

**Systematic Approaches to Rapid
Literature Review: An Internal Guide for
FSAI Staff**



**Systematic Approaches to Rapid Literature
Review – An internal Guide for FSAI Staff**
**Developed by the FSAI Internal Working Group
on Systematic Approaches to Literature Review**

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Glossary

Term	Text
FSAI	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
NA	Not applicable
MeSH	Medical Subject Headings
PECO	Population, Exposure, Comparison, and Outcome(s)
PICO	Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome(s)
PICOS	Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome(s), Study Design
PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
PS	Population and Setting
SchHARR	School of Health and Related Research
SPIDER	Sample, Phenomenon of Interest, Design, Evaluation, Research type

1. Purpose of Guidance and Terminology

1.1 What is this guide for?

This guide describes systematic approaches to literature review and focusses in particular, on rapid literature review to improve the synthesis of evidence underpinning the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) decisions and recommendations. The guide provides links to, and information on, existing approaches and tools for systematic approaches to rapid literature review. This is not a guide on how to complete a systematic literature review.

1.2 Why was this guide developed?

Review and synthesis of scientific literature is an essential part of FSAI's work. Systematic literature review output provides a high level of scientific evidence [1]. However, given the need for timely decisions and due to resource constraints, it is not feasible to complete a full systematic literature review of a topic, which on average takes approximately 24 months to complete. Where time and resource constraints exist, rapid literature review is used to identify and summarise the scientific evidence in an area of interest.

1.3 Why should FSAI staff use this guide?

This guide will support FSAI staff to follow a systematic approach when completing a rapid literature review. Following a systematic approach to rapid literature review will ensure the literature review is:

- Explicit
- Transparent
- Methodical
- Objective
- Standardised
- Structured
- Reproducible

This in turn will support FSAI to ensure work and decisions are based on the most relevant and up to date scientific information, whilst also being produced in a timely fashion.

1.4 Terminology

1.4.1 Systematic approaches to literature review

Systematic approaches to literature review are defined as *“those elements of a literature review that, either individually or collectively, contribute to the methods being both explicit and reproducible. Systematic approaches are evidenced in both the conduct and presentation of the literature review and epitomised in the formal method of ‘systematic review’”* [2].

1.4.2 Systematic literature review

A systematic review attempts to identify, appraise and synthesize **all** the empirical evidence that meets pre-specified eligibility criteria to answer a specific research question [3].

1.4.3 Rapid literature review

Rapid literature review is defined as *“a form of knowledge synthesis that accelerates the process of conducting a traditional systematic review through streamlining or omitting specific methods to produce evidence for stakeholders in a resource-efficient manner”* in the guidance produced by the [Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group](#) [4].

2. Literature Review

2.1 Why is literature review important?

The purpose of a literature review is to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing research on a particular topic by

1. providing a critical appraisal of the existing research and establishing familiarity with and understanding of current research on a particular topic before carrying out a new investigation or making a policy decision/recommendation
2. supporting the identification any gaps in the research to inform the review question.
3. enable the identification of research that corroborates findings as well as those that differ.

2.2 Types of literature review

There are many types of literature review, such as systematic, rapid, scoping, narrative, umbrella etc. Taking a systematic approach to literature review minimises bias and error, making the findings of the evidence synthesis more useful and less open to criticism. However, systematic literature reviews can take a long time to produce (12-24 months) and so for this reason a rapid literature review approach has been developed. A rapid literature review is suited to rapid evidence generation which is often required to inform the work of the FSAI. For this reason, this guide will focus on systematic approaches to rapid literature review, which is a protocol driven approach to rapid literature review which minimises error and bias. The differences between rapid and systematic literature review are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of the differences between rapid literature review and systematic literature review

	Rapid Review	Systematic Review
Timeframe	~1–6 months	~1–2 years
Resources	May exclude grey literature	Comprehensive
Search strategy	May include limits such as year and language	Comprehensive
Synthesis	Descriptive summary of the findings	Descriptive summary of the findings which may also include a meta-analysis

2.3 Rapid literature review

Rapid literature reviews have been described as a type of knowledge synthesis in which systematic review methods are streamlined and processes are accelerated to complete the review quickly. Often policymakers require a short deadline and a systematic review for synthesizing the evidence is not practical. Evidence suggests that policymakers are increasingly using rapid reviews in their daily decision-making. National and international health and food safety agencies are also using rapid reviews, including to inform guideline recommendations in urgent and emergent public health settings. Rapid literature reviews are best designed for: new or emerging research topics, updates of previous reviews, critical topics, to assess what is already known about a policy or practice.

