

## Literature search methods for an overview of reviews (‘umbrella’ reviews or ‘review of reviews’)

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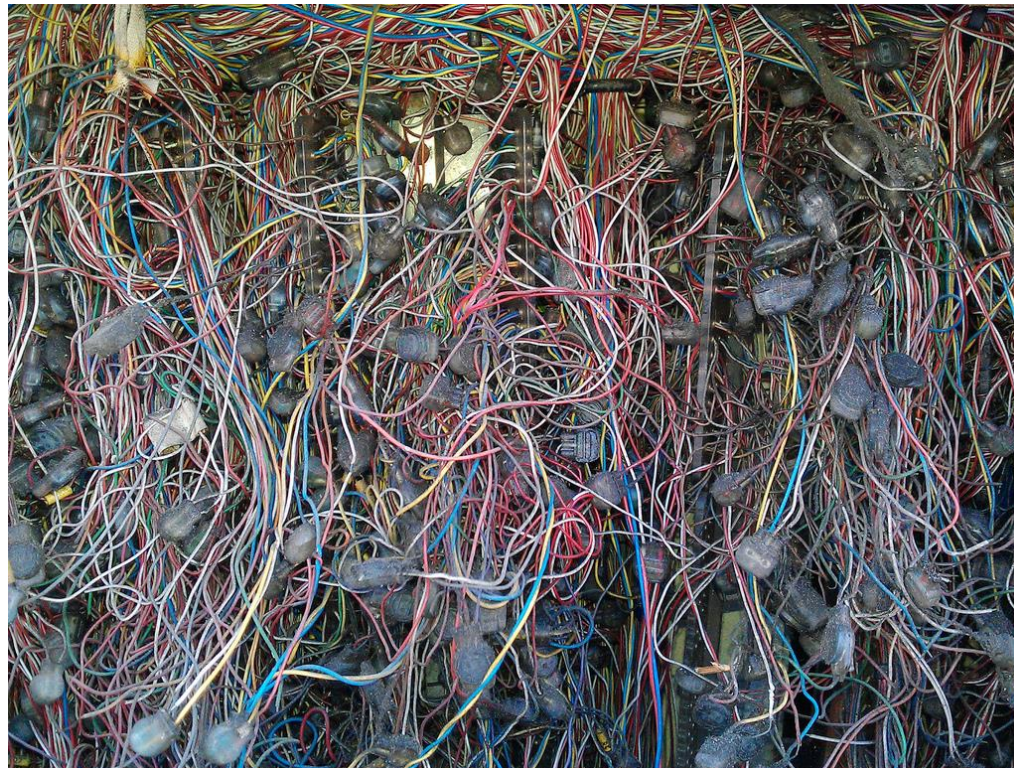
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# A simple search?

Searches for systematic reviews can be straightforward



But, if reviewer also wants to 'back track' to get the primary studies out of reviews, it can get complicated....



# Session overview

- Definitions
- Attractions of overviews of systematic reviews
- Search methods for finding SRs – DEMO
- Overview methods unravelling
- Example of CBT reviews
- Search methods for tracking primary studies
- Comparison of search methods for overviews of reviews



# Terms and definitions

- **Cochrane Overviews of reviews** (Cochrane Overviews) are Cochrane reviews designed to compile evidence from multiple systematic reviews of interventions into one accessible and usable document.<sup>(1)</sup>
- **Umbrella review** specifically refers to review compiling evidence from multiple reviews into one accessible and usable document. Focuses on broad condition or problem for which there are competing interventions and highlights reviews that address these interventions and their results.<sup>(2)</sup>

# Overview of reviews terms

## CBT examples



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- Effects of school-based interventions targeting obesity-related behaviors and body weight change: a systematic **umbrella review**. (Behav Med. 37(1):15-25, 2011 Jan.)
- Standardised mindfulness-based interventions in healthcare: an **overview of systematic reviews** and meta-analyses of RCTs. (PLoS ONE. 10(4):e0124344, 2015.)
- Effective elements of school health promotion across behavioral domains: a systematic **review of reviews**. (BMC Public Health. 9:182, 2009)
- Pharmacological treatment of dementia: a scoping **review of systematic reviews**. (Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord. 36(3-4):211-28, 2013)
- The empirical status of cognitive-behavioral therapy: a **review of meta-analyses** (Clin Psychol Rev. 26(1):17-31, 2006 Jan)

# Steps for an overview of systematic reviews



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## Search

- Identify existing systematic review or meta-analyses

## Select

- Use pre-determined inclusion criteria
- Quality assess methods e.g. AMSTAR

## Synthesize

- Pool final results of systematic reviews?
- Narrative synthesis of final results



# Attractions of an overview of reviews??



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- Avoids duplicating review work (exhaustive searches, rigorous selection, painstaking data extraction, analysis....)
- Gives a more statistically significant answer (more studies are combined)
- Can reveal gaps where reviews are needed
- Answers a broader question (useful for decision makers).  
Gives an overview of a wide subject and integrates several interventions e.g. different diet and physical interventions for weight loss.



