Using library resources for a Systematic Review in Psychology & Sport

Can you find examples of similar studies within the area?

Are there any examples of similar studies within your area of research? When PhD researchers submit a paper they may also include various search methods they used to locate relevant literature. This could include structured Boolean searches and lists of resources they used to search. It is worth investigating to see what is out there but don’t worry too much if you can’t find anything.

Advice & guidance on how to compile a Systematic Review

We have some useful books on how to carry out a systematic review. This book is extremely useful Boland, A. (2014). Doing a systematic review: A student’s guide. Los Angeles: SAGE. This link also lists other books we have around how to produce a Systematic Review.

Research at Staffordshire University

We have a page dedicated to Research at Staffordshire University and you can find this via http://libguides.staffs.ac.uk/research

Databases you could search

We have databases that you can search. Our databases are listed via our A-Z list of databases. You can access them via this link http://libguides.staffs.ac.uk/az.php. For subject related databases you can also visit your resource page for Psychology or Sport.

Institutional Access to resources

We have a number of databases that the university subscribes to that might help you with your systematic review. Again, these can be found at the links above although I will list some of the more popular databases for Psychology, Sport and Health.

- MEDLINE – possibly best to access through the EBSCO interface.
- CINAHL Plus with Full Text – we have access to this via the EBSCO database. Crosses over Health, Psychology and Sport.
- PsycARTICLES – From the EBSCO collection contains a number of Psychology related articles but also crosses over with Health & Sport.
- PsycINFO – From the EBSCO collection. Contains a number of Indexes and Abstracts relating to Psychology, Health and some Sport.
- PsycBOOKS – Contains eBook chapters relating to Psychology.
- ScienceDirect – a database that contains Full Text articles crosses over Sciences, Psychology, Sport and Health. Please find a link to some tutorials on ScienceDirect.
- ProQuest Nursing – A nursing database that crosses over Health and Psychology.
- Scopus – an index and abstract tool containing the world’s largest database of peer reviewed material.
- Internurse – Has a number of Health related articles but does have some crossover with Psychology and Sport.
- SPORTDiscus – An EBSCO database. Useful for Sport & Health but also has some cross over with Psychology.
- JSTOR – Contains a number of Full Text articles relevant to Psychology, Health & Sport.

Summon is our Resource Discovery Tool that searches across all eResources at Staffordshire University. You can access Summon via http://staffs.summon.serialssolutions.com/ remember to use the limiters on the left-hand side of the page to limit your search to Journal Articles.
Non-institutional Access

There are also resources available that we link to but do not subscribe to. This doesn't mean that you can’t get access to resources as many have access to free articles.

- Cochrane Library [http://www.cochranelibrary.com/]
- HTA Database [http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/]
- PROSPERO [http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/]
- PubMed (a variety of Open Access materials) [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed]

Gateways for Open Access Material

- Google Scholar [https://scholar.google.co.uk/], this link will show you how to set Scholar up to search across Staffordshire University resources [http://libguides.staffs.ac.uk/google] just remember that it will only search our eJournal collections.
- CORE [http://core.ac.uk/]
- OpenDOAR [http://www.opendoar.org/]
- ETHOS – the British Library theses collection [http://ethos.bl.uk/]
- Open Grey - [http://www.opengrey.eu/]
- Most Universities have their own online repository ours is [http://eprints.staffs.ac.uk/]
- You might want to also use Google to search for grey literature and it would be worth using the advanced search features on Google to search accurately. [https://www.google.co.uk/advanced_search]
- Staffordshire University also has its own online repository called STORE more information can be found via this link [http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_depts/infoservices/learning_support/store/]
- Web of Science also contains a large amount of Open Access material.

Articles could also be available via online institutional repositories. We have our own repository called STORE and you can find more information here [http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_depts/infoservices/learning_support/store/]. A small number of articles may be added to institutional repositories via Open Access. So it is worth investigating where the author is from and searching their own institutional repository for an article. Usually repositories allow you to search by author so you are able to list work produced by a specific author.

