Turn your PICO into Research Gold

Search strategies for finding evidence-based practice articles
Question 1

Where do you normally search first and why?
Where do you look last and why?
What different databases have you used and how do they compare to Google and Google Scholar?
How many search results do you think is a manageable number? What’s too much? Too few?
What is the most confusing or frustrating part of finding research articles?
Turn your PICO question into a search

- Your PICO question contains the elements you need to develop a good search.
- We just need to phrase the elements right to "speak" to the search engines.
- This might be more straightforward for some folks than others, it all depends on the topic.
Population (P)

- Your population refers to a group with a certain disease, affliction, condition, etc.
- They may also belong to specific gender, racial, ethnic, social, age, or cultural groups.
  - Both of these things are important.
- Make sure you group together all parts of your population when you search.
- Example: ("homeless persons" AND "mental illness") communicates better with a search engine than saying “the mentally ill homeless population"
  - each AND explicitly states a type of relationship between the terms.
Have you ever used “versus” when searching?
  • (it doesn’t work very well)

Instead, we can Use OR.

This works well for grouping your intervention and comparison in a search.

• (most of the time)
  • Sometimes you might want to run separate searches instead.

Example: (“housing first" OR "economic solutions"
What about the outcome?
It's in the articles

You find out about the outcomes from the articles you locate and read.
Test the search out in CINAHL

Try the advanced search
PubMed & MeSH

Finding the magic words
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YOUR TERMS</th>
<th>MeSH TERMS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POPULATION</strong></td>
<td>The mentally ill homeless population</td>
<td>&quot;Homeless Persons&quot; AND &quot;Mental Disorders&quot;</td>
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<td>(you might need</td>
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<td>more than one term</td>
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<td>for this)</td>
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<td><strong>INTERVENTION</strong></td>
<td>Housing first solutions</td>
<td>&quot;Public Housing&quot; (no real MeSH term – this is a</td>
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<td>newer practice)</td>
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<td><strong>COMPARISON</strong></td>
<td>Economic solutions (job/employment-first, vocational</td>
<td>&quot;Employment&quot; OR &quot;Employment, Supported&quot; OR &quot;Vocational Education&quot;</td>
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<td>training)</td>
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viruses in the family ORTHOMYXOVIRIDAE. It includes both types of influenza virus strains: The vaccine is usually bivalent or trivalent, containing two strains of INFLUENZAVIRUS A strains and one INFLUENZAVIRUS B strain.