Searching and Evaluating the Literature

Mary Catherine Santoro, MLS
Rita McCandless, MLS
Carilion Clinic Health Sciences Libraries

Objectives

- Develop an initial search strategy.
- Assess search results and refine the search strategy.
- Select articles based on search results.

Why Do a Lit Review?

- Identify an area that needs research or a gap in the knowledge.
- Support the need to do that research.
- Back up your findings when the research is complete.

Getting Started

Choose peer-reviewed and subscription resources whenever possible.

Access Carilion library resources through MyAthens or Inside Carilion for best access to full text.

Where to Look - HERO

- Carilion-specific tool.
- Broad search of many resources.
- Good starting place.
- Use to find a known article.
- Lacks custom features of individual databases.



Where to Look - Trip

- Evidence-based search engine.
- Strong international component.
- Ranks results by evidence-level.
- Sign up for a free account to use all features.

Where to Look - PubMed

- Thorough.
- Well-indexed.
- High specificity and control possible.
- Use Carilion library links for best access to full text.



Search Strategy

- Break down research question into component terms.
- Consider synonyms for concepts.
- Take advantage of resource-specific features:
 - Filters.
 - Keywords / MeSH terms.

When to Re-evaluate

- No hits/fewer hits than expected.
- Too many hits.
- Articles appear to be off-topic.

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

No results were found.

Search Results: 1 - 10 of 3,024,395

Trying It Out

Is a Nintendo Wii an effective tool for physical rehabilitation in stroke patients?

https://auth.athensams.net/my

When To Contact the Library

- If you need/want help developing a search strategy.
- If articles are not available full-text in Carilion databases.



When To Contact the Library

- If links do not appear to be working.
- If you have been struggling for more than five minutes.

library@carilionclinic.org