must be negotiated with clients.”

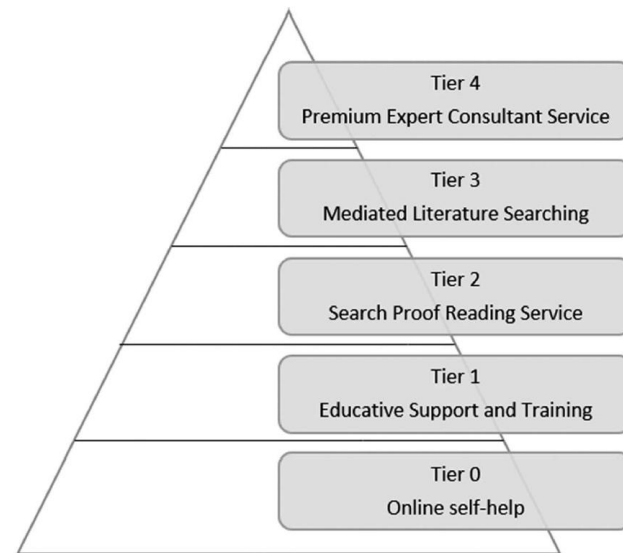


Figure 1. The trial systematic search service structure.

(Russell, & Muir, 2020)

2.3 Educative Support: Workshops

- Librarians (McGowan, Reed, & Yacilla 2021; Lenton, & Fuller 2019; Campbell, Kung, & Dennett 2016)
- Non-librarians (Li et al., 2014, Himelhoch et al., 2015)

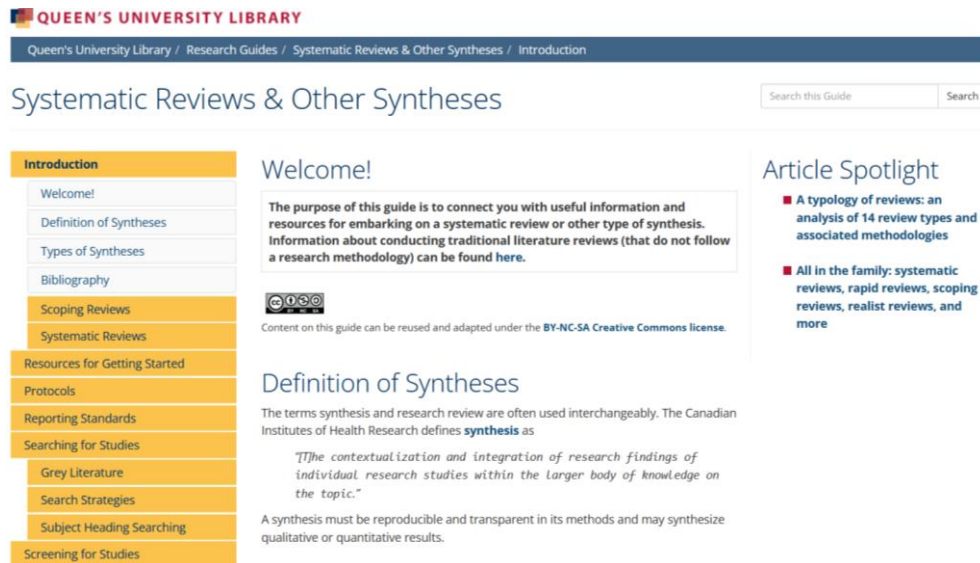
“Our course objectives are to (1) teach the essential steps of performing a systematic review and meta-analysis, (2) provide an environment that maximizes the student’s learning, and (3) have a positive impact on how well students perform, critically appraise, and teach others about doing systematic reviews after the course.”
 (Li et al., 2014)

Table 1. In-class activities by week.