# Finding overviews of systematic reviews

Lunny C et al. 2016 <sup>(3)</sup>



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MEDLINE Sensitivity-and-precision maximizing strategy (83% Sen. 17% Pre)

((overview\$ or review or synthesis or summary or Cochrane or analysis) and (reviews or meta-analyses or articles or umbrella)).ti. or “umbrella review”.ab. or (meta-review or metareview).ti,ab.

MEDLINE Sensitivity-maximizing strategy (99% Sen. 4% Pre)

1 ((overview\$ or review or synthesis or summary or Cochrane or analysis) and (reviews or meta-analyses or articles or umbrella)).ti. or “umbrella review”.ab. or (meta-review or metareview).ti,ab.

2 (overview\$ or reviews) and (systematic or cochrane).ti.

3 (reviews adj2 meta).ab.

4 (reviews adj2 (published or quality or included or summar\$)).ab.

5 “cochrane reviews”.ab.

6 (evidence and (reviews or meta-analyses)).ti.

7 or/2-6

8 1 or 7

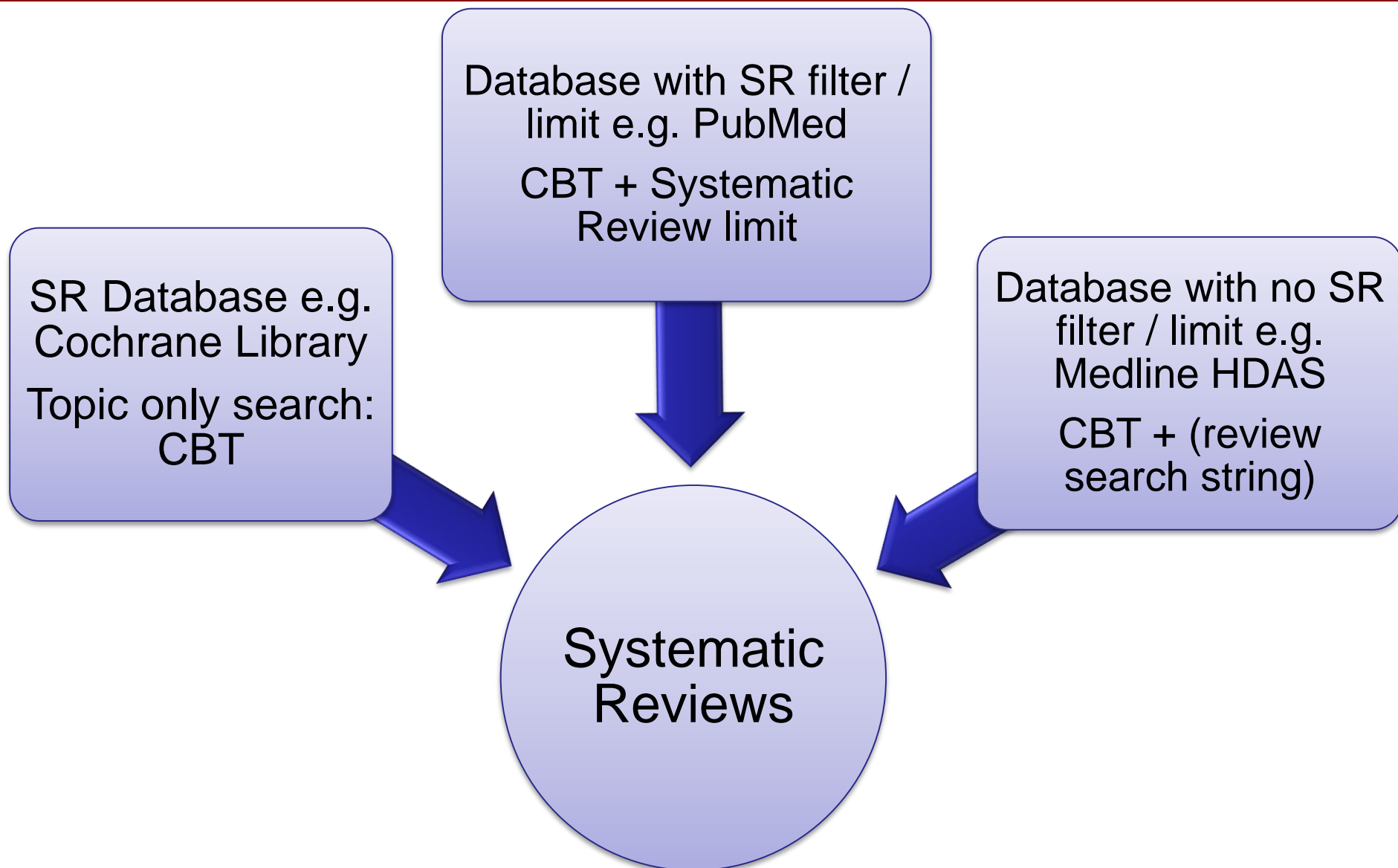




# Finding systematic reviews



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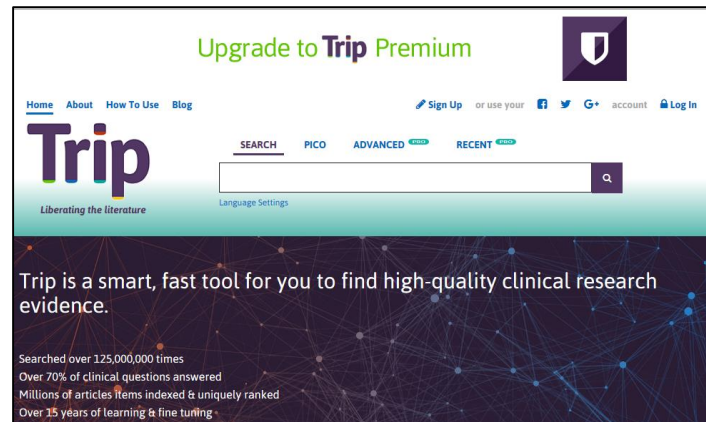
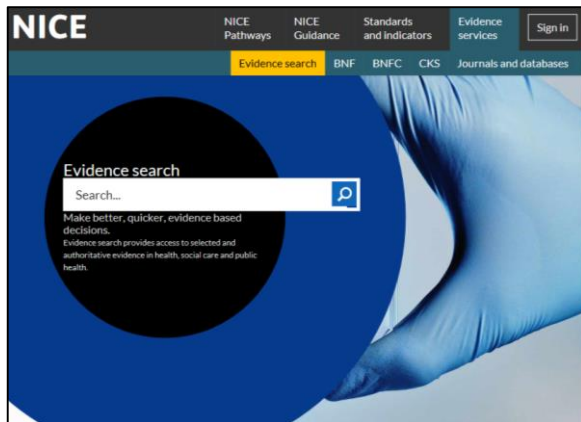
# Systematic Review database sources – a selection



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Database	Coverage
Campbell Library ( <a href="#">Search example</a> )	Social interventions in crime & justice, education, international development, and social welfare.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews	Interventions and diagnostic tests in health care
DARE (CRD)	Health and social care interventions (to March-15)
Epistemonikos	Health care (multi-lingual)
Health Systems Evidence	Health systems (governance, finance, service delivery, implementation)
HTA database (CRD)	Completed and ongoing health technology assessments
Database of Promoting Health Effectiveness Reviews (ePPI)	Health promotion and public health
3ie Systematic Reviews	Social and economic interventions in low- and middle- income countries

- ‘Portals’ allow quick filtering to systematic reviews



## NHS evidence search

- Choose major databases appropriate to your topic
