



Literature Searching: high quality, transparent and transferable

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Introduction

Exeter



Research article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 25 March 2023](#)

What are the effects of animals on the health and wellbeing of residents in care homes? A systematic review of the qualitative and quantitative evidence

[Noreen Orr](#) , [Rebecca Abbott](#), [Alison Bethel](#), [Sarah Paviour](#), [Rebecca Whear](#), [Ruth Garside](#) & [Joanna Thompson Coon](#)

BMC Geriatrics **23**, Article number: 170 (2023) | [Cite this article](#)

1149 Accesses | **31** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Indoor Nature Interventions for Health and Wellbeing of Older Adults in Residential Settings: A Systematic Review

How do "**robopets**" impact the health and well-being of residents in care homes? A systematic review of qualitative and quantitative evidence

What is the volume, diversity and nature of recent, robust evidence for the use of **peer support** in health and social care? An evidence and gap map

Resources for **forwards citation searching** for implementation studies in dementia care: A case study comparing Web of Science and Scopus

The impact of the World Health Organization Health Promoting Schools framework approach on **diet and physical activity** behaviours of adolescents in secondary schools: a systematic review of the evidence for **oceans and human health** in Europe: A systematic map

A **checklist** to assess database-hosting platforms for designing and running searches for systematic reviews

Development and testing of a medline **search filter** for identifying patient and public involvement in health research

High quality



Having an IS – correlated to higher quality reported search strategies ⁽¹⁾

More training courses/workshops/conferences around for ISs

Online support from peers

PRISMA-S. ⁽²⁾

Report more aspects of the search

Guidelines and Guidance:

Cochrane ⁽³⁾

JBI ⁽⁴⁾

Campbell Collaboration ⁽⁵⁾

CRD ⁽⁶⁾

Collaboration for Environmental Evidence ⁽⁷⁾



Transparent



PRISMA – S

All search strategies and search methods published
Recognition for previous search strategies

Updated PRISMA flow diagram ⁽⁸⁾

Records identified from non database searching

Limits:

No evaluation of the search methods and search strategies



Transferable



searchRxiv
Upload searches

PRISMA-S
All search strategies published

Limits
no evaluation of the search methods or search strategies



Information Retrieval Research



Increase in IR research

33 in 2012 137 in 2022

Highest in health care

Tagged on at the end projects

Retrospective

Need to do more routine evaluation at the end

Search summary tables

Search evaluation



- 1 (peer* adj3 (administer* or adviser* or advisor* or advocate* or coach* or co-facilitat* or cofacilitat* or consultant* or counsel* or deliver* or educator* or expert* or facilitator* or group* or helper* or instructor* or leader* or led or listener* or mentor* or navigator* or network* or program* or provider* or specialist* or support* or trainer* or trained or tutor* or worker*)).tw. (17015)
- 2 ("peer-based" or "peer based").tw. (423)
- 3 "peer to peer".tw. (1394)
- 4 peer group/ (20749)
- 5 (buddy or buddies or befriend*).tw. (1078)
- 6 ("service user*" adj1 (involv* or led or run)).tw. (381)
- 7 (consumer* adj (deliver* or provider* or led or run)).tw. (329)
- 8 ((lay or voluntary or volunteer) adj2 (adviser* or advisor* or advocate* or coach* or consultant* or counsel* or educator* or expert* or facilitator* or helper* or instructor* or leader* or led or listener* or mentor* or provider* or specialist* or support* or trainer* or trained or tutor* or worker*)).tw. (5047)
- 9 "lay health care worker".ti,ab. (25)
- 10 (("social support" adj5 intervention*) or "support group*").tw. (8568)
- 11 ("support network*" or "mutual aid" or "mutual support").tw. (4051)
- 12 (expert adj patient*).tw. (262)
- 13 "shared experience".tw. (365)
- 14 *Self-Help Groups/ (5250)
- 15 or/1-1* (5295)

We searched MEDLINE, seven further bibliographic databases, and Epistemonikos for systematic reviews (in October 2020), randomised controlled trials (in March 2021) and economic evaluations (in May 2021) on the effectiveness of peer support interventions in health and social care. We also conducted searches of Google Scholar, two trial registers, PROSPERO, and completed citation chasing on included studies.