3. Resources available for completing a rapid literature review using a systematic approach

There are a number of resources (software and guidance) available in the FSAI as well as freely online to support undertaking a rapid literature review and these are summarised in table 2.

Table 2 Resources available to support undertaking a rapid literature review using a systematic approach

Resource	Available from FSAI	Available Online
Information management technical executive	The FSAI has an information management technical executive available to support in literature review. Contact library@fsai.ie	NA
Training	Training materials from training related to literature review and attended by FSAI colleagues are available on OurSpace here .	There are many training opportunities available online and remotely. Two helpful sources of training are 1. SchARR Rapid Review Methods 2. Evidence Synthesis Ireland
Guidance	This guide as well as resources gathered and	Multitude of resources which are summarised throughout

	<p>collated are available on OurSpace Systematic Approaches to Literature Review WG - All Documents (fsai.ie)</p> <p>Guidance on Identifying Appropriate Peer Reviewed Scientific Publications (fsai.ie)</p>	<p>this guide. Key resources are PRISMA and Cochrane Guidance.</p>
<p>Tools</p>	<p>Endnote reference manager can be requested from IT.</p>	<p>Covidence – a tool for organising literature for screening and data extraction.</p> <p>Open knowledge maps – visualises available evidence on concepts</p> <p>Research rabbit is a discovery app which unlocks a completely novel way to search for papers and authors, monitor new literature, visualize research landscapes, and collaborate with colleagues.</p> <p>Zotero is an open source reference manager.</p>
<p>Databases</p>	<p>FSAI has access to a number of databases through the library which are summarised here Information Management - Online Library Resources (fsai.ie)</p>	<p>There are many databases available online which can be searched for literature. Some of which are:</p> <p>PubMed</p> <p>Google Scholar</p>

4. Steps for completing a rapid literature review following a systematic approach

To date there is no PRISMA checklist for rapid literature review and so the [PRISMA checklist for systematic literature review](#) and [PRISMA checklist for abstracts](#) can be used [5]. Cochrane Rapid Reviews Methods Group published guidance on rapid reviews following a systematic approach in 2021 [6]. Their guidance is summarised here alongside guidance provided by Booth et al., SchHARR and [Evidence Synthesis Ireland](#) [2]¹.

In advance of completing a rapid literature review a **review protocol** should be developed following the PRISMA checklist headings. This protocol should detail the systematic approach planned for the rapid literature review. The protocol should be shared with all stakeholders for consideration in advance of commencing the review. The key areas of the protocol are described throughout this section of the guidance.

Recent guidance and evidence suggest that rapid reviews, whilst following a systematic approach, should also be flexible to respond to feedback from stakeholders who will rely on the evidence produced by the review. Regular contact and interaction with stakeholders who will depend on the evidence produced from the review to make decisions should be prioritised to ensure utility and robustness of review findings [6].

Your review protocol should define the approach you will take to completing each of the steps outlined in this section of the guide. An example review protocol template is available [here](#).

The steps involved in completing a rapid literature review following a systematic approach are summarised in Figure 1.

¹ Resources available on OurSpace here for reference [Systematic Approaches to Literature Review WG - All Documents \(fsai.ie\)](#)