  - E.g. Medline, Cinahl, PsycInfo

# Finding systematic reviews with filters / limits



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- Bradley 2010 recommended PubMed search as most up to date & reliable database filter <sup>(4)</sup>
- Lack of consistency in performance of filters available in different databases and platforms<sup>(4)</sup>
- PubMed filter last updated in 2016 – is this the best?
- Lee E et al. 2012 compared systematic review filters with their own (McMaster health-evidence.ca) – which proved best <sup>(5)</sup>.

MEDLINE.tw OR systematic review.tw OR meta-analysis.pt  
OR intervention\$.ti

(89.9% sensitivity, 1.4% precision, 71.4 NNR)



# PubMed search



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- Search as systematic [sb]  
e.g. cbt AND systematic [sb]
- Or use Article types =  
Systematic Review

The screenshot shows the PubMed.gov search interface. The search term 'cbt' is entered in the search bar. The left sidebar shows filters for Article types, Text availability, PubMed Commons, Publication dates, and Species. The 'Systematic Reviews' filter is selected under Article types. The search results are displayed in a list format, sorted by Most Recent. The first result is 'Improving Treatment Response for Paediatric Anxiety Perspective' by Reinholdt-Dunne ML, Ege S. The second result is 'The Efficacy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescent Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials' by Young Z, Moghaddam N, Tickle A. The third result is 'Psychological Treatment of Depression in People Age of Efficacy, Safety, and Cost-Effectiveness' by Jonsson H, Bertilsson C, Allard P, Cullenwärd H, Sjö...

PubMed.gov  
US National Library of Medicine  
National Institutes of Health

PubMed | cbt |  
Create RSS Create alert Advanced

Article types  
Clinical Trial  
✓ Systematic Reviews  
Customize ...

Text availability  
Abstract  
Free full text  
Full text

PubMed Commons  
Reader comments  
Trending articles

Publication dates  
5 years  
10 years  
Custom range...