Search Techniques within our databases

As mentioned previously in this guide it is worth looking to see if you can find any searches that may have been carried out on previous research. This will give you an idea of how the researcher structured their search. It will also show you if the researcher used specific Boolean searches and if they combined their searches with Medical or Thesaurus headings (mentioned below). If you have colleagues within your school or faculty you could also ask to see if they have any search strategies they could share.

Using the databases you can utilise Boolean Terms. The most common are:

AND – This will find all search terms

OR – This will find one another or both (This is a common operator to use when carrying out a systematic review).

NOT – This will exclude terms (useful for excluding items so you might need to consider when to use this function)

You can also use Wildcard symbols as well and these can be used as such:

Wildcards - # for example, a search term with an English and Americanised spelling such as behaviour/behavior you can use behavio#r.

Or a ? For example, type ne?t to find all citations containing neat, nest or next. Databases such as EBSCOhost does not find net because the wildcard replaces a single character.

Truncation – usually a * symbol for example Smoke* to search for Smoking, Smokers, Smoked etc...
You can also use quotations to search for a phrase, this will search for words side by side in the title and the abstract (and sometimes in the main body of the work if the database allows this).
Remember that you can use the filters within a database to also help you narrow down your search. Most databases allow you to select Peer Reviewed article, identify Full Text articles, subject and narrow by date. EBSCO databases also allow you narrow by age, population and more.

The EBSCO collection of databases also suggests search terms and subject headings for you. If you carry out an initial search access your reference and you will see additional Subject Headings. If you select one of these headings it will carry out a new search. Useful if you’re interested in a particular area. It can also identify specialist authors.
Using Headings within the EBSCO databases and saving your searches

As mentioned previously we subscribe to a number of databases via the EBSCO interface. The databases can help you and it’s worth using the tools within them. A number of the databases have medical thesauruses in them. This means you’re able to search using the specific medical headings. One you may be familiar with is the MeSH headings in MEDLINE. PsycARTICLES has a Thesaurus.

You can access the Thesaurus within PsycARTICLES.

EBSCO also have a good overview of how to use the too (Please note this is for MEDLINE) - http://support.ebsco.com/training/flash_videos/cinahl_mesh/cinahl_mesh.html
You can enter your term and see what you get back. The default search is Relevancy Ranked but you can try others such as Term Begins With or Term Contains. It is worth experimenting with all 3.

After you have typed in your heading you will see your results. You can choose to include Subheadings you can then choose to Search the Database.

Choosing a heading in PsycARTICLES to search

You may see an option to ‘explode’ your search. The Explode function searches for an index term (subject heading) and automatically ORs it with all of its narrower terms. In other words, when you activate the Explode function, you are searching for the subject heading you originally selected, PLUS all of the subject headings in its family hierarchy.

Therefore, you might need to evaluate if you want to explode your search?

To search using a heading you will need to add it to your search box.
Once you have searched the database using the Thesaurus you will see a list of results.

Use the Limiters on the Left Hand Side of the page (the year and age group might help). Also look at some of the Major Headings.
You could then run a free text search.

Running a free search

If you go to the Search History you can then combine these searches.

Combining searches via your search history

You can Select Search with **AND/OR**

Combining searches from your search history with **AND**

You will see a list of new results. Remember you can use the limiters as well.

This link is really useful. It highlights searching many terms at once using PsycInfo
http://blog.apapubs.org/2016/11/10/searching-many-terms-at-once-on-psycinfo/

List of results

We suggest that you setup an account with EBSCO. This way you can save all of your searches and makes retrieving content easier.

To do this you must make sure that you access MEDLINE (or any other EBSCO database) using your University Username & Password. Once inside you must register. Select **Sign In** located towards the right hand side of the page.
Sign in to create an account with EBSCO

Select **Create New Account** and follow the instructions.

With specific EBSCO databases you can also specify your search by using specific Field Codes.

For example, if I am searching for a specific term in an Abstract I could enter AB “obesity” into my search. This would then search for this term in the Abstracts of articles. This function does differ from other databases as ScienceDirect and Web of Science have different ways to do this.

