

Planning a Review or Meta-Analysis

- [Is Your Systematic Review Feasible?](#)
- [Protocol Writing and Registration](#)

Defining a strong research question and hypothesis include:

- Identifying the “primary and secondary aims of the study”
- “Scanning the literature to identify gaps in the field”
- Using the acronym **P**opulation, **I**ntervention, **C**ontrol, and **O**utcome when formulating the research question

Establishing a Study Team

- Identify a team lead or project manager to organize project tasks, ensure that “study protocol is followed”, and “keeps all team members informed”
- Identify “independent reviewers” or team members to verify data, adjudicate study inclusion differences, and identify those that will participate in each step of the review process * Include team members who are familiar with the review process
- “The complexity of the question being addressed and the expected number of references also will figure in the size of the team”

Assessing Feasibility

- How to determine if the project is viable or useful to the literature
- Checking if a review is already done, too little research, etc.
- Knowing what a meta-analysis is good at and not good at

References

Muka, T., Glisic, M., Milic, J. *et al.* A 24-step guide on how to design, conduct, and successfully publish a systematic review and meta-analysis in medical research. *Eur J Epidemiol***35**, 49–60 (2020).
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Last update: **2022/04/22 15:52**