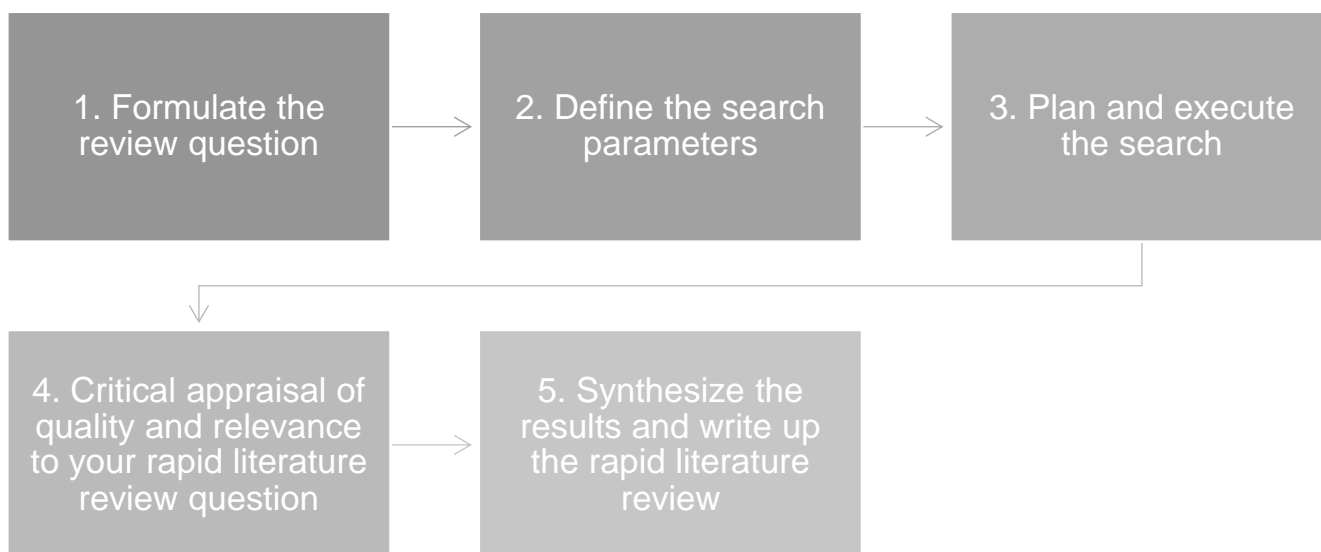


Figure 1 Steps to follow when completing a rapid literature review following a systematic approach

Step 1: Formulate the scientific review question.

The purpose of reviewing the literature is to determine the weight and direction of the evidence on an area of interest. Following a systematic approach (protocol driven) minimises error and bias when interpreting the literature. To begin this process the scientific review question should be developed and agreed with key stakeholders (e.g., review users, chief specialist, agency staff, subject matter experts) to set and refine the review question, eligibility criteria, and the outcomes of interest. A review question needs to be focused and well-defined. Formulating and agreeing your review question is a key component of the rapid literature review and requires time and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders.

i. Defining your scope with an audience in mind

When starting a rapid literature review which follows a systematic approach, the scope of the issue needs to be defined. It may be helpful to conduct a quick literature search to help inform the scope. It is recommended to contact the FSAI Information Management Executive, for help in scoping the research topic of interest. It is important that all stakeholders involved in the literature review understand the purpose of the review (e.g., what decision makers need and why they need this information). Specific questions that can be asked to ensure that the issue is clearly defined and understood by those developing the rapid review question include:

1. Which hazards / risks/ populations / substance are of interest?
2. What measures / events / interventions / programs or risk factors are to be included?

3. Are there any measures / events / interventions/programs or risk factors that should be excluded?
4. What outcomes should be addressed and/or excluded?

Example research questions are:

Example research question 1: “What is the impact of food reformulation policy on the nutrient quality of yogurt and breakfast cereals available in the retail environment?”

Example research question 2: “What is the impact of the consumption of foods with naturally higher levels of lead on the neurodevelopment of children?”

ii. Frameworks for defining the scope and review question.

There are several frameworks available to support in defining the key parameters of your review questions. Some of these different types of frameworks include:

- PICO: Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome(s) is used when addressing the effectiveness of an intervention.
- PECO: Population, Exposure, Comparison, and Outcome(s) is used when assessing the relationship between a risk factor to which a population is exposed and a (health) outcome.
- PICOS: Population, Intervention, Comparison, and Outcome(s), Study Design, as with PICO but including study design as a component.
- PS: Population and Setting, if a question is qualitative then the population and setting components should be articulated.
- SPIDER: Sample, Phenomenon of Interest, Design, Evaluation, Research type, designed specifically to identify relevant qualitative and mixed-method studies

Depending on how long you have to complete the rapid review you may spend more or less time defining each of the components. A tool providing guidance and examples of how to develop a review question using PICO/PECO and PS is available from Health Evidence™ [here](#).