Week	Topic of in-class activities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to systematic reviews; framing the question; inclusion/ exclusion criteria; selecting outcomes • Discussion on reporting bias • Systematic review group work
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on searching principles • Developing a search strategy using various databases; Using EndNote[®] as a reference management software • Systematic review group work
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing risk of bias; qualitative synthesis • Managing citation screening using Microsoft Excel[®]; using RevMan[®] to assess risk of bias & write a systematic review report • Assessing risk of bias and data abstraction exercise • Systematic review group work
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-analysis: fixed & random effects models • Systematic review group work
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-analysis of observational studies • Using STATA[®] to conduct meta-analysis • Systematic review group work
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-regression; subgroup analysis; sensitivity analysis • Systematic review group work
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on network meta-analysis • Systematic review group work
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic review group work, each group presents work in 6 minutes followed by 5 minutes of questions from the class

2.4 Educative Support: Online Guides

- Queen's University Library:
[Systematic reviews & other syntheses](#)
- Carnegie Mellon University Libraries:
[Systematic reviews](#)
- University Library Sydney:
[Systematic review toolkit](#)
- King's College London:
[Searching for systematic reviews](#)
- Deakin University Library:
[Systematic and systematic-like review toolkit](#)



The screenshot displays the 'Systematic Reviews & Other Syntheses' guide from Queen's University Library. The page features a dark blue header with the library's name and a navigation bar. A search box is located in the top right corner. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Introduction' (with a table of contents), 'Welcome!' (providing the guide's purpose), 'Definition of Syntheses' (explaining the terms and including a quote), and 'Article Spotlight' (highlighting review typologies). A Creative Commons license notice is also present.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Queen's University Library / Research Guides / Systematic Reviews & Other Syntheses / Introduction

Systematic Reviews & Other Syntheses


Search this Guide Search

Introduction

- Welcome!
- Definition of Syntheses
- Types of Syntheses
- Bibliography
- Scoping Reviews
- Systematic Reviews
- Resources for Getting Started
- Protocols
- Reporting Standards
- Searching for Studies
- Grey Literature
- Search Strategies
- Subject Heading Searching
- Screening for Studies

Welcome!

The purpose of this guide is to connect you with useful information and resources for embarking on a systematic review or other type of synthesis. Information about conducting traditional literature reviews (that do not follow a research methodology) can be found [here](#).

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Definition of Syntheses

The terms synthesis and research review are often used interchangeably. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research defines **synthesis** as

"The contextualization and integration of research findings of individual research studies within the larger body of knowledge on the topic."

A synthesis must be reproducible and transparent in its methods and may synthesize qualitative or quantitative results.

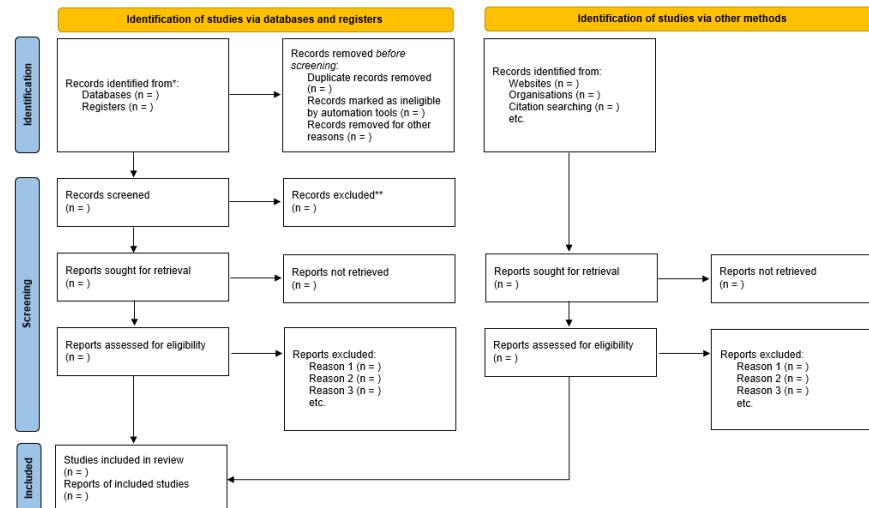
Article Spotlight

- A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies
- All in the family: systematic reviews, rapid reviews, scoping reviews, realist reviews, and more

2.5 Expertise: Protocols & Reporting Standards

- Cochrane: [Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions](#), [MECIR manual](#)
- Campbell Collaboration: [Campbell policies and guidelines](#)
- [Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses \(PRISMA\)](#)

PRISMA 2020 flow diagram for new systematic reviews which included searches of databases, registers and other sources



*Consider, if feasible to do so, reporting the number of records identified from each database or register searched (rather than the total number across all databases/registers).

