COMMON TYPES OF REVIEW ARTICLES

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Narrative review

• AKA: literature review

• Summarizes some of the existing evidence

• Typically summarizes each article being discussed

• Overviews, describes, synthesizes a topic

• Describes information that already exists
Narrative review methods

1. Select topic
2. Search literature
3. Briefly critique evidence & reflect on view
4. Write paper
Online Technologies for Health Information and Education: A literature review.

Gill HK, Gill N, Young SD.

Abstract

There is a growing body of research focused on the use of social media and Internet technologies for health education and information sharing. The authors reviewed literature on this topic, with a specific focus on the benefits and concerns associated with using online social technologies as health education and communication tools. Studies suggest that social media technologies have the potential to safely and effectively deliver health education, if privacy concerns are addressed. Utility of social media-based health education and communication will improve as technology developers and public health officials determine ways to improve information accuracy and address privacy concerns.

- Online technologies for health information and education: A literature review.
- Literature review on the structure and operation of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees.
- Clinical pharmacy services and solid organ transplantation: A literature review.
- Economic effects of clinical pharmacy interventions: A literature review.
Must reads: narrative reviews


- [Writing a literature review](#)

- [Literature reviews: An overview for graduate students](#)
Scoping review

- Broad
- Gathers as much evidence as possible
- Scopes/maps evidence landscape
- Maps discovered evidence into themes
- Critical appraisal of study design, and statistical analysis, are typically not the focus
Arksey & O’Malley’s scoping study methodological framework

1. Identify research question
2. Identify relevant studies
3. Select studies
4. Chart (‘map’) data into themes
5. Summarize / report results
Pharmacy 2.0: A scoping review of social media use in pharmacy.

Exploring the contextual and human factors of electronic medication reconciliation research: A scoping review.

The male face of caregiving: A scoping review of men caring for a person with dementia.
THE must read: scoping reviews

Systematic reviews

• Methods are most rigorous

• Uses pre-planned methods

• Highly systematic and scientific approach

• Study design is of interest

• Involves statistical analysis and critical appraisal

• Very specific
Systematic review methods

Create systematic review team

Create systematic review protocol

Systematic searching

Quality assessment / critical appraisal

Extract data

Study selection & screening of search results

Data synthesis

Final product
Social media interventions for diet and exercise behaviours: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVES: To conduct a systematic review of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) examining the use of social media to promote healthy diet and exercise in the general population.


STUDY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: RCTs of social media interventions promoting healthy diet and exercise behaviours in the general population were eligible. Interventions using social media, alone or as part of a complex intervention, were included.

STUDY APPRAISAL AND SYNTHESIS: Study quality was assessed using the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool. We describe the studies according to the target populations, objectives and nature of interventions, outcomes examined, and results and conclusions. We extracted data on the primary and secondary outcomes examined in each study. Where the same outcome was assessed in at least three studies, we combined data in a meta-analysis.

RESULTS: 22 studies were included. Participants were typically middle-aged Caucasian women of mid-to-high socioeconomic status. There were a variety of interventions, comparison groups and outcomes. All studies showed a decrease in programme usage throughout the intervention period. Overall, no significant differences were found for primary outcomes which varied across studies. Meta-analysis showed no significant differences in changes in physical activity (standardised mean difference (SMD) 0.13 (95% CI 0.04 to 0.30), 12 studies) and weight (SMD -0.00 (95% CI -0.19 to 0.19), 10 studies); however, pooled results from five studies showed a significant decrease in dietary fat consumption with social media (SMD -0.35 (95% CI -0.66 to -0.02)).

CONCLUSIONS: Social media may provide certain advantages for public health interventions; however, studies of social media interventions to date relating to healthy lifestyles tend to show low levels of participation and do not show significant differences between groups in key outcomes.
Useful tools

- UW Systematic Review Protocol (there is a link to this on the Pharmacy Research Guide scroll down to “Systematic Review Template Files”)
- Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions (very useful!)
- PRISMA flow diagram
  - # of records identified through database/grey literature searches
  - Screening of records – number of records excluded
  - Eligibility – full-text articles assessed for eligibility; excluded articles with reasons for exclusion
  - Included – studies included in the quantitative analysis (meta-analysis)
More examples: systematic reviews

- Dementia case management and risk of long-term care placement: A systematic review and meta-analysis.
- Effectiveness of tobacco use cessation interventions delivered by pharmacy personnel: a systematic review.
Must reads: systematic reviews

• Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions

• Systematic reviews: CRD’s guidance for undertaking reviews in health care

• Finding what works in health care: Standards for systematic reviews