**Scopus**


**Advanced search using Google**

Google allows you to perform an advanced search. They like to hide this feature though. With an advanced search you can type in keywords but you can choose specific sites to search. For example, you can search across .org.uk or .ac.uk domains. You can also search across a specific website. You can also choose to search for material that has been updated recently and specific document formats for example Adobe PDF documents. You can access the advanced search feature here [https://www.google.co.uk/advanced_search](https://www.google.co.uk/advanced_search) this page will show you how to use the advanced search tool [https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/35890?hl=en](https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/35890?hl=en).

**Electronic journal title search**

If you have found an interesting reference in an article reference list you can use our eJournal title search to see if we subscribe to a particular journal title. You can search our eJournal title list via [http://rh5pp9fz2b.search.serialssolutions.com/](http://rh5pp9fz2b.search.serialssolutions.com/).
Hard-copy journals

Most journal titles are available electronically however the university does subscribe to a number of hard copy journal titles. To search for these you can use the Library Catalogue http://libcat.staffs.ac.uk/. Remember to access the advanced search and select journals when performing a search.

Looking for Theses

We hold a number of Theses at the university. To search for them you can access the advanced search via the library catalogue http://libcat.staffs.ac.uk/. Hard copy Theses are kept at the rear of the Thompson library in the bookstore and cannot be taken out of the library. You might also want to search ETHOS – the British Library theses collection http://ethos.bl.uk/ this resource contains a number of freely available papers and also links out to institutional repositories. You can also search the Staffordshire University Online Repository STORE for Theses that have been digitised http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_depts/infoservices/learning_support/store/.
Document Delivery Service

Staffordshire University has access to 100’s of databases and 1000’s of journal articles however we do not have infinite access to resources. If you are looking for an article and it says we don’t have it I would suggest using an Open Source search using Google Scholar to see if the article is available via Open Access. You could also look to see if the article has been submitted to an institutional repository in pre-print and you can do this by searching for the author, seeing what their home institution is, access their online repository and run a search for work produced by the author or authors. If you have exhausted all of these avenues you are able to request the article via the Document Delivery Service but this would cost you £5. You can find more information about the Document Delivery Service via the link for Off Campus users http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_deptsinfoservices/off_campus/

SCONUL SCHEME

SCONUL Access is a reciprocal access scheme that covers most of the college and university libraries in the UK and Ireland. It does not extend to overseas libraries. The scheme is free to join and provides visitor access and borrowing rights to many staff and students at participating libraries.

To be approved for the scheme you must be in good standing with the library (your account must be clear of debts and you should not have seriously infringed the regulations).

To apply for the scheme you must be:
• A current employee
• Or a student registered for a course awarded or validated by the university (this includes partnership institutions)
• And a resident of the UK (as the scheme does not extend to overseas institutions we are unable to approve membership for students living outside the UK).

If you are:
• Staff or a research student (Band A)
• A part-time, distance learning or placement student (Band B)
• Or a full-time postgraduate (Band C)

You may be able to borrow from other college or university libraries who are members of the scheme.

Find out more information about the SCONUL scheme via the Off Campus link http://www.staffs.ac.uk/support_deptsinfoservices/off_campus/

Managing your references

As with any piece of work at Postgraduate level you will have numerous references that you need to keep in order. There are numerous reference management tools available. The university subscribes to RefWorks so you are able to access RefWorks using your university username & password. You can find out more about RefWorks here http://libguides.staffs.ac.uk/newrefworks. There is also a lot of support materials available via your subject resource pages for Psychology http://libguides.staffs.ac.uk/psychology/articles and Sport http://libguides.staffs.ac.uk/sportexercise/articles. You might also choose to use Mendeley a free reference management tool that handles a large amount of data well https://www.mendeley.com/.

Writing in the APA style

We have books in the library to help you write within the APA style. We have a book highlighting concise rules of APA and you can find it via this link http://libcat.staffs.ac.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=181045. We also have a Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association and you can find this here http://libcat.staffs.ac.uk/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=158135.

We also have a number of books giving advice on how to write a Thesis you can find an example via this link.