PECO is explained by Taylor et al., 2016 in relation to scientific research questions related to chemical risk assessment, see figure 2 [7].

“PECO” is an acronym representing: **Population** (the exposure group of interest, e.g. people of a certain age or rats in laboratory studies); **Exposure** (the compounds or exposure scenarios of interest, e.g. respiratory exposure to fine particulate matter); **Comparator** (the group to which the exposure group is being compared, e.g. vehicle-exposed controls in laboratory experiments or less exposed groups in epidemiological studies); **Outcome** (a deleterious change or marker thereof hypothesised to be brought about by the exposure). The purpose of a PECO statement is to provide a framework for developing the key question which a SR will answer, and also to determine the rationale for the inclusion and exclusion criteria that explicitly define which studies are relevant for the review.

Figure 2 The use of PECO statements in the systematic literature review process as reported by Taylor et al., 2016

An example of the SPIDER framework being applied to example research question 1 is outlined in Table 3.

Table 3. SPIDER (Sample, Phenomenon of Interest, Design, Evaluation and Research Type) table for the selection of studies.

Sample	Phenomenon of Interest	Design	Evaluation	Research Type
Yogurt and breakfast cereals sold in retail food environment	Reformulation (voluntary or mandatory) of energy, saturated fat, sugar, salt	All study designs	Change in energy, saturated fat, sugar or salt content	Quantitative

An example of the PECO statement being applied to example research question 2 is outlined in Table 4.

Table 4. PECO (Population, Exposure, Comparator and Outcome) table for identification of search strings

Population	Exposure	Comparator	Outcome
Children	Consumption of foods with naturally higher levels of lead.	Consumers of foods with naturally lower levels of lead.	Rates of neurodevelopmental effects in children.

iii. Defining your search terms

Using the key words from your review question identified using a framework such as PECO or SPIDER the next step is to develop search terms. Search terms are words or phrases which can be grouped into a search string and applied in a database of literature. When developing search terms, it is best to:

- Involve an Information Specialist if available; in the FSAI this is the Information Management Executive.
- Brainstorm any terms, names, synonyms, alternate spellings and concepts related to your topic.
- Use a thesaurus to identify synonyms you may not have thought of.
- Look at relevant publications and the types of terms they use to describe the concept you are interested in.
- Expand acronyms to the original words.
- If applicable, use the [MeSH \(Medical Subject Headings\) browser](#) to find suitable subject terms related to your search topic.
- “Group” your concepts/terms, for example, (Smoking, Tobacco) (Adolescents, Adolescence, Teenagers, Teens, Youth, Young Adults), (PCB, Polychlorinated biphenyl) (food authenticity, food fraud). Depending on the database you may need to combine keywords with subject headings.
- Document your process throughout.

Based on these steps you should now have a clear research question and list of subsequent search terms.

iv. Boolean logic

When your review question and search terms are defined you can use Boolean logic to define a search strategy. Boolean logic is the use of the words AND, OR, NOT (which are Boolean operators) to devise a search strategy. Booth et al. advises when combining search terms it is important to consider the following rules [2]

- *OR is used to combine terms within the same concept together (for example child* OR adolescent* OR teenage*), thus expanding the search.*
- *AND is used to combine different concepts together (for example food AND authenticity AND analytical method), thus narrowing the search by combining terms.*
- *NOT is used to exclude irrelevant terms (for example NOT letter*), thus narrowing the search by removing terms.*

An example of search terms developed from example research question 1 using the SPIDER framework in table 3 is described here:

Reformulat OR Reduc* OR Adapt* OR Lower* OR Less OR Minimis* OR Modif* AND Sugar OR Salt OR Sodium OR Fat OR Saturated Fat OR Energy OR Kilocalorie* OR Kilojoule* OR *calorie**
AND

“Nutrient Quality” OR “Nutrient Value” OR “Nutrition Value” OR Healthiness OR Health* OR Nutrition OR “Healthy Eating”*

AND

“Retail environment” OR “Food retailer” OR Shop OR Supermarket OR “Grocery store” OR “Retail outlet” OR Store OR Outlet OR Hypermarket OR Superstore OR “Cash and carry”

AND

Yoghurt OR Yogurt OR “Fromage frais” OR “Cultured dairy product” OR “Breakfast cereal” OR “Ready to eat breakfast cereal”.

v. Finalising and adapting your review question.

