

Searching for mental health and religion studies: methods and evidence for selecting databases for rapid reviews and evidence syntheses

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1. Choosing resources to search

How do you decide which resources to search for a review or synthesis? It is impossible to search every potentially relevant database and website in existence.

An appropriate and manageable set of resources must be selected to limit publication bias while ensuring searches can be completed in the time available.

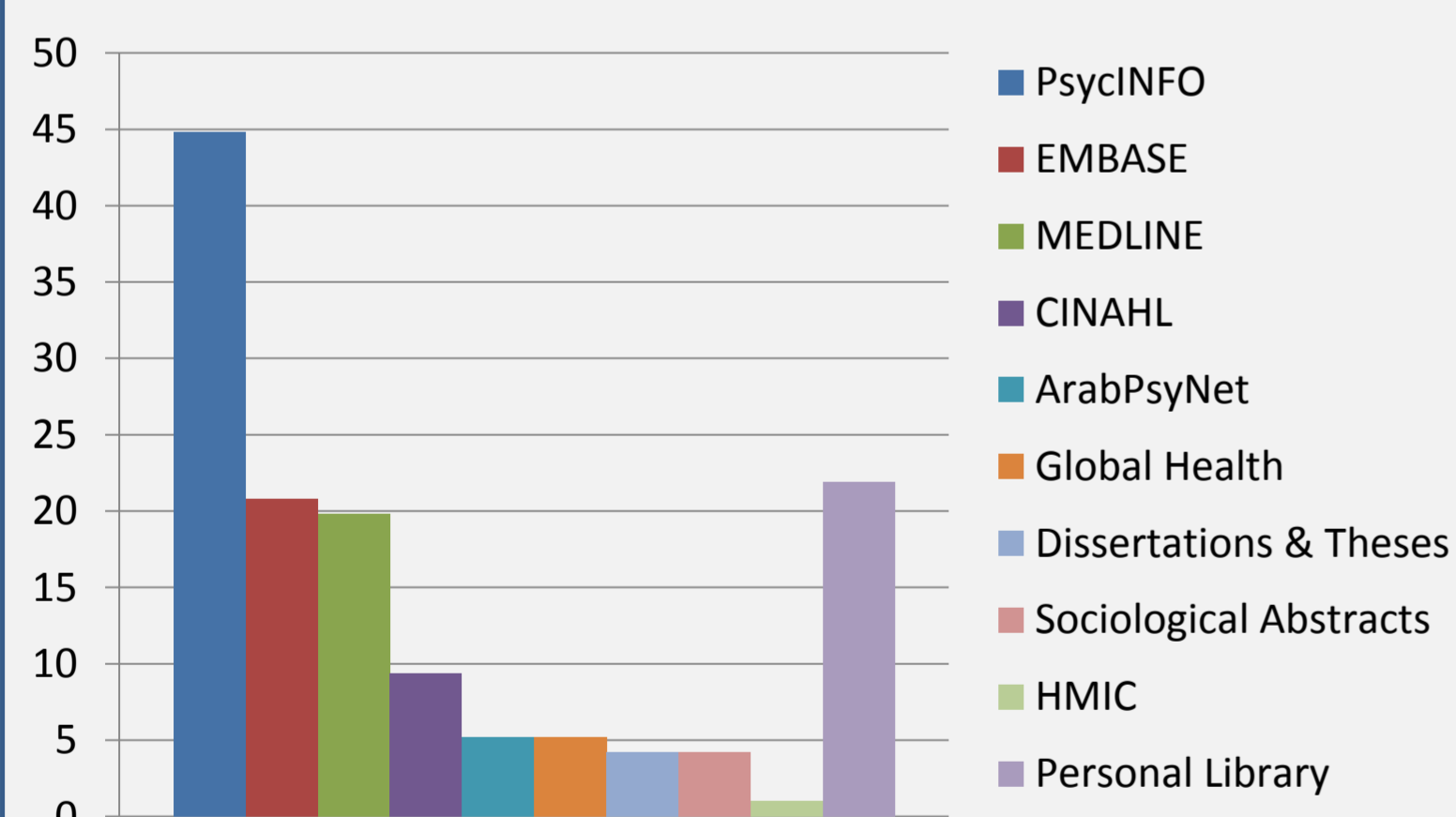
3. Literature Searches

- Searched Health, Social Science, Religion, Grey Literature and Non-Western databases
- Searched 23 databases for an evidence synthesis of faith-adapted psychotherapy interventions for depression in Muslim communities (1).
- Searched 16 databases for an ongoing rapid RCT systematic review of faith-adapted psychotherapy for depression and anxiety disorders. Database selection was informed by results of the evidence synthesis database analysis
- Developed sensitive peer-reviewed religion search strategies.
- Identified factors that impacted on searching workload when running searches

5. Database searches for evidence synthesis

Full results of evidence synthesis database analysis are published (1). The essential databases to identify all studies included in the synthesis are presented below. Important databases for search yield and potentially relevant references were similar.

% studies in synthesis found by each database search



Which databases did we need to search to identify included studies?