Species  
Humans  
Other Animals

Clear all  
Show additional filters

Format: Summary ▼ Sort by: Most Recent ▼

See 19 articles about [cbt](#) gene function  
See also: [cbt](#) [cabut](#) in the Gene database  
[cbt](#) in [Drosophila melanogaster](#) [Homo sapiens](#) [Escherichia coli](#)  
See also: [1 test](#) for CBT in the Genetic Testing Registry

**Search results**  
Items: 1 to 20 of 804

Filters activated: Systematic Reviews. [Clear all](#) to show 72

1. [Improving Treatment Response for Paediatric Anxiety Perspective.](#)  
Reinholdt-Dunne ML, Ege S.  
Clin Child Fam Psychol Rev. 2016 Sep 1. [Epub ahead of print]  
PMID: 27585811  
[Similar articles](#)

2. [The Efficacy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adolescent Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials.](#)  
Young Z, Moghaddam N, Tickle A.  
J Atten Disord. 2016 Aug 22. pii: 1087054716664413. [Epub ahead of print]  
PMID: 27554190  
[Similar articles](#)

3. [Psychological Treatment of Depression in People Age of Efficacy, Safety, and Cost-Effectiveness.](#)  
Jonsson H, Bertilsson C, Allard P, Cullenwärd H, Sjö...

# Strategy behind PubMed search (last modified February 2016)



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(systematic review [ti] OR meta-analysis [pt] OR meta-analysis [ti] OR systematic literature review [ti] OR this systematic review [tw] OR pooling project [tw] OR (systematic review [tiab] AND review [pt]) OR meta synthesis [ti] OR meta synthesis [ti] OR integrative review [tw] OR integrative research review [tw] OR rapid review [tw] OR consensus development conference [pt] OR practice guideline [pt] OR drug class reviews [ti] OR cochrane database syst rev [ta] OR acp journal club [ta] OR health technol assess [ta] OR evid rep technol assess summ [ta] OR jbi database system rev implement rep [ta]) OR (clinical guideline [tw] AND management [tw]) OR ((evidence based[ti] OR evidence-based medicine [mh] OR best practice\* [ti] OR evidence synthesis [tiab])AND (review [pt] OR diseases category[mh] OR behavior and behavior mechanisms [mh] OR therapeutics [mh] OR evaluation studies[pt] OR validation studies[pt] OR guideline [pt] OR pmcbook))OR ((systematic [tw] OR systematically [tw] OR critical [tiab] OR (study selection [tw]) OR (predetermined [tw] OR inclusion [tw] AND criteri\* [tw]) OR exclusion criteri\* [tw] OR main outcome measures [tw] OR standard of care [tw] OR standards of care [tw]) AND (survey [tiab] OR surveys [tiab] OR overview\* [tw] OR review [tiab] OR reviews [tiab] OR search\* [tw] OR handsearch [tw] OR analysis [ti] OR critique [tiab] OR appraisal [tw] OR (reduction [tw]AND (risk [mh] OR risk [tw]) AND (death OR recurrence))))

AND

(literature [tiab] OR articles [tiab] OR publications [tiab] OR publication [tiab] OR bibliography [tiab] OR bibliographies [tiab] OR published [tiab] OR pooled data [tw] OR unpublished [tw] OR citation [tw] OR citations [tw] OR database [tiab] OR internet [tiab] OR textbooks [tiab] OR references [tw] OR scales [tw] OR papers [tw] OR datasets [tw] OR trials [tiab] OR meta-analy\* [tw] OR (clinical [tiab] AND studies [tiab]) OR treatment outcome [mh] OR treatment outcome [tw] OR pmcbook))

NOT

(letter [pt] OR newspaper article [pt])



# Ovid – publication type or clinical query?



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Use  
**Additional Limits** for  
publication  
type or clinical  
queries limits

Ovid®			
Search Journals Books My Workspace Multimedia Mobile			
▼ Search History (5)			
<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	cbt.ti.	478
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	limit 1 to systematic reviews	30
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	limit 1 to "reviews (maximizes sensitivity)"	188
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	limit 1 to "reviews (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)"	53
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	limit 1 to "reviews (maximizes specificity)"	16

Dogs

Goats

CheckTags

Animals

Female

Humans

Male

Clinical Queries

Reviews (maximizes sensitivity)

Reviews (maximizes specificity)

Reviews (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)

Therapy (maximizes sensitivity)

Therapy (maximizes specificity)

Armenian

Azerbaijani

Publication Types

Retraction of Publication

Review

Scientific Integrity Review

Systematic Reviews

Technical Report

Twin Study

Status

In Data Review

In Process

MEDLINE

Publisher

Ovid Publication  
Type Systematic  
Review = PubMed  
systematic [sb] ?

# HDAS? – no SR limit, make your own



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- Adapt Lee et al.<sup>(5)</sup> or PubMed strategies?

