Clarifying the Review Conundrum: Literature, Integrative, Systematic, Scoping

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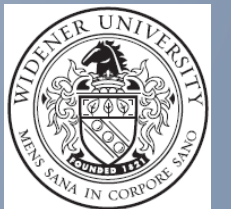
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Session Objectives

Following participation in this presentation, the learner will be able to:

› Differentiate the author decisions in a literature review;

› Compare/Contrast the approaches to literature search;

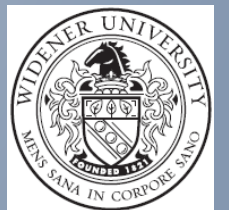› Design a literature search strategy based on outcome objective.

An Ongoing Nursing Evolution

"Show Me the Evidence" The Influence of EBP

› EBP evolution continues:
  – Cochrane (1979)
  – Cochrane Collaboration (1992)
  – Sackett (1996)

› Publications out pace readers

› Definition of systematic review

› Bias: A dirty word

Evidence Dissemination: The Literature Review

› The Review reflects the purpose.

› Review Terms used:
  – Scoping (Rapid Review), Mappin, Integrated/Narrative, Systematic, Meta-analysis.

› No clear consensus for characteristics.

› The Review should reflect the purpose.

› Terminology: Search, Appraisal Reproducible, Rigor.
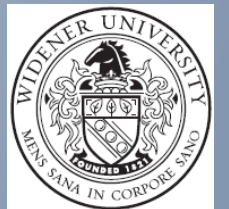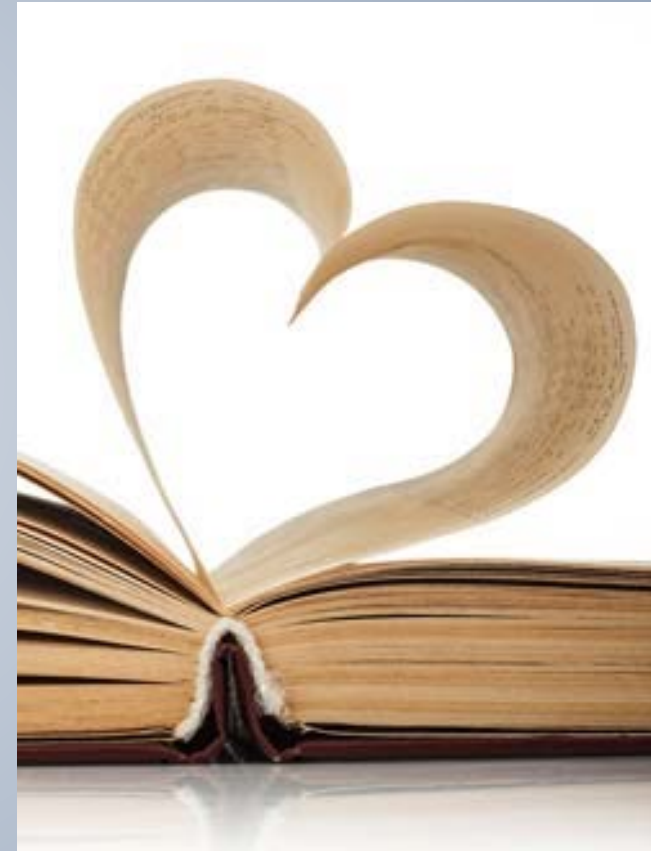
A Note on Literature Searches

› Exhaustive, comprehensive.

› Multiple databases.

› Gray literature.

› Dissertation abstracts.

› Reproducible.

› A Research Librarian is your best friend!

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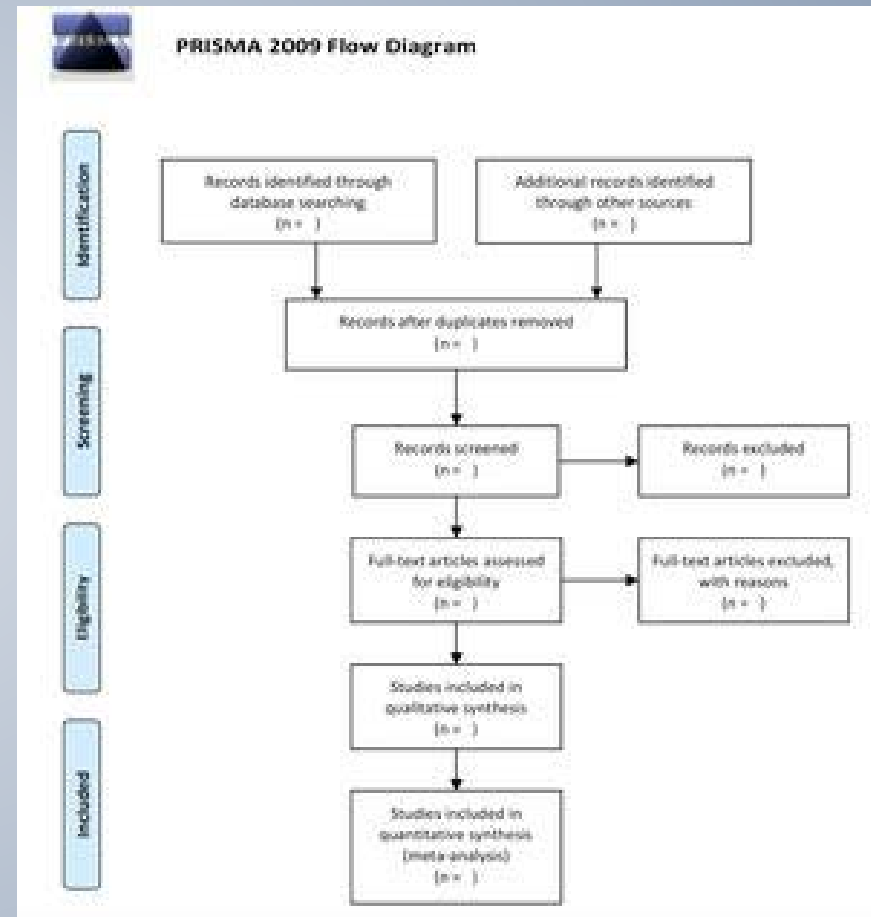
Components of the Literature Search

