

Workshop title:

Research opportunities in systematic methods: a menu of methods

Presenters:

Margaret J. Foster, MS,MPH

Thomas D. Halling, MLIS

Susan Goodwin, MLIS

Every year thousands of systematic reviews are published and that number continues to rise. There have also been many published studies on systematic review methods. As more disciplines are now applying systematic review methods than ever before, the need to study systematic methods within and beyond the healthcare field continues to grow. As information scientists, librarians have a the opportunity to play a unique role in the application of the systematic review method and to study various aspects of the methods.

This workshop will provide an overview to systematic methods and the need for further research. There are a wide variety options for librarians to lead on research projects to improve or discover new solutions in synthesis searching. Research opportunities include developing search filters, evaluating software, evaluating quality of reviews, creating best practices and more. For each opportunity, we will cover the method and examples of the method. Interaction will be provided through group and class discussions.

Outline of workshop

Introduction: Short lecture introducing systematic review methods and current state of research (10 minutes)

Part 1) Then an overview and examples of opportunities. (20 min)

- **Search filters:** Definition of filters, how to find current filters, development methods, evaluation and application
- **Software:** Types of software, methods of evaluation, and/or development of software
- **Quality of reviews:** Describe available standards, applying standards to evaluate the quality of a particular set of reviews, and other ways to research standards
- **Best practices:** There are several practices to consider: explore or evaluate searching grey literature and other resources, issues in applying systematic review methods in a particular field or research type, and data management concerns
- **Other opportunities:** There are several other types of projects including publication bias, collaboration issues, evidence based practices and reviews, and more

Part 2) Breakout groups: Participants will select one of the types of opportunities presented and form groups to brainstorm potential projects (30 minutes)

Part 3) Presentation: Groups will then present their ideas (20 minutes)

Conclusion: The workshop will end with a discussion for next steps to pursue a research project (10 min)

Outcomes:

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Describe current issues in systematic review methods
- List types of systematic review research opportunities
- Develop a preliminary plan of how to continue working on a research project

Target audience:

The workshop is designed those interested in conducting research projects on systematic review methods. Participants do not need to be experts on systematic reviews.

Equipment required:

A projector to present the PowerPoint and a whiteboard with markers to help lead workshop discussions.