Required*	Not required*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PsycINFO • EMBASE • MEDLINE • CINAHL • ArabPsyNet • Global Health • Dissertations & Theses • Sociological Abstracts • HMIC • Personal Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assia • ATLA • Cochrane Library Databases • CPI • FRANCIS • Index Islamicus, • OpenSIGLE • PakMediNet • Social Services Abstracts

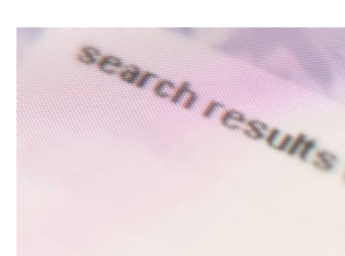
*Required databases provided unique, included studies.

*Not required provided duplicates or only irrelevant / excluded studies

Why this is important

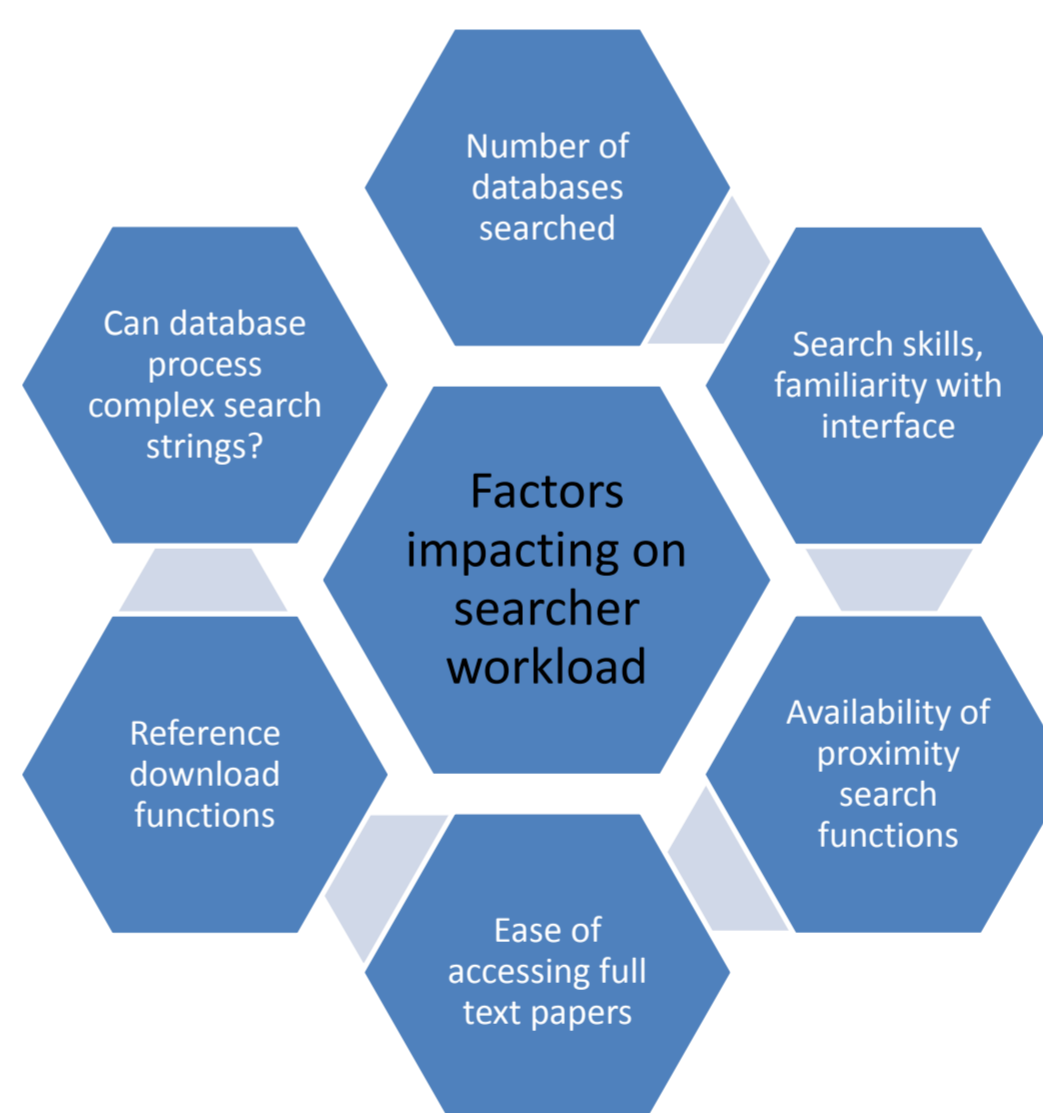


Methods



What we found

7. Consider workload factors



8. Conclusions

- The subject specific database PsycINFO was the best performing database for both reviews.
- Reviews of religion and health studies should include and go beyond PsycINFO and EMBASE searches.
- Assessment of impact of studies in the evidence synthesis revealed searches of databases closely aligned to the topic in question (e.g. ArabPsyNet) may be particularly valuable in providing unique studies
- Evidence syntheses may require a more multidisciplinary database selection than RCT reviews in this area.
- A robust system of scoring databases would support helpful comparisons, based on their yield of relevant references and Number needed to read, the relative value of the included references plus the search workload factors

2. Research on religion, culture and health

The UK government and local NHS trusts are increasingly recognizing the value of health care sensitive to culture and religion.