After applying your search strategy, you may find there is limited literature published on your area of interest. This could mean you need to adapt your review question to broaden its focus. Using the review question one included in this guidance as an example, you may broaden the food category beyond yogurt and breakfast cereals to processed packaged foods or dairy based foods. Broadening parts of your review question can help to expand your literature review search. Likewise, if your topic of interest is too broad you may need to refine part of your review question. Using the example research question 1, as an example you could limit the nutrients you are interested in to sugar only. Adaptations of your research question should be done in conjunction with key stakeholders.

Step 2: Define the search parameters.

Your search parameters describe where you will search, your inclusion / exclusion criteria, screening approach and quality appraisal. These are described in more detail below:

i. Inclusion / exclusion criteria

Your inclusion and exclusion criteria will define the parameters for when a study is suitable for inclusion in your rapid literature review and when it is not suitable. Inclusion and exclusion criteria should be defined and documented to ensure your rapid review is following a systematic approach.

To determine the inclusion and exclusion criteria, together with key stakeholders, decide on and document the following:

- Clearly define the population, hazard, contaminant, intervention, and comparator.
- Limit the number of interventions and comparators.
- Limit the number of outcomes, with a focus on those most important for decision-making.
- Consider date restrictions with a clinical or methodological justification.
- Limit the publication language to English; add other languages only if justified.
- Place emphasis on higher quality study designs (e.g. systematic reviews); consider a stepwise approach to study design inclusion.
- Identify what shouldn't be included in your parameters. For example, if you are searching for literature on a contaminant or hazard in food for human consumption, you may not want to include reports on the contaminant or hazard in animal feed. These are your exclusion criteria.
- Other possible inclusion and exclusion criteria may include population subgroups or geographical location (e.g. are you limiting your search to particular countries).

Step 3: Plan and execute the search.

i. Discuss search strategy with an information specialist.

When conducting a rapid literature review, whenever possible have the FSAI Information Management Executive conduct the searches for you or ask them to review your search strategy. The FSAI Information Management Executive will support and advise on searching the databases available within the FSAI.

ii. Identify database(s) and adapt search string accordingly.

Where the Information Management Executive is not available, select databases which are relevant to your subject matter area to search.

- Consider peer review by of at least one search strategy by colleagues who are familiar with the topic / approaches to searching the literature.
- Always search Cochrane (for health related questions), Scopus, PubMed and Google scholar which the FSAI has access to.

- Searching of specialised databases is recommended for certain topics but should be restricted to 1-2 additional sources or omitted if time and resources are limited.
- Limit grey literature and supplemental searching. In the human health area, if justified, search study registries, such as [EU clinical trials register](#) or systematic review protocol register [Prospero, INPLASY, Open Science Framework Registries, protocols.io](#).
- Screen reference lists of other reviews or included studies after screening of the abstracts and full texts. Screening reference lists can detect studies that were missed during the searches of the electronic databases or eligible studies that were erroneously excluded during literature screening. Grey literature may be excluded from rapid literature reviews if time does not allow for their review and inclusion.

You may need to adapt your search strategy for each database you choose to search. Each database will include a guide outlining how to complete a search using their database. It is important to familiarise yourself with the database guidance and adapt your search approach in advance of completing your search.

It is important to clearly document your search strategy in your protocol to ensure your rapid review follows a systematic approach.

iii. Select your reference management software.

Prior to executing your search, it is important to select the reference manager you will import your search results to. The FSAI have licenses for Endnote (contact IT Helpdesk). However, there are also open-source reference managers available which you can use such as Zotero.

iv. Execute and document search.

It is now time to execute your search in each of the databases you have chosen. You should import the references for papers meeting your search strategy into your reference manager. It is preferable to create a separate library in your reference manager for each database searched. This means that if you need to rerun a search in one database it is easy to update your overall search results.

After implementing your search in each of the chosen databases and creating a separate library for the list of studies identified in each database, you should then merge your literature review libraries so that you have all references in a master list.

Once you have completed your search strategy for each database you plan to search and have run the search, it is important to document the exact search and date executed in each database. This information is important for reproducibility of the rapid literature review or updating the rapid literature in the future.