Terminology

Inconsistent



Databases

More databases
Often not as simple as
Population AND Intervention

A few different search approaches

More than one search
Field codes
Proximity searching
Filters



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USE OF A SEARCH SUMMARY TABLE TO IMPROVE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW SEARCH METHODS, RESULTS, AND EFFICIENCY

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PDF



HTML

 [Appendix A: MEDLINE searches](#)

 [Appendix B: Blank search summary table \(SST\) template](#)

Published



Which search in
which databases
found:

- included papers
- unique papers
- no papers

Which
supplementary
search methods
found additional
included papers



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 [Appendix A: MEDLINE searches](#)

 [Appendix B: Blank search summary table \(SST\) template](#)

Published

Included references	Format	Database searches (date run, date re-run)				Supplementary searches				
		d/b 1	d/b 2	d/b 3	d/b 4	fcs	bcs	hs	wss	org
Included ref 1										
Included ref 2										
Included ref 3										
Included ref 4										
No. included refs										
No. unique refs										
Yield										
No. refs screened										
Sensitivity										
Precision										
No. database searches carried out =										
Sum of yields =		Overall sensitivity								
No. refs screened at Ti&Ab =		Overall precision								
No. refs screened at FT=		NNR								
No. of included refs from searching =		NNR FT								
Total no. of included refs =		NNS								

Understanding joy amongst older people: a scoping review

Included references	Format	Searches run: Jan 22. Rerun Jan 23												Suppl searches		
		bni	cinahl	cochrane	embase	hmic	medline	medline sr	pqdt	psycinfo	spp	wos	GS	Explore	fcs	bcs
Butcher 2002	jnl				n		n				x					
Consedine 2004	jnl		x		x		x				x	x				
Corrêa 2020	jnl		x		n		n				n					
Haugan 2021	jnl	x	x		x		x				x		x			x
Haugan 2019	jnl				x		x				z		x			
Jonsen 2015	jnl	x	x		x		x				x		x			
Madigan 2014	ths				n		n			x	x					
Magnussen 2021	jnl				n		z		x		n					
Ohta 2021	jnl				x		x				n		x			
Rinnan 2018	jnl	x	x		x		x				x		x			
Rinnan 2022	jnl				y		y				n		x			x
No. included refs		3	5	0	6	0	6	1	1	1	6	1	4	6		
No. unique refs		0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0		
Yield		736	1733	468	1563	419	1805	408	174	965	823	1129	268	0		
No. refs screened		441														
Sensitivity		27.27	45.45	0.00	54.55	0.00	54.55	9.09	9.09	54.55	9.09	36.36	54.55			
Precision		0.41	0.29	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.33	0.25	0.57	0.62	0.12	0.35	2.24			
No. database searches carried out =				13												
Sum of yields =				10083				Overall sensitivity				100				
No. refs screened at Ti&Ab =				6593				Overall precision				0.17				
No. refs screened at FT=				78				NNR				599				
No. of included refs from searching =				11				NNR FT				7				
Total no. of included refs =				11				NNS				85				
Codes				Format codes				Other codes								
x = found from the search				jnl = journal article				NNR = number needed to read. 1/overall precision								
y = in database; found when search strategy re-run				ths = PhD thesis				NNR FT = number needed to read at FT to find one included reference								
n = not in the database				bk=book				NNS = number needed to screen to find one reference to include for FT screening								
z = in the database; not found using the search strategy				rpt=report				FT = full text								
(red) = databases where searches re-run																



SSTs – why bother?



Specific to the project
Update searches
Further evidence syntheses

Reflective

Collective



SSTs – interesting findings



Supplementary searching

12/13

11/12 found additional included papers

5 where searches re-run

26 additional includes

10 found

9 not in the databases

7 in database but not found



SSTs – interesting findings



Supplementary searching

12/13

11/12 found additional included papers

5 where searches re-run

26 additional includes

10 found

9 not in the databases

7 in database but not found



SSTs – interesting findings



Formats

9/13 SRs

24 included grey literature items

Personally

More selective

Confidence

Evidenced based vs experienced based





Search evaluation

Combine each line of the search with the included papers

Unique search terms

Time consuming



Search evaluation



A few preliminary results

Peer support: SRs and RCTs

SR search 20 lines for peer terms

Evaluation – 2 line

Missed out narrative synthesis on our SR search terms

RCT search 55 lines long

Evaluation – 9 lines of search

AMR map

More complicated picture

Databases searched differently

Couple of terms missing (seawater and freshwater)



Literature Searching:



high quality
transparent
transferable

Evidenced-based not just experienced-based





Thank you
for listening

Twitter:

[@EvidSynthTeam](#)

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Refs

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