> Decisions made by the author fit the purpose:

> The search parameters:
  – Rigor of search: Replication
  – Database(s) used
  – Selection process

> Appraisal of literature

> Review product:
  – Description of results
  – Synthesis of results
  – Translation of results
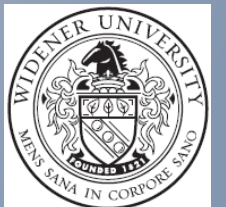
The Literature Review

Description: *"Published materials which provide an examination of recent or current literature."* Grant et al, 2009, p. 97.

Positive Aspects

› Reviews published literature.

› Provides a process for the inclusion of relevant sources.

› Consolidates/summates published findings for identification of omission/gaps.

Limitations

› Lacks explicit attempt to maximize scope.

› Lacks appraisal of identified sources & quality ranking.

› Conclusions open to omission bias; literature selection may support author worldview.

The Scoping Review [A.K.A Rapid Review*]

Description: "…preliminary assessment of potential size and scope of available research literature." Grant et al, 2009, p. 101.   *p. 100

Positive Aspects

› Identifies nature & extent of research evidence.

› Inform evidence availability for SR.

› Search is systematic, transparent & replicable.

Limitations

› Lack appraisal or quality assessment.

› Reduced rigor & duration; focus on number.

› Potential bias.

› Findings cannot be used for policy.practice.
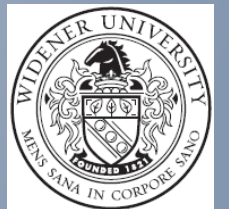
The Mapping Review

Description: "...to map out & categorize existing literature on a particular topic." Grant et al, 2009, p. 97.

› **Positive Aspects**

› Explicit & transparent picture of SLR for evidence gap identification.

› Explicit, transparent & Flexible categorization.

› Informed decision of subset or total synthesis.

› Address review question.

› **Limitations**

› Time constraint.

› Lack analysis & synthesis.

› Descriptive approach may mask results.

› Research design-based assessment.
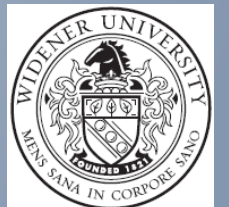
Integrated/Narrative Review

Description: Integrated has SR characteristics (Im et al, 2014)
Narrative NS tracks development of principle/concept (Ferrari, 2015)

› Positive Aspects

› **SR:** Query focused, clarity of review, objective synthesis, evidence-based inferences.

› **NS:** Less explicit query allows flexibility in questions.

› Limitations

› **SR:** Outdate 3-5 yrs; bias of single study, heterogeneity, publication bias.

› **NS:** Subjectivity may introduce bias, but necessary for narrative thread.
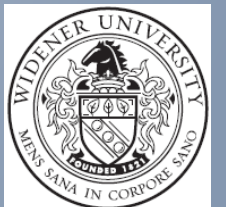
The Systematic Review (SR; SLR)

> **Description:** "… seeks to systematically search for, appraise & synthesize research evidence… Grant et al, 2009, p. 102.

› **Positive Aspects**

› Draws together all known literature about a subject.

› Adheres to an established conduct of the review.

› Generally ranked as the highest level of evidence.

› Transparency facilitated replication.

› **Limitations**

› Adherence to experimental design & effectiveness limits more complex search questions.
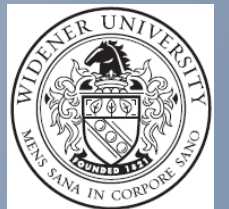
The SR with Meta-Analysis

Description: "...statistically combines results of quantitative studies to provide a more precise effect of the results." Grant et al, 2009, p. 98.

› **Positive Aspects**

› Combines individual studies into a composite empirical basis.

› Summarizes global findings to provide direction for recommendation(s).

› **Limitations**

› Compares "apples & oranges" as an inappropriate use of the Meta-analysis.

› Is not better than the sum of the results.
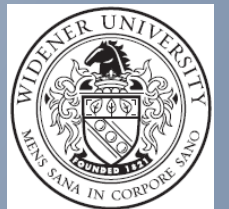
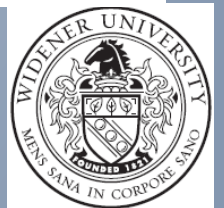# Take Home Messages

› Read with understanding:
  – Use the "appraiser-eye".
  – Find congruence between the Review & Purpose.
  – Seek out the intrusion of bias.

› **Don't Wait; Disseminate:**
  – Choose the best Review strategy.
 – Celebrate Excellence in Nursing Education!

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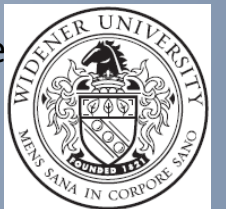
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