



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

Systematic Searches and Scholarly Publishing, 3 hec

Course outline

This course is given by the University Library on behalf of HHJ, HLK & JTH.

Course coordinator: Paola Violasdotter Nilsson

Teachers: Stefan Carlstein (SC) & Paola Violasdotter Nilsson (PVN)

Examiners: Anna Bjällmark (HHJ), Per Askerlund (HLK), Kerstin Johansen (JTH)

Location: The University Library (building C) or online (Zoom). Note that online participation is not available for workshops.

Attendance: If you plan to attend the lectures online, please inform the course coordinator beforehand. Ensure that you have the ability to use your camera and microphone, and be active during lectures and group assignments.

Schedule

Date	Content	Time	Location	Teacher
2025-11-13	Course introduction	9.00-12.00	C2032/Zoom	PVN, SC
2025-11-14	Preparing a literature review – part 1	9.00-12.00	C2032/Zoom	PVN
2025-11-20	Preparing a literature review – part 2	9.00-12.00	C2032/Zoom	PVN
2025-11-21	Review protocols - workshop	9.00-12.00	C2032	PVN
2025-11-27	Databases - workshop	9.00-12.00	C2032/C3028/ C2043	PVN, SC, MH
2025-11-28	Bibliometric indicators and research evaluation	9.00-12.00	C2032/Zoom	SC
2025-12-01	Publishing strategy	9.00-12.00	C2032/Zoom	SC
2025-12-07	Deadline, examination report			
2025-12-16	Examination seminar	9.00-12.00	C2043/Zoom	PVN, SC
2025-12-17	Examination seminar	9.00-12.00	C2043/Zoom	PVN, SC
2025-12-18	Examination seminar	9.00-12.00	C2043/Zoom	PVN, SC
2025-12-18	Examination seminar	13.00-16.00	C2043/Zoom	PVN, SC

Lecture 1 – Thursday, November 13, 9.00-12.00

- Course introduction.
- Scholarly publishing: the landscape, the history of scholarly communication, peer review, and open access.
- Systematic searches and literature reviews: a brief history and an introduction to the review family.

To read before the lecture: Booth et al., chapter 1 & 2; Gusenbauer & Haddaway (2021); Mering & Hoeve (2020); Ware (2008)

Also, skim the following articles (introduction and/or method sections only) to gain an awareness of different review types: Emonson et al. (2019); Fuller et al. (2019); Kelly et al. (2018); Tan et al. (2022). Consider the following questions:

- How is the review question formulated? Does it comply with the specified method?
- Is the search reproducible?

Lecture 2 – Friday, November 14, 9.00-12.00

Preparing a literature review – part 1

- Planning the review.
- Choosing review method.
- Defining the scope.

To read before lecture: Booth et al., chapter 3 & 4

Lecture 3 – Thursday, November 20, 9.00-12.00

Preparing a literature review – part 2

- Searching the literature.
- Assessing the evidence base.
- Writing up, presenting and disseminating.

To read before lecture: Booth et al., chapter 5, 6 & 10

Workshop 1 – Friday, November 21, 9.00-12.00 (Note that this workshop is only available on-site)

Literature review protocols:

- What are they and why are they important?
- How to write your own.

To bring to workshop: research question for a literature review and your search terms structured into concepts.

To read before workshop: Booth et al.,chapter 4, The Review Protocol, (pp. 116-117); Chang & Slutsky (2012)

Workshop 2 – Thursday, November 27, 9.00-12.00 (Note that this workshop is only available on-site)

Database searching:

- Learn and practice common database functionalities.

To bring to workshop: search blocks based on your research question and search concepts.

Lecture 4 – Friday, November 28, 9.00-12.00

Bibliometric indicators and research evaluation:

- What is bibliometrics?
- Research evaluation.
- Journal indicators.

To read before lecture: Nilsson (2016, September 28), Nilsson (2016, September 29)

Lecture 5 – Monday, December 1, 9.00-12.00

Publishing strategy:

- Journal selection.
- Matching manuscript with journal.
- Journal assessment.
- Open access.
- Predatory publishing.
- Research communication.

To read before lecture: Abdi (2021); Börchers (2021); Committee on Publication Ethics (2019); Knight & Steinbach (2008); Tripathy et al. (2017)

Examination

Written report (two parts)

1. Literature review search strategy (based on exercise 5.3, Booth et. al, 2022, p.150)

Describe how you would prepare and conduct a literature review of your own. Choose a *specified research area* and formulate a *review question for this examination report*. Describe your review question very briefly (just in a few sentences, enough for the readers to get a broad understanding). Then, answer the following questions:

- a) What is the purpose of your review – how comprehensive does your search need to be to fulfil a recommended method for your review? (Reflect on specificity and sensitivity in relation to your chosen method.)
- b) How do you divide your review question into concepts?
- c) Which terms could be used to describe each concept in your review question?
- d) Depending on your choice of review method – which search concepts do you choose to build your search strategy upon? Regarding sensitivity and specificity – how will adding or removing a concept affect your search strategy?
- e) What are your inclusion and exclusion criteria related to your concepts?
- f) Which databases will you include in your final search? Motivate your choices.
- g) Which grey literature sources will you include in your search?
- h) Which additional searching techniques do you plan to use?
- i) Have you identified thesaurus terms for your search strategy?
- j) How will you formulate a correct search strategy using block technique with the appropriate Boolean operator(s)? Choose one database and present a replicable search string that reflects your review question. Use controlled and uncontrolled terms if applicable.