**If automation tools were used, indicate how many records were excluded by a human and how many were excluded by automation tools.

From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71. For more information, visit: <http://www.prisma-statement.org>

2.6 Expertise: Evaluation of Databases & Search Syntax

PRESS elements

- Translation of the research question
- Boolean and proximity operators
- Subject headings
- Text word searching
- Spelling, syntax, and line numbers
- Limits and filters
- Search strategy adaptations

Optimal search strategies for retrieving systematic reviews from Medline: analytical survey

Victor M Montori, Nancy L Wilczynski, Douglas Morgan, R Brian Haynes, for the Hedges Team

Development of a highly sensitive search strategy for the retrieval of reports of controlled trials using PubMed

Karen A Robinson^a and Kay Dickersin^b

Preliminary comparison of the performance of the National Library of Medicine's systematic review publication type and the sensitive clinical queries filter for systematic reviews in PubMed

Tamara Navarro-Ruiz, R. Brian Haynes

BEYOND MEDLINE

Reducing Bias Through Extended Systematic Review Search

Isabelle Savoie
Diane Helmer
Carolyn J. Green
Arminee Kazanjian
British Columbia Office of Health Technology Assessment (BOHTA)

Searching PubMed to Retrieve Publications on the COVID-19 Pandemic: Comparative Analysis of Search Strings

Jeffrey V Lazarus¹, DPhil; Adam Palayew², Lange Neumann Rasmussen³, Tue Helms Andersen¹, Joey Nicholson⁴, Ole Norgaard¹

Search Filters for Finding Prognostic and Diagnostic Prediction Studies in Medline to Enhance Systematic Reviews

Geert-Jan Geersing^{1,2}, Walter Bouwmeester^{1,3}, Peter Zuithoff¹, Rene Spijker^{3,4}, Mariska Leeftang^{3,4}, Karel Moons¹

CADTH Methods and Guidelines

PRESS Peer Review of Electronic Search Strategies: 2015 Guideline Explanation and Elaboration (PRESS E&E)

January 2016

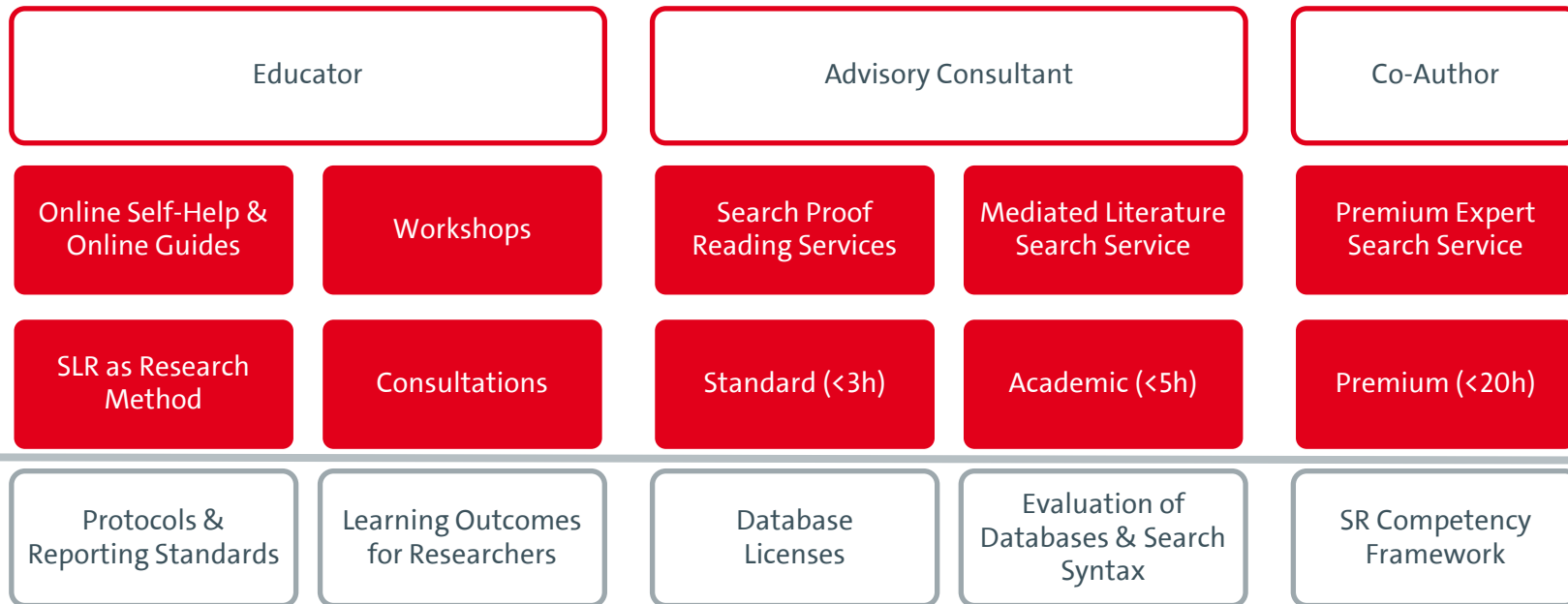
Using data sources beyond PubMed has a modest impact on the results of systematic reviews of therapeutic interventions