Identifying research studies that address religion and health is therefore likely to become increasingly important, as researchers aim to develop and evaluate such interventions

4. Assessment of database performance

For the evidence synthesis we:

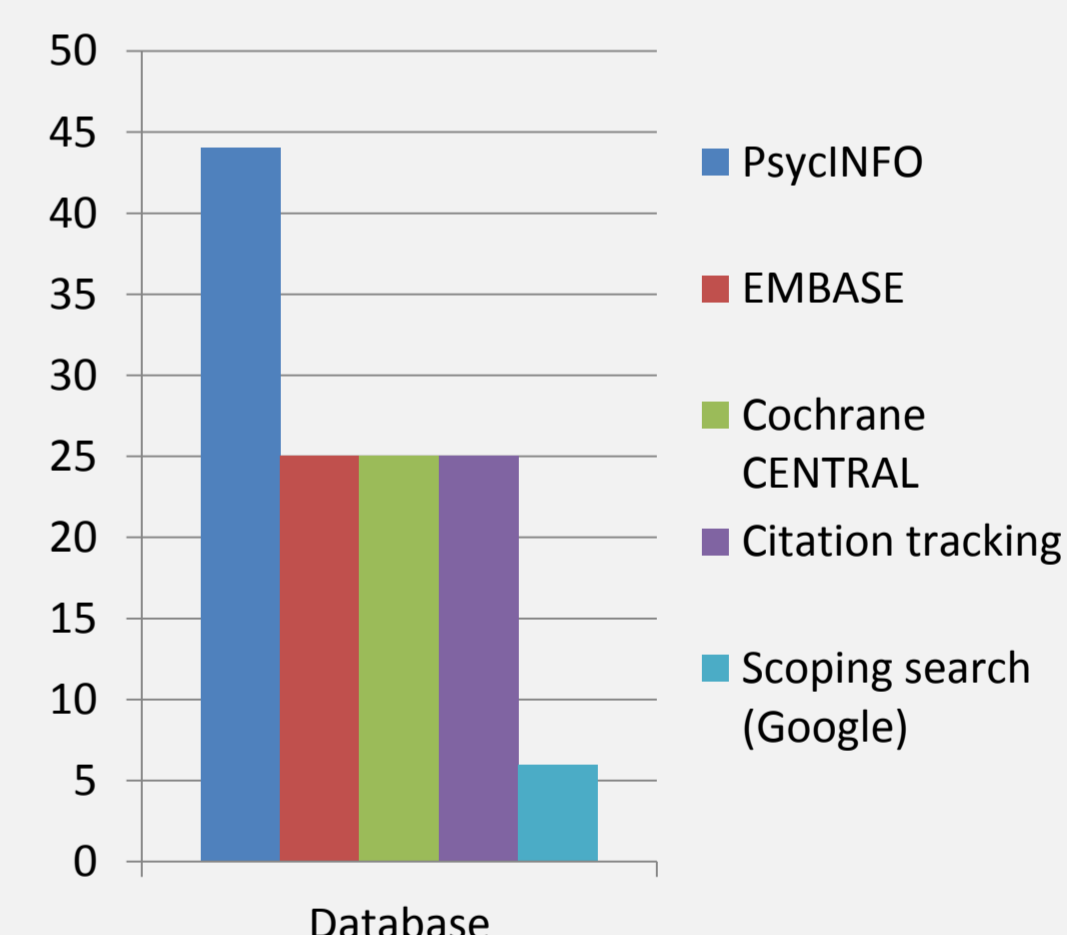
- Prioritised databases by yield of (1) search results, (2) potentially relevant references identified during screening, (3) identified database references included in the synthesis, and (4) references in the synthesis that were available in the database.
- Assessed the impact of databases beyond MEDLINE, EMBASE, and PsycINFO by their ability to supply studies identifying new themes and issues.

For the (ongoing) RCT systematic review we:

- Prioritised databases by yield of (1) search results, (2) identified database references included in the synthesis

6. Database searches for rapid systematic review

% studies in systematic review found by each database search



Which databases did we need to search to identify included studies?

Required*	Not Required*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PsycINFO • EMBASE • Cochrane CENTRAL • Citation Tracking • Google scoping search 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ArabPsyNet • CINAHL • Cochrane DARE and CDSR • CPI • ClinicalTrials.gov • Contolledtrials.com • FRANCIS • Global Health • HMIC • MEDLINE • Dissertations & Theses • Sociological Abstracts

Reference:

(1) Wright, J.M., D.J. Cottrell, and G. Mir, Searching for religion and mental health studies required health, social science, and grey literature databases. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology, 2014 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2014.02.017>

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