2. Publishing strategy

Describe a publishing strategy for your literature review. It should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) What is the aim of your publication? Consider such things as timeliness, requirements, your own ambitions, etc.
- b) How did you identify potential journals in which to publish?
- c) How did you assess the journal candidates? Consider such aspects as:
 - Aims and scope*
 - Author guidelines*
 - Editorial board*
 - Earlier articles and article authors*
 - Databases in which they are indexed*
 - Journal indicators and possible impact*
- d) Explore the open access routes that can be taken regarding the article.
- e) Include a short description of possible ways to disseminate and communicate your article once it has been published.

Upload your report to Canvas, 2025-12-07 at the latest.

Examination seminars, December 16 (Tuesday) – 18 (Thursday)

You will attend *one* of these seminars. Each student should prepare a review of another student's report. When reviewing, adopt a constructive but critical attitude toward the report under review.

Consider the following questions:

Are all questions answered?

Is the described search in line with the chosen review method?

Is the search string correctly constructed and is it possible to rerun in the chosen database?

Does the search and choice of databases – as far as you can judge – cover the research question?

Are several possible ways of identifying potential journals used?

Are the journal assessment aspects used sufficiently?

Are different open access routes considered?

The review is to be presented *orally* (no PowerPoint presentations needed) during the examination seminar. The reviewer is expected to lead the conversation, but all students should be prepared to take part in the discussions.

Patent quiz (JTH students only)

Canvas quiz for basic patent search. Compulsory for JTH students to complete before course end.

Literature

Abdi, H. (2021, April 28). To communicate or not to communicate science. *Curie*. [PDF in Canvas]

Booth, A., Sutton, A., Clowes, M., & Martyn-St James, M. (2022). *Systematic approaches to a successful literature review* (Third ed.). SAGE.

Börchers, S. (2021, March 8). Boiling down science for the public without oversimplifying. *Curie*. [PDF in Canvas]

Chang, S., & Slutsky, J. (2012). Debunking myths of protocol registration. *Systematic Reviews*, 1(1), 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/2046-4053-1-4>

Committee on Publication Ethics. (2019). *Discussion document: Predatory publishing*. <https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.3.6>

Emonson, C., McGillivray, J., Kothe, E. J., Rinehart, N., & Papadopoulos, N. (2019). Class Time Physical Activity Programs for Primary School Aged Children at Specialist Schools: A Systematic Mapping Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16(24). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16245140>

Fuller, C., Ondei, S., Brook, B. W., & Buettel, J. C. (2019). First, do no harm: A systematic review of deforestation spillovers from protected areas. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 18. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2019.e00591>

Gusenbauer, M., & Haddaway, N. R. (2021). What every researcher should know about searching - clarified concepts, search advice, and an agenda to improve finding in academia. *Research synthesis methods*, 12(2), 136–147. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1457>

Kelly, P., Williamson, C., Niven, A. G., Hunter, R., Mutrie, N., & Richards, J. (2018). Walking on sunshine: scoping review of the evidence for walking and mental health. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 52(12), 800-806. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2017-098827>

Knight, L. V., & Steinbach, T. A. (2008). Selecting an Appropriate Publication Outlet: A Comprehensive Model of Journal Selection Criteria for Researchers in a Broad Range of Academic Disciplines. *International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 3, 59-79. <https://doi.org/10.28945/51>

Mering, M., & Hovee, C. D. (2020). A Brief History to the Future of Open Access. *Serials Review*, 46(4), 300-304. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00987913.2020.1850041>

Nilsson, S. (2016, September 28). Factor that influences research careers. *Curie*. [PDF in Canvas]

Nilsson, S. (2016, September 29). The use of impact factors in the research community. *Curie*. [PDF in Canvas]

Tan, Y., Sun, Y., Lang, C., & Wen, Y. (2022). The Impact of Using Mobile Phones on Gait Characteristics: A Narrative Review. *Applied Sciences*, 12(12). <https://doi.org/10.3390/app12125783>

Tripathy, J. P., Bhatnagar, A., Shewade, H. D., Kumar, A. M. V., Zachariah, R., & Harries, A. D. (2017). Ten tips to improve the visibility and dissemination of research for policy makers and practitioners. *Public Health Action*, 7(1), 10-14. <https://doi.org/10.5588/pha.16.0090>

Ware, M. (2008). *Peer review: benefits, perceptions and alternatives*. Publishing Research Consortium. https://ils.unc.edu/courses/2015_fall/inls700_001/Readings/Ware2008-PRCPeerReview.pdf

Additional reading

Newman M., Gough D. (2020) Systematic Reviews in Educational Research: Methodology, Perspectives and Application. In: Zawacki-Richter O., Kerres M., Bedenlier S., Bond M., Buntins K. (eds) *Systematic Reviews in Educational Research*. Springer VS, Wiesbaden. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-658-27602-7_1