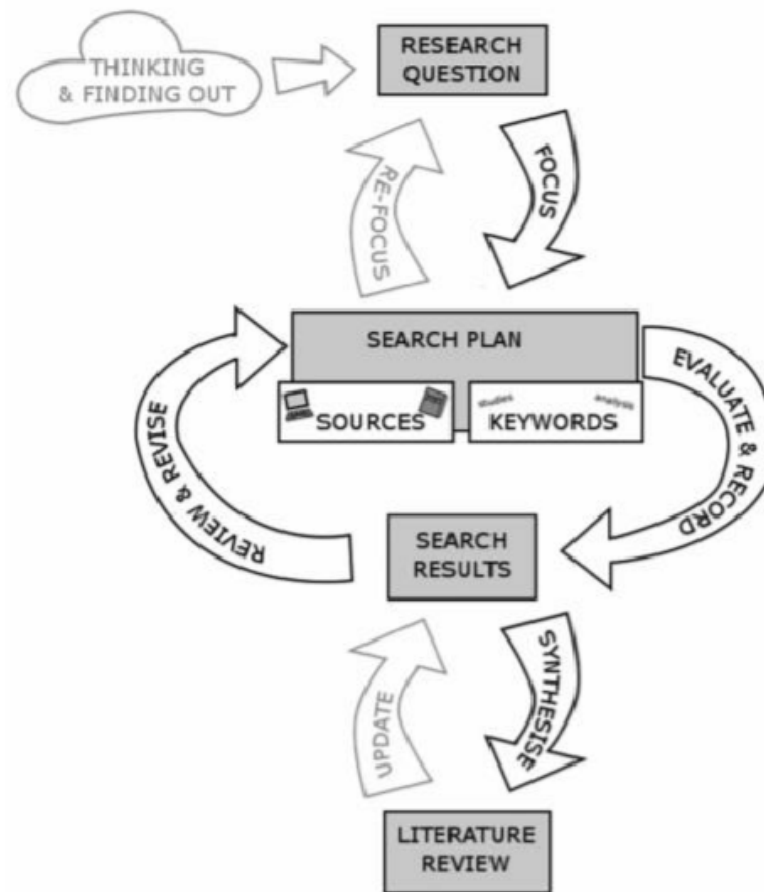


Research Skills

Module 6

- **Article selection**
- **Search strategy and reporting**

This resource is freely provided for teaching and learning purposes and cannot be on-sold or used for commercial purposes (original authors of cited sources exempted).



<http://www.library.dmu.ac.uk/Images/Howto/LiteratureSearch.pdf>

7 reliable search engines for your health writing

1. PubMed

PubMed is probably the first online search engine that comes to mind for health writers. It is a free online archive of medical journal articles maintained by the United States National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine (NLM).

It contains over 25 million records and searches several databases – including interfacing with MEDLINE and other publications by the NLM, such as MedlinePlus.

You can easily refine your search per topic in PubMed by [typing search terms to the MeSH](#) (Medical subject text heading) to filter results and find specific journal articles.

[Having two or three 'go-to' medical journal search engines can help you consistently source quality evidence.CLICK TO TWEET](#)

2. Ovid

If you have a login access from your institution, there are other search engines that search MEDLINE, such as [Ovid](#), [Ebscohost](#) and [ProQuest](#).

Ovid is a comparable search engine to PubMed. Its advantage over PubMed is it searches more databases in addition to MEDLINE, including EMBASE and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR). This means that your search will expand to include more results giving you more evidence to use for your writing.

<https://www.healthwriterhub.com/medical-journal-search-engines/>

3. Web of Science

[Web of Science](#) uses a large database of 8,700 international scientific journals from Thomson Reuters. The database includes a large number of international publications from Asia and requires a subscription to access the articles.

Web of Science has a useful database to search for scholarly research data on emerging trends if you're writing protocols or guidelines. It covers over 250 disciplines in science, social science, arts and humanities.

4. Science Direct

You may already be familiar with [ScienceDirect](#). It is a full text scientific database, which can really help your writing when you need to read more than the abstract.

The search engine allows you to find articles in over 3,800 science, technology and medicine journals owned by academic publisher Elsevier.

Another similar portal is [SpringerLink](#) that has access to over five million articles in journals operated by publisher Springer.

5. Scopus

[In 2006, an American researcher authored a review suggesting](#) that, if you regularly use Web of Science to search for articles, Scopus can be a great complement – as neither resource includes everything published. [Scopus](#) is a large database of over 60 million peer-reviewed literature also owned by Elsevier. Scopus interfaces with the EMBASE and MEDLINE databases to search records for journal articles. You can access the full-text articles from more than 4,200 full-text journals, however login may be required via a subscription for some full-text journal articles.

6. Cochrane Library

If you're looking for systematic reviews or meta-analyses, you should search the [Cochrane Library](#). In addition to results obtained from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), Cochrane library search results can also include control trials in MEDLINE and EMBASE, Cochrane protocols and editorials. Cochrane library is a subscription-based search platform. However, some open-access articles may be retrieved, depending on when the article is published.