Christopher W. Halladay^{a,b}, Thomas A. Trikalinos^{a,c}, Ian T. Schmid^d, Christopher H. Schmid^{a,b}, Issa J. Dahabreh^{a,c,e}

2.7 Expertise: Systematic Review Competencies Framework

Competency	Scope Note
SR foundations	How and why SRs are used in the health sciences and how to effectively find SRs
Process management and communication	Resources and skills involved in SR team communication and effective project management
Research methodology	Ability to comply with & advise teams on SR standards & best practices
Comprehensive searching	Ability to construct and document replicable search strategies in appropriate literature databases and other information resources
Data management	Processes, tools, and skills involved in using data and ensuring data integrity, archiving, and tracking for the SR process
Reporting	Ability to communicate literature search methods and results according to established standards so that they are suitable for publication and are replicable

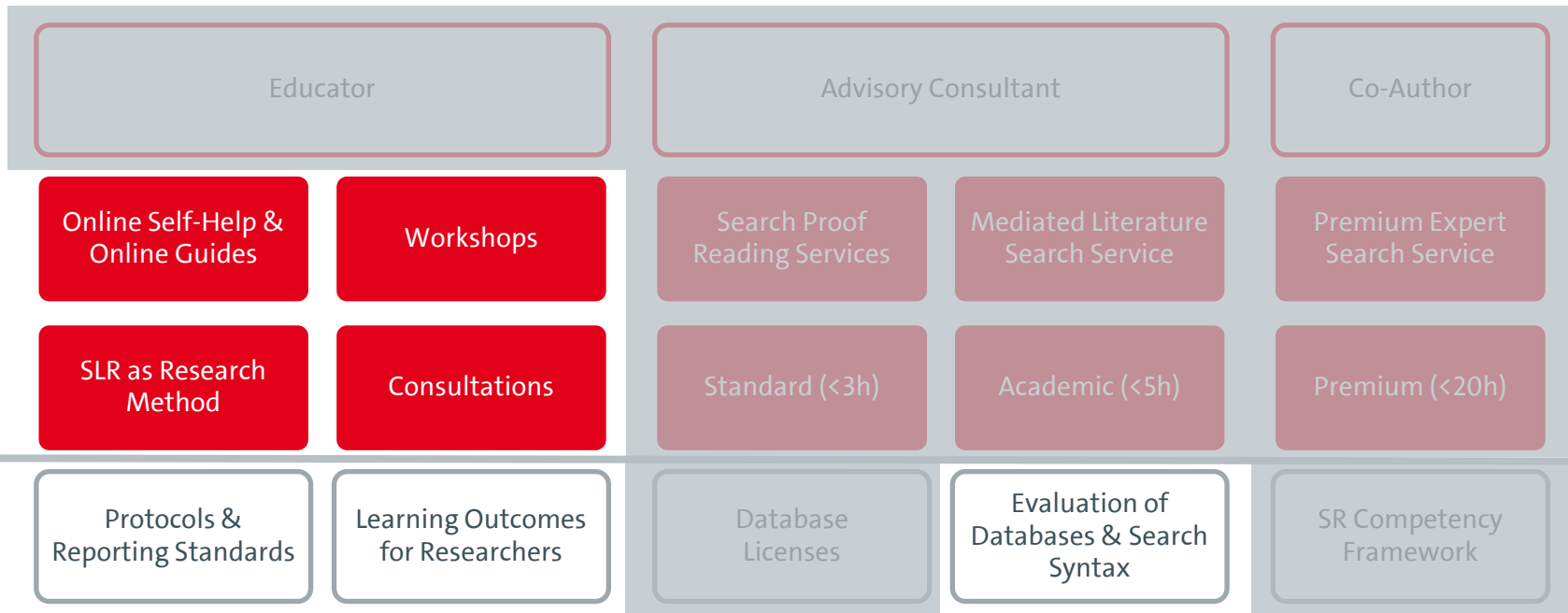
2.8 SLR Service Model Framework





3 Knowledge Mountains and Gaps Expertise & Research Needs for SLR in Econ. & Bus.

3.1 SLR Service Model Framework



3.2 Special Case: Economics and Business Studies

- Studies are often
 - narrative and qualitative, higher level of subjectivity associated with the synthesis process