MEDLINE.tw

OR

systematic review.tw

OR

meta-analysis.pt

OR

intervention\$.ti

The screenshot displays the HDAS (Health Database Access System) interface. At the top, the 'Search history' section shows a table with columns: Line, Database, Search Term, and View Results. A single entry is visible: Line 1, Database Medline, Search Term cbt.ti, and View Results 593. Above the table are buttons for 'Select All', 'Save all', 'Save selected lines', 'Delete selected', and 'Re-run all line numbers'. Below the table is a 'Combine selected' button and radio buttons for 'AND' and 'OR'. A text box explains: 'To combine two line numbers using NOT, enter box below: for example 1 NOT 2'. Below this, a status bar indicates 'You are currently searching Medline' with a dropdown menu and a 'Re-run all line numbers' button. The main section is titled 'Limits' and contains a 'Clear all limits' button. Below this are tabs for 'Date', 'Article Type', 'Human or Animal', 'Gender', 'Age Groups', 'Language', and 'Other'. The 'Article Type' tab is selected, showing a list of document types: Abstract included, Peer reviewed, Review, Scientific Integrity Review, Technical Report, Twin Study, and Validation Studies. Each item has a checkbox next to it.

Line	Database	Search Term	View Results
1	Medline	cbt.ti	593

Combine selected    AND    OR    To combine two line numbers using NOT, enter box below: for example 1 NOT 2

You are currently searching Medline    Search another    ?    » Re-run all line numbers

Search    Limits

Clear all limits    ?

Date    Article Type    Human or Animal    Gender    Age Groups    Language    Other

☐ Abstract included  
☐ Peer reviewed

Document type


- ☐ Review
- ☐ Scientific Integrity Review
- ☐ Technical Report
- ☐ Twin Study
- ☐ Validation Studies

# Next step

## Quality assessment



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- AMSTAR. A Measurement Tool to Assess Systematic Reviews
- Index of the Scientific Quality of Research Overviews (ISQRO) (Pre-AMSTAR)
- Quality Assessment Tool for Reviews (Effective Public Health Practice Project)
- Methodology Checklist 1: Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses. (The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network-SIGN)
- CASP Systematic Review Checklist
- PRISMA ??? 

# Effectiveness of CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) Example



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Lots of research

- 10's overviews
- 100's reviews
- 1000's / 10 000's trials published.

Looking at specific variant forms of CBT, for different populations, different conditions.

Question remains: For which problems, subgroups and formats is CBT clinically effective?

What conclusions can we safely generalise?

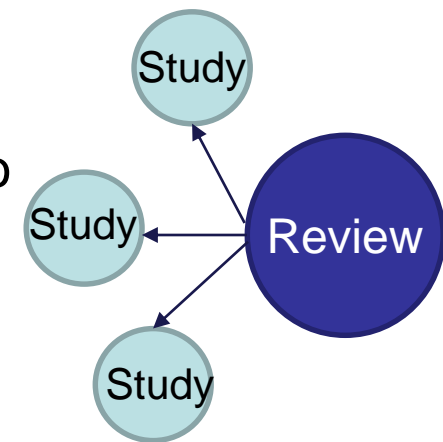
# The decision to backtrack to primary studies



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- Individual trial data not fully reported in review
  - meta-analysis and detailed sub-group analysis not possible
  - Lack of safety data and selective outcomes reviewed <sup>(6)</sup>

- Low quality review methods
  - don't want to propagate errors, but opportunity to re-do analysis with its primary studies



- Double counting (same trial in multiple reviews)
- If reviews results disagree with each other, primary study data helps check why
- But - can be v complex and time consuming <sup>(7)</sup>

# 'New' searches needed for primary studies?



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- If review searches lacked rigour (e.g. 'best' CBT overview may have missed 75% relevant literature)\*
- Search date ranges
  - assume previous reviews found all studies (despite different searches)
  - Last search is old? 50% are out of date if over 5.5 yrs old <sup>(8)</sup>
- Terms used
  - e.g. behavior not 'behaviour'. Missing abbreviations 'CBT'
- Databases searched
  - only PubMed? only Cochrane? (20% CBT reviews in Hoffman overview were Cochrane)
- Gaps where reviews don't cover important therapy for overview

\*based on comparing in-house targeted search for CBT reviews published in 2010 compared to 2010 reviews listed in Hoffman Overview



# Planning an overview that includes primary studies. Questions...



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- Existing overviews – what are their limitations?
- Estimate size of search results for reviews, what % relevant?
- Can we limit our overview to Cochrane reviews?
- How can avoid missing relevant evidence?
- How much time/cost to estimate for an Information Specialist to do the searches if we
  - Search for overviews, then extract reviews, then extract trials
  - Search for reviews (Cochrane & non-Cochrane), then extract trials
  - Just search for trials

# Primary study data from Cochrane reviews



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- If access to Cochrane Archie/Review group, may get batch file of titles, abstracts, data extracted.
- If not part of Cochrane Collaboration – download references from each review one-by-one from web page via CrossRef or WoS links

## References

### References to studies included in this review

#### Ekers 2011 {published data only}

Ekers D, Richards D, McMillan D, Bland JM, Gilbody S. Behavioural activation delivered by a computer-based program in a randomised controlled trial. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 2011;198(1):66-72. [PUBMED: 21784413]

CrossRef | [Web of Science® Times Cited: 20](#)

#### Ekkers 2011 {published data only}

Ekkers W, Korrelboom K, Huijbrechts I, Smits N, Cuijpers P, van der Gaag M. Competitive gaming as a treatment for depression and rumination in depressed older adults: a randomized controlled trial. *Behavioural Assessment Review* 2011;49(10):588-96. [PUBMED: 21784413]

CrossRef | [Web of Science® Times Cited: 3](#)

#### Gawrysiak 2009 {published data only}

Gawrysiak M, Nicholas C, Hopko DR. Behavioral activation for moderately depressed university students: a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Counseling Psychology* 2009;3:468-75.