7. Google Scholar

[Google Scholar](#) is a free medical journal search engine indexing journal articles from a variety of databases. If you regularly use Google to search online, using Google Scholar will come quite naturally and you can easily navigate and filter the results to suit your search. Google Scholar is a great secondary search engine to use after your initial search. If you're having trouble finding an article, often a search in Google Scholar can help you find the article.

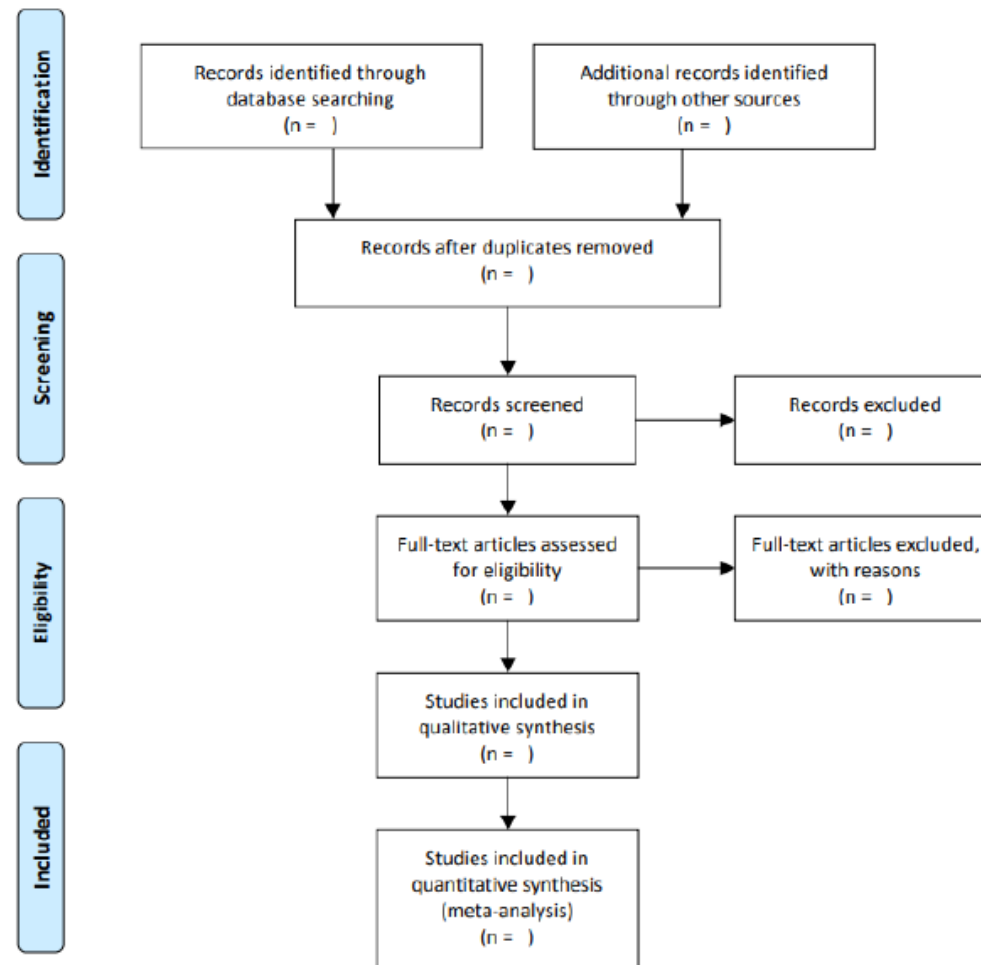
Open-access search engines

If you don't have access to full-text articles through an institution, there are several medical journal search engines that provide [open-access to free journal articles](#):

- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) – the database has about 10,000 journals available for open-access
- [Open Science Directory](#) – about 13,000 scientific journals are available with open-access
- [Free Medical Journals](#) – indexes about 4832 peer-reviewed journals with open-access
- [OpenMD.com](#) – health search engine spanning multiple sources and government databases
- [Trip Database](#) – medical search engine with filters for evidence type.



PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram

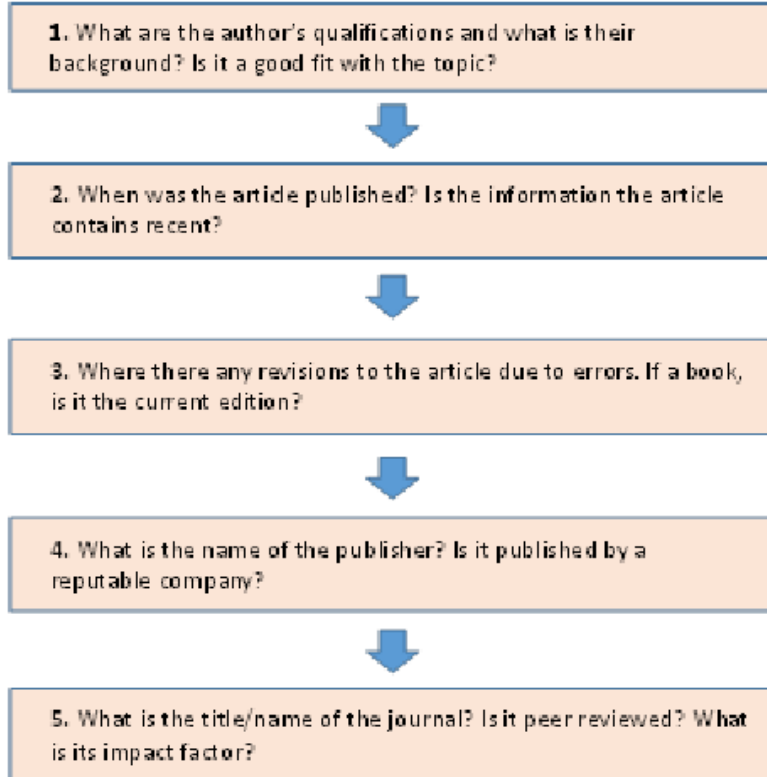


<http://prisma-statement.org/documents/PRISMA%202009%20flow%20diagram.pdf>

Critical Appraisal Chart for Selecting Articles: Phase One

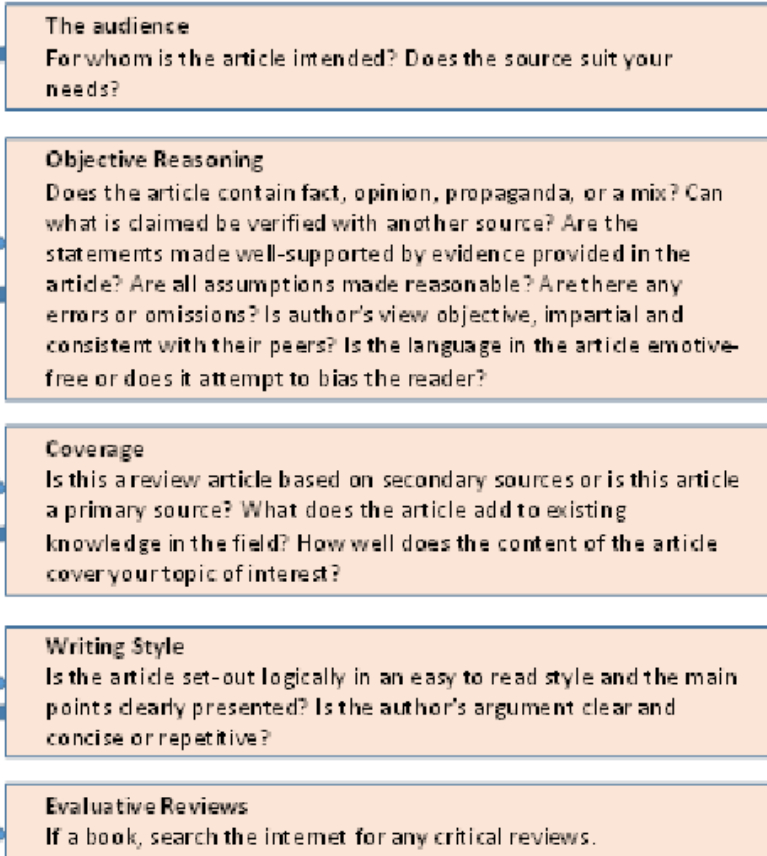
Critical analysis flow chart

Initial steps



Cornell University Library. (2013). *Critical Appraisal and Analysis*. Cornell University, Retrieved from: <http://guides.library.cornell.edu/criticallyanalyzing>

Analysing the content



Search Tips for GOOGLE SCHOLAR

Get the most out of Google Scholar with some helpful tips on searches, email alerts, citation export, and more.

Finding recent papers

Your search results are normally sorted by relevance, not by date. To find newer articles, try the following options in the left sidebar:

1. click "Since Year" to show only recently published papers, sorted by relevance;
2. click "Sort by date" to show just the new additions, sorted by date;
3. click the envelope icon to have new results periodically delivered by email.

Locating the full text of an article

Abstracts are freely available for most of the articles. Alas, reading the entire article may require a subscription. Here're a few things to try:

1. click a library link, e.g., "FindIt@Harvard", to the right of the search result;
2. click a link labelled [PDF] to the right of the search result;
3. click "All versions" under the search result and check out the alternative sources;
4. click "Related articles" or "Cited by" under the search result to explore similar articles.

Source: Google Scholar. Search Tips. Available from: <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html>

Getting better answers

If you're new to the subject, it may be helpful to pick up the terminology from secondary sources. E.g., a Wikipedia article for "overweight" might suggest a Scholar search for "paediatric hyper-alimentation".

If the search results are too specific for your needs, check out what they're citing in their "References" sections. Referenced works are often more general in nature.

Similarly, if the search results are too basic for you, click "Cited by" to see newer papers that referenced them. These newer papers will often be more specific.

Explore! There's rarely a single answer to a research question. Click "Related articles" or "Cited by" to see closely related work, or search for author's name and see what else they have written.

Source: Google Scholar. Search Tips. Available from: <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html>

Literature search results

Research question: _____

Search terms used: _____

Search engines used: _____

Basis for selecting articles: _____

Author, date, name and publisher of the articles selected:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____