 - multidisciplinary with many intersections with economics, psychology, sociology, education, public administration etc.
- Search strategies are more challenging because
 - controlled vocabularies are much less controlled
 - content in business databases is changing
 - databases mostly require a license

(Liu 2021)

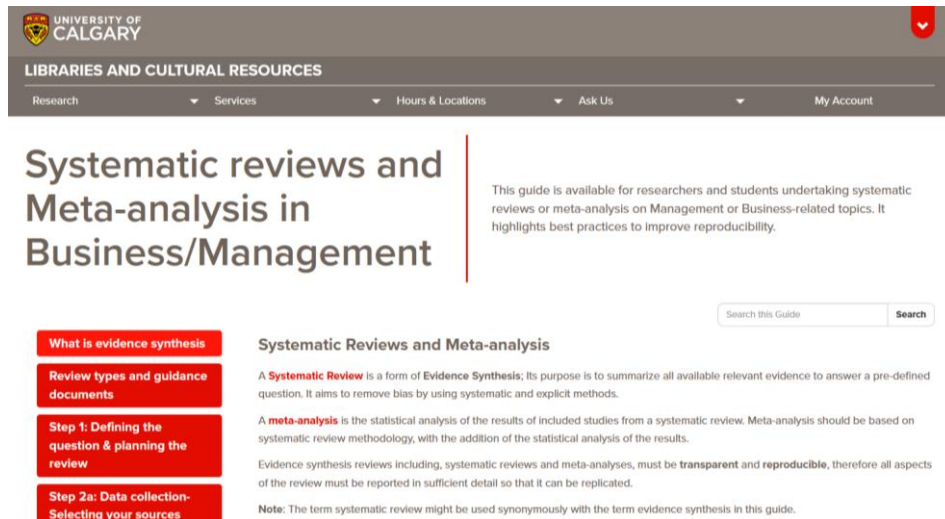
3.3 Educative Support: SLR as Research Method

Article	Subject Area	Notes
Adams, Smart, & Huff 2017	Management and organizational studies	International Journal of Management Reviews • Grey Literature
Clark et al., 2021	Management and business	Management Review Quarterly
Fisch & Block, 2018	Management and business	Management Review Quarterly
Palmatier et al., (2018)	Marketing	Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science
Torraco (2005)	Human resources	Human Resource Development Review • Defines the integrative literature review • Provides guidelines and examples for integrative literature reviews • Discusses contributions of a integrative literature review
Tranfield et al., (2003)	Management	British Journal of Management • Compares management and healthcare research • Highlights the challenges of conducting a SR in management research • Provides guidelines for conducting a SR in management Research

