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Edited by Judith Gedney-Baggs

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- Systematic reviews of research evidence (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods)
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AIMS & SCOPE

Research in Nursing & Health welcomes all types of review papers that relate to the aims and scope of the Journal, including systematic reviews and state-of-the-art reviews of research evidence from qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies.

Suggested template for review papers

I. Introduction

- a. Research problem generating the review and its significance
- b. Research purpose(s)/question(s) addressing the research problem

II. Methods

- a. Type of review (e.g., research synthesis, state-of-the-science/art)
- b. Overall method used (e.g., for research synthesis studies, meta-analysis, grounded theory, realist synthesis; for state-of-the-science/art reviews, meta-study, narrative/discourse analysis)
- c. Search & sampling strategies
 1. Goals of search strategy (i.e., comprehensive, purposeful)
 2. Search parameters (i.e., topical/thematic, population, temporal, geographic, methodological, other relevant theoretical or empirical delimitations)
 3. Key definitions and search terms
 4. Inclusion & exclusion criteria
 5. Channels of communication and information sources used
 6. Tools/devices used to conduct searches & track search outcomes
- d. Appraisal strategies (for research synthesis studies)
 1. Techniques/tools used to extract and transform information from individual reports
 2. Quality criteria used and how used (e.g., as covariate in post-hoc analyses, to exclude reports)
- e. Analysis strategies
For Example, content thematic analysis, effect size calculations, sensitivity & subgroup analyses, creation of data matrices, and other visual displays.
- f. Synthesis or critique approach (e.g., frequentist/Bayesian meta-analysis, grounded theory, realist synthesis, or narrative/discourse methods)
- g. Validation strategies (e.g., audit trail, negotiated consensus, reliability coding, sensitivity analyses)

III. Results of review for reports of research synthesis studies

a. Profile of reports

1. Number of relevant primary research reports
2. Inclusive publication years of reports
3. Inclusive years of data collection
4. Primary author disciplinary affiliations
5. Geographic location of studies
6. Purpose of studies featured
7. Theoretical & methodological orientation of studies
8. Related reports from same parent study, with identical or overlapping samples

b. Profile of study participants

1. Total and mean/median/modal sample size across reports
2. Age, sex, racial/ethnic, class, cultural, national, other relevant background features
3. Other features relevant to the purpose of the review (e.g., stage of illness or pregnancy, diagnostic tests, treatment modalities, settings)

c. Synthesis of findings

1. Textual/visual summary of key findings
2. Delineation of key findings

IV. Discussion of the synthesis produced

- a. Link to existing scholarship
- b. Implications for research, practice, policy
- c. Limitations of the study

V. End of text

- a. List of complete citations to primary research reports
- b. Acknowledgments, including grant support

III. Results of review for state-of-science/art reviews

a. Profile of texts targeted for review

1. Number & genre of literature (e.g., research report, theoretical paper)
2. Inclusive publication years
3. Primary author disciplinary affiliations
4. Relevant background features (e.g., national, cultural, clinical)
5. Purpose of text

6. Related papers from same author(s)

b. Critical analysis

1. Summary of key theoretical/methodological findings
2. Delineation of key findings

IV. Discussion of critique

- a. Link to existing scholarship
- b. Implications for theory development, research, practice, policy
- c. Limitations of the study

V. End of text

- a. List of complete citations to targeted literature
- b. Acknowledgments, including grant support

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