CrossRef | [Web of Science® Times Cited: 12](#)

#### Pellowe 2006 {unpublished data only}

Pellowe ME. Acceptance and commitment therapy as a treatment for dysphoria. *Dissertation* 2007; Vol. 67.

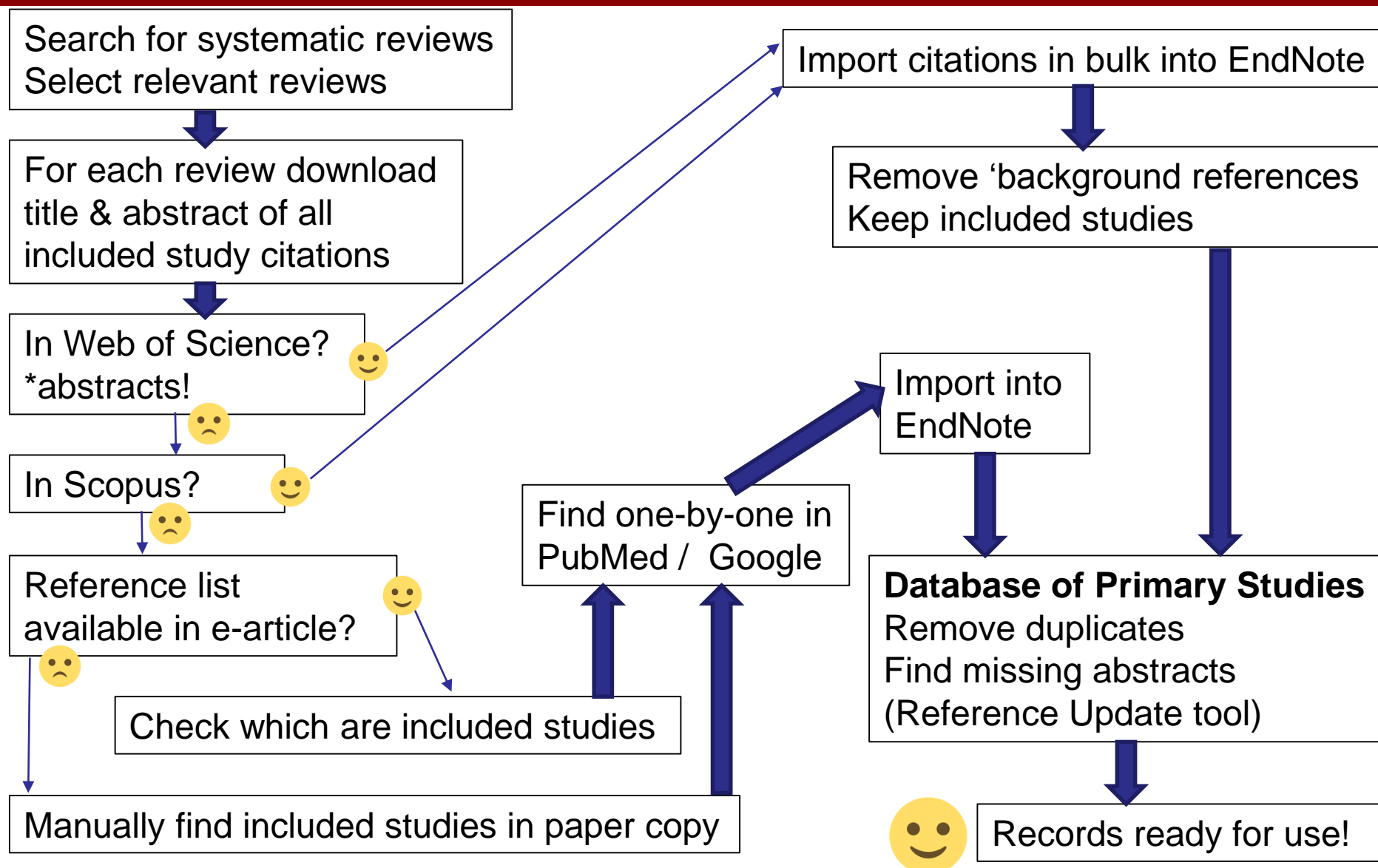
### References to studies excluded from this review

#### Bohlmeijer 2011 {published data only}

# Getting primary study records (title & abstract) from non-Cochrane reviews



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## Considerations

- Included studies are a sub-section of those in the bibliography. Lots of cross checking needed with included study tables
- Some reviews report included studies bibliography in a separate file
- Some reference records are incorrect and untraceable
- Ideally want to download abstract with the reference as it will be screened later