(Snyder, 2019)

3.4 Educative Support: Online Guides

- University of Calgary / Libraries Cultural Resources: [Systematic reviews and meta-analysis in business/management](#)
- Birmingham City University / Library and Learning Services: [Systematic reviews for business and management](#)
- Westchester Univ. / University Libraries: [Literature review in public administration](#)
- Radboud Univ. / Univ. Library: [Business admin. & economics: systematic review](#)
- DBWM: [Systematic Literature Review](#)



The screenshot shows the University of Calgary Libraries and Cultural Resources website. The header includes the university logo and navigation links: Research, Services, Hours & Locations, Ask Us, and My Account. The main content area is titled 'Systematic reviews and Meta-analysis in Business/Management'. A search bar is located on the right. The page content includes a description of the guide's purpose and a list of steps for conducting a systematic review.

Systematic reviews and Meta-analysis in Business/Management

This guide is available for researchers and students undertaking systematic reviews or meta-analysis on Management or Business-related topics. It highlights best practices to improve reproducibility.

Search this Guide Search

What is evidence synthesis

Review types and guidance documents

Step 1: Defining the question & planning the review

Step 2a: Data collection- Selecting your sources

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis

A **Systematic Review** is a form of **Evidence Synthesis**; its purpose is to summarize all available relevant evidence to answer a pre-defined question. It aims to remove bias by using systematic and explicit methods.

A **meta-analysis** is the statistical analysis of the results of included studies from a systematic review. Meta-analysis should be based on systematic review methodology, with the addition of the statistical analysis of the results.

Evidence synthesis reviews including, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, must be **transparent** and **reproducible**, therefore all aspects of the review must be reported in sufficient detail so that it can be replicated.

Note: The term systematic review might be used synonymously with the term evidence synthesis in this guide.

3.5 Educative Support: Workshops

- University of Calgary / Libraries Cultural Resources: [Systematic reviews workshop series](#)
- DBWM: [Rechercheworkshop für Forschende](#)
- Public health, i.e. [John Hopkins University / Bloomberg School of Public Health](#) (Li et al., 2014)
- Doctoral/Postgraduate workshops (i.e. [Radboud University](#))
- Cambell Collaboration: [Training courses](#)
- Integrated in the curriculum for evidence-based management (Briner, & Walshe 2014)?
- Not mentioned on website?

Table 2
challenges

topic	challenges
Choice of topic for course assignment	Needs to be easy to understand for non-clinicians Small number of hits obtained from literature search Assessments and analyses could be taken from published systematic reviews on the same topic
Choice of a guiding systematic review	Needs to be easy to understand for non-clinicians Should follow the standards outlined in the Cochrane handbook High methodological quality Very good reporting quality to enable students to recalculate more than one meta-analysis
Requirements for teaching staff	Generalist with sufficient expertise and experience in all process steps of a systematic review Content expertise in topic of course assignment and guiding systematic review
Developments in methods	Regular modifications to course content necessary due to new research methods (e.g. new tools for assessing methodological quality of SRs) Change in processes (e.g. automation of systematic reviews)

(Pieper, Müller, & Stock 2019)

3.6 Protocols and Reporting Standards

- Framework for question: [CIMO, PICOc, ECLIPS\(E\), SPICE, SPIDER](#) (Booth, 2016)
- PRESS checklist
- PRISMA
- Cochrane handbook, Campbell policies and guideline
- *Campbell Collaboration: [Business and Management Coordinating Group](#)*
- *Business/economics/management-specific extensions for PRISMA, PRESS, Cochrane / Campbell handbook/guidelines?*
- *Compliance with reporting standards?*
- *Guidelines for reproducible research? (Hensel, 2021)*