Step 4: Critical appraisal of quality and relevance to your rapid literature review question.

Taking your master file library of all studies identified across all databases searched, the first step is to remove duplicates. This can be done within your reference manager software. Once duplicates are removed you will have your final list of studies that need to be screened for quality and relevance to your review question.

The number of studies identified by your search and the resources available to complete the literature screening will determine your screening strategy.

Tools: It is common to create and use data review tracking documents and data extraction sheets to support the screening process. An example of a review tracking sheet can be found [here](#) and a data extraction sheet can be found [here](#). The data extraction sheet should be adapted specifically to your rapid literature review and pilot tested using approximately 10 papers by two reviewers. There is also software called Covidence which can be used to support the review and extraction process. When completing the review screening it is useful to complete the [PRISMA flow diagram](#) which is a graphical summary of the screening process. This figure is usually included in the results section of your review report.

Resources: If resources allow, it is preferable to have two people complete screening step 4(i) and 4(ii) and a third reviewer act as tie breaker if reviewer one and two disagree. However, sometimes resources do not allow this and so it is acceptable to specify the percentage of papers the second reviewer will complete a second review on.

i. Title & abstract screening

In this step the study title and abstract of all studies identified by your search are compared to the rapid literature review inclusion / exclusion criteria and considered for relevance to your review question. Based on whether or not the study meets the inclusion criteria and relevance to your review question, it is either excluded or moved to full text screening.

ii. Full text screening

Where a study made it through the title and abstract screening, the full text is then reviewed to assess if it meets the rapid literature review inclusion criteria and question. If the study meets the

inclusion criteria and is relevant to your review question it is then accepted for inclusion in the literature review and moved to the quality appraisal step. Where a study is not included the reason for non-inclusion should be documented and a record of this kept.

iii. Quality appraisal

Not all scientific studies are equal and it is important to determine the quality of the science your search has found. The FSAI [Guidance on Identifying Appropriate Peer Reviewed Scientific Publications \(fsai.ie\)](#) explains the quality of different study approaches.

In order to determine if the studies which meet the inclusion criteria and are relevant to your review are of good quality, a quality appraisal is required. There are numerous quality appraisal tools available to assess the quality of scientific literature. The type of tool used usually depends on the study design.

- The [Critical Appraisal Skills Programme \(CASP\)](#) has developed a wide range of checklists for different study designs.
- The [Appraisal Tool for Cross Sectional Studies](#).
- [Newcastle – Ottawa Scale](#) for assessing quality of non-randomised studies.

The results of your quality appraisal should be documented and the exclusion of any studies due to quality related issues noted. Studies which are deemed to be of good quality and are included in the study are moved to the data extraction step.

iv. Data extraction

Using your piloted data extraction form the relevant information from each of the studies selected for inclusion in the rapid literature review should be documented. This is the information that will be collated to synthesise and analyse your literature review findings and draw conclusions. Use a single reviewer to extract data and a second reviewer to check for correctness and completeness of extracted data. Limit data extraction to a minimal set of required data items.

Step 5: Synthesizing the results and write up the rapid literature review.

i. Results synthesis

The relevant extracted data from your included studies can be brought together in a synthesis (summary). This approach allows results from multiple studies to be integrated, summarized, compared, explained, and interpreted and can be considered as the “framework” for presenting the results.

Popay et al. describe narrative synthesis as relying primarily on the use of words and text to summarise and explain the findings of the synthesis [8]. A narrative approach to synthesizing your results involves summarizing the collected evidence in a descriptive rather than statistical format.

Narrative synthesis can include:

- Integration or grouping of data.
- Data presentation (tables and/or graphs).
- Summaries.
- Exploration of similarities and differences across study findings, design and methods.
- Identification of patterns.
- Development of new insights and/or conclusions.

ii. Writing up your rapid literature review

The rapid literature review report should be written up by the review team and shared with stakeholders for review before finalising. Typically, the report should include the following sections:

1. **Introduction:** *Providing background to the topic and describing the need for the rapid literature review. Outlining the research question.*
2. **Methods:** *Describing the rapid review protocol.*
3. **Results:** *An overview of the number of studies identified and excluded / included (visualised using the [PRISMA flow diagram](#)) followed by a narrative synthesis of the review results, including