# Web of Science reference download

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WEB OF SCIENCE™ THOMSON REUTERS™

Search Return to Search Results My Tools Search History Marked List

Full Text Options Look Up Full Text Save to EndNote desktop Add to Marked List 1 of

**Meta-Analysis Comparing Different Behavioral Treatments for Late-Life Anxiety**

By: Thorp, SR (Thorp, Steven R.)<sup>[2]</sup>; Ayers, CR (Ayers, Catherine R.)<sup>[2]</sup>; Nuevo, R (Nuevo, Roberto)<sup>[3]</sup>; Stoddard, JA (Stoddard, Jill A.)<sup>[2]</sup>; Sorrell, JT (Sorrell, John T.)<sup>[4]</sup>; Wetherell, JL (Wetherell, Julie Loebach)<sup>[1,2]</sup>

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY  
Volume: 17 Issue: 2 Pages: 105-115  
DOI: 10.1097/JGP.0b013e31818b3f7e  
Published: FEB 2009  
[View Journal Information](#)

**Abstract**  
Objective: To evaluate the efficacy of different types of behavioral treatments for late-life anxiety disorders.

**Citation Network**

41 Times Cited  
66 Cited References  
[View Related Records](#)  
[View Citation Map](#)  
[Create Citation Alert](#)  
(data from Web of Science™ Core Collection)

**All Times Cited Counts**  
41 in All Databases

WEB OF SCIENCE™

Search Return to Search Results

**Cited References: 66**  
(from Web of Science Core Collection)

From: Meta-Analysis Comparing Different Behavioral Treatments for Late-Life Anxiety ...More

Select Page Save to EndNote desk... Add to Marked List

1. **Postural instability and consequent falls and hip fractures associated with aging - A comparative review**  
By: Allain, H; Bentue-Ferrer, D; Polard, E; et al.  
DRUGS & AGING Volume: 22 Issue: 9 Pages: 749-765 Published: 2005  
[check@leeds](#) [Full Text from Publisher](#) [View Abstract](#)
2. Title: [not available]  
By: Barlow, D. H.  
Anxiety and its disorders: the nature and treatment of anxiety and panic Published: 1999  
Publisher: Guilford Press, New York, NY  
[check@leeds](#)
3. **A randomized trial of the effectiveness of cognitive-behavioral therapy for anxiety symptoms in older adults**  
By: Barrowclough, C; King, P; Colville, J; et al.  
JOURNAL OF CONSULTING AND CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY Volume: 69 Issue: 5 Published: OCT 2001  
[check@leeds](#) [Full Text from Publisher](#) [View Abstract](#)
4. Title: [not available]  
By: Beck, A. T.; Rush, A. J.; Shaw, B. F.; et al.  
Cognitive Therapy of Depression Published: 1979  
Publisher: Guilford Press  
[Show additional data]  
[check@leeds](#)
5. **Anxiety disorders in later life: A report from the longitudinal aging study**

Download Abstracts! 😊

Check records that don't import – search for these separately

- Success for 80% of refs in 3 overviews, 86.5% of 4 reviews.
- Finding last 15-20% takes long time 😞

# Same review, different references



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Scopus

Search	Alerts	Lists
--------	--------	-------

Back to results | 1 of 1

[Check@Leeds](#) | [View at Publisher](#) | [Export](#) | [Download](#) | [Save to list](#) | [More...](#)

American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry

Volume 17, Issue 2, February 2009, Pages 105-115

## Meta-analysis comparing different behavioral treatments for late-life anxiety

(Review)

Thorp, S.R.<sup>abd</sup>, Ayers, C.R.<sup>b</sup>, Nuevo, R.<sup>c</sup>, Stoddard, J.A.<sup>bd</sup>, Sorrell, J.T.<sup>d</sup>, Wetherell, J.L.<sup>bd</sup>

Search	Alerts	Lists
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References (68)

[View in search results](#)

[All](#) | [Export](#) | [Print](#) | [E-mail](#) | [Create bibliography](#)

☒ Wimo, A., Jonsson, L., Winblad, B.

1 [An estimate of the worldwide prevalence and direct costs of dementia in 2003](#)

(2006) *Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders*, 21 (3), pp. 175-181. Cited 167 times.  
doi: 10.1159/000090733

[Check@Leeds](#) [View at Publisher](#)

☒ He W, Sengupta M, Welkoff VA, et al: 65+ in the United States

2 (2005) in *Current Population Reports*, p. 2005. Cited 3 times.  
U.S. US Government Printing Office, pp 23-209

☒ Hebert, L.E., Scherr, P.A., Bienias, J.L., Bennett, D.A., Evans, D.A.