3.7 Learning Outcomes for Researchers

- Information literacy, search behaviour of students and researchers
- *Search behaviour for SLR of students and researchers in business, economics and management?*
- *Performance?*
 - *Reproducible documentation?*
 - *Quality of search expressions?*
 - *Quality of articles of researchers at own institution?*



3.8 Evaluation of Databases & Search Syntax

- Coverage of Business Source, ABI/Inform (King, 2020; Yu, & Su 2018; Kyunghye, & Wyckoff, 2016; Kavi, 2013; Jacsó, 2013, Nolan, 2009)
- *Coverage of subject areas in Business Source & ABI/Inform?*
- *Subject headings? (DeMars, 2022)*
- *Search summary table (Bethel, 2021)?*

Which academic search systems are suitable for systematic reviews or meta-analyses? Evaluating retrieval qualities of Google Scholar, PubMed, and 26 other resources


Michael Gusenbauer¹  | Neal R. Haddaway^{2,3} 

Optimal database combinations for literature searches in systematic reviews: a prospective exploratory study

Wichor M. Bramer^{1*}, Melissa L. Rethlefsen², Jos Kleijnen^{3,4} and Oscar H. Franco⁵

Review

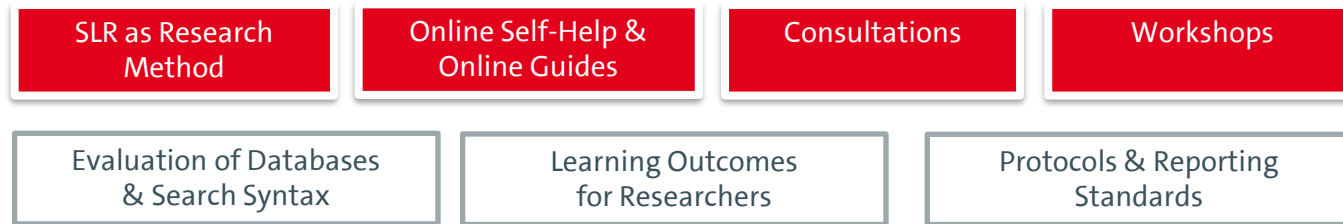
Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus: The Titans of Bibliographic Information in Today's Academic World

Raminta Pranckutė 

3.9 Exploration and Research Agenda

Research agenda for systematic literature reviews in business, economics and management from a librarian's point of view

Areas of exploration, i.e.





4 Expertise through Cooperation

Building Expertise for SLR in Econ. and Bus.

4.1 Framework for Collaboration



(adapted from: Louque, 2021; Mazorodze, & Buckley, 2020, Mathrani, Mathrani, & Liu 2011)

4.2 Management/Strategic

Institutionalization / Support of

- SLR special interest group with professional associations
 - of library/librarians
 - of researchers and faculty in business/economics/management
 - i.e. [Information Literacy CoP](#)
- Subject-specific special interest groups with institutions, centers
 - i.e. Campbell Collaboration: [Business and Management Coordinating Group](#)

- Eligible association / institution? (w/ CoP self-selected membership)
- International + regional level?
- Degree of binding or optional?

(Wenger, & Snyder, 2000)

4.3 Supporting Tools/Documentation

- software application or platform for live (i.e., real-time) online meetings and webinars
- dedicated 24/7 online space for collaboration, discussion, archiving meetings and webinars, and sharing resources (website, wiki, blog)
- i.e. [PRESSforum](#) (peer review of search strategies via submission form)

- Website?
- Hosted by?
- Restricted and/or public space
- Calender, forum
- Collaborative edition (blog, wiki, repository)?

(Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, 2016)

4.4 Process / Training

- Skill development plan
- Exploration and research agenda
- Evidence Synthesis Institut
 - [Book](#)
 - [Libguide: Systematic reviews and evidence synthesis beyond the health sciences: a training for librarians](#)

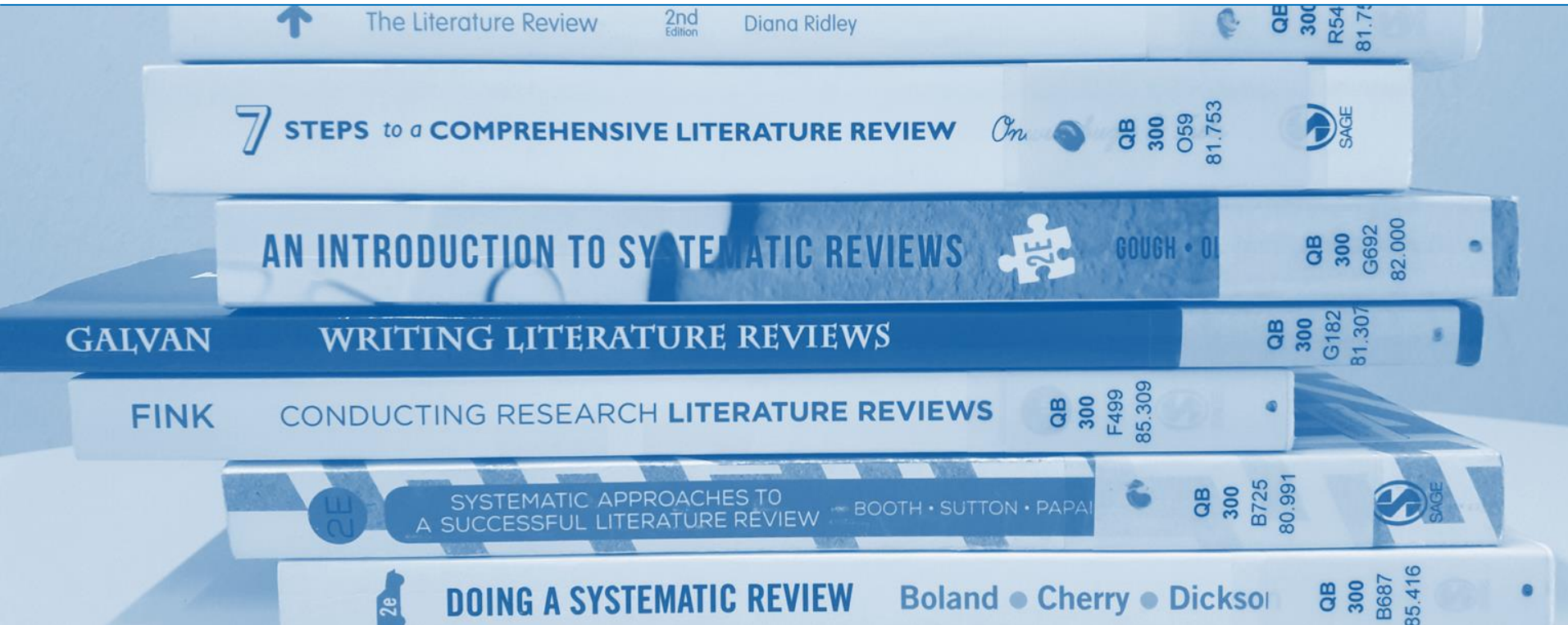
- SLR competencies framework?
- Subject-specific content?
- Plus:
Coaching,
mentoring,
storytelling?

4.5 Team/Hands-on

- Search club
 - Peer review of search strategies
 - Consultation
 - Meetings to discuss journal articles of interest, lessons learned
 - i.e. [BusLibsinSR](#) (Zarah Premji)
- SLR market for
 - Co-Author
 - Mentor/Mentee

- Regular meetings?
- Clear objectives with due dates?
- Knowledge profiles?
- Commitment, motivation?
- Time?
- Supported by management?

(Mathrani, & Edward 2020; Rosen, Furst, & Blackburn, 2007)



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Dr. phil. Sabine Rauchmann, M.Sc.

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Universität Hamburg

Fakultät Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften

Bibliothek der Fakultäten WISO und BWL

Lz: II/21

Von-Melle-Park 5

Raum 1021 (Aufgang D), Postfach #31

D-20146 Hamburg

Telefon: +49 40 42838-5605

E-Mail: sabine.rauchmann@uni-hamburg.de

Webseite: www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/bibliothek/

ORCID: orcid.org/0000-0002-7540-6924