

Conduct and quality of reporting of scoping reviews: Protocol for a scoping review

Rationale

Scoping reviews are often used to map concepts underpinning a research area and the main sources and types of evidence available. Presently, there is a lack of consistency in the methods used for scoping reviews across various disciplines. In order to standardize the conduct of scoping reviews, it is important to clarify the existing methods and develop necessary reporting guidelines.

Implications

Results from this scoping review informed the development of a [reporting guideline](#) in the form of a checklist for reporting of scoping review manuscripts and protocols.

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Background

- Scoping reviews are used to identify knowledge gaps, set research agendas, and identify implications for decision-making.
- Currently, there is a lack of consistency in the conduct and reporting of scoping reviews across various disciplines.
- There is a need to clarify the existing methods in order to develop a standardized practice for the conduct and reporting of scoping reviews.

Objective

- To map the literature on the following concepts: (1) scoping review methods across multiple disciplines; (2) guidelines for reporting scoping reviews and; (3) studies that assess quality of scoping review reporting.

Methodology

- A scoping review will be conducted following the Joanna Briggs Institute Methods Manual for Scoping Reviews
- **Eligibility criteria:**
 - All scoping reviews that include a description of the method used to conduct the synthesis; short reports describing development, dissemination, use or comparison of scoping review methods versus other knowledge synthesis methods; guidelines for reporting scoping reviews and, studies assessing the quality of reporting and potential sources of bias in scoping review will be included.
 - All study designs are eligible for inclusion
 - Scoping reviews within the domain of health (including psychology, education and sociology), as well as those within the philosophy discipline are eligible for inclusion
- **Literature Search:** The search will be executed in the following databases: MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, The Cochrane Library, Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), PsychInfo, Social Science Abstracts, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), and Philosopher's Index.
- **Study Selection and Abstraction:** Title and abstract screening, full-text screening will be conducted by pairs of reviewers, independently. Data abstraction will be performed by one reviewer and verified by a second reviewer, and discrepancies will be resolved by a third reviewer.
- **Synthesis:** The synthesis will include quantitative analysis (e.g., frequency analysis) of the scoping review conduct (i.e., methodological steps) and qualitative analysis (i.e., content analysis) of the components of the research purpose, and conceptual definition of scoping reviews.

Knowledge Translation Strategy

- The results were used to create a checklist for reporting scoping reviews and their protocols. We will also create related educational module for trainees, peer reviewers and journal editors.

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