3 [Alzheimer disease in the US population: Prevalence estimates using the 2000 census](#)

(2003) *Archives of Neurology*, 60 (8), pp. 1119-1122. Cited 1560 times.  
doi: 10.1001/archneur.60.8.1119

[Check@Leeds](#) [View at Publisher](#)

☒ Ernst, R.L., Hay, J.W., Fenn, C., Tinklenberg, J., Yesavage, J.A.

4 [Cognitive function and the costs of Alzheimer disease: An exploratory study](#)

(1997) *Archives of Neurology*, 54 (6), pp. 687-693. Cited 161 times.

Scopus may have electronic records of some studies that WoS didn't.

Check, check, check that the references you download refer to the included references in the review



# Same review, PubMed Central full text



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[Am J Geriatr Psychiatry](#). Author manuscript; available in PMC 2010 Feb 1.

Published in final edited form as:

[Am J Geriatr Psychiatry](#). 2009 Feb; 17(2): 105–115.

doi: [10.1097/JGP.0b013e31818b3f7e](#)

PMCID: PMC2794407

NIHMSID: NIHMS108576

## Meta-analysis Comparing Different Behavioral Treatments for Late-Life Anxiety

[Steven R. Thorp](#), Ph.D., [Catherine R. Ayers](#), Ph.D., [Roberto Nuevo](#), Ph.D., [Jill A. Stoddard](#), Ph.D., [John T. Sorrell](#), Ph.D., and [Julie Loebach Wetherell](#), Ph.D.

[Author information](#) ► [Copyright and License information](#) ►

The publisher's final edited version of this article is available at [Am J Geriatr Psychiatry](#)

See other articles in PMC that [cite](#) the published article.

## References

Go to:

1. Beekman AT, Bremner MA, Deeg DH, et al. Anxiety disorders in later life: A report from the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam. *Int J Geriatr Psychiatry*. 1998;13:717–726. [[PubMed](#)]
2. Regier DA, Rae DS, Narrow WE, et al. Prevalence of anxiety disorders and their comorbidity with mood and addictive disorders. *British Journal of Psychiatry*. 1998;173 (Suppl 34):24–28. [[PubMed](#)]
3. Ettner SL, Hermann RC. Provider specialty choice among Medicare beneficiaries treated for psychiatric disorders. *Health Care Financing Rev*. 1997;18:43–59. [[PMC free article](#)] [[PubMed](#)]
4. Wetherell JL, Thorp SR, Patterson TL, et al. Quality of life in geriatric generalized anxiety disorder: a preliminary investigation. *J Psychiatr Res*. 2004;38:305–312. [[PubMed](#)]
5. De Beurs E, Beekman AT, Van Balkom AM, et al. Consequences of anxiety in older persons: Its effect on disability, well-being and use health services. *Psychol Med*. 1999;29:583–593. [[PubMed](#)]
6. Diefenbach GJ, Hopko DR, Feigon S, et al. 'Minor GAD': characteristics of subsyndromal GAD in older adults. *Behav Res Ther*. 2003;41:481–487. [[PubMed](#)]

## Steps:

1. Check which refs are included studies
2. Go to PubMed links
3. Save citation to clip board
4. Import to EndNote in bulk

# Comparing search costings

## – CBT example



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### Reviews & backtracking search

Search

- 5 databases, ~5500 review records
- 5 days IS

Screen

- ~100 Cochrane & ~2060 eligible non-Cochrane CBT reviews
- Reviewer Time? (some full text screening needed)

Download  
review  
citations

- Cochrane studies download (Archie). 2 days IS?
- non-Cochrane reviews. 183 days IS\*

**10 months IS**  
**~5000 trials to screen**

### Primary search + overviews backtracking

Search

- 5 databases, 10 000 + trials records, 70 overviews
- **2 weeks IS**

Screen

- Reviewer Time?
- Automated screening?
- # Trials?
- 15 eligible overviews
- Further screen ~400 reviews from 15 overviews

Download  
overview &  
review  
citations

- Cochrane studies download (Archie). 2 days IS?
- non-Cochrane reviews. 38 days IS\*

**2.5 months IS**  
**12 000 ? trials to screen**

\*based on 40 mins per review and ave. 11.1 trials per CBT review (duplicates & non-trials removed)



# Questions ??

- How serious are the methodological concerns of overviews?
- Should primary studies be sought? Pieper et al 2012 reported 5% overviews searches for primary studies <sup>(8)</sup>
- Are searches in overviews being fully reported?
  - How common is it to go back to primary studies in reviews?
  - How common are supplementary searches for recent/ongoing data?
- How reliable/unreliable are reference lists in e journals & databases?
- At what point is it more efficient to search for primary studies and treat is as new, large, complex review rather than track included studies back through their reviews?

- Many overviews of systematic reviews use the results of systematic reviews only in their analysis
- Searches are straightforward using SR databases, and SR search filters
- Search beyond Cochrane CDSR for wider set of reviews
- But, re-use of SRs to gain efficiency is not a foregone conclusion <sup>(9)</sup>
- Backtracking from SRs to their primary studies could be effective where number SRs and number of their included studies is small.
- Proceed with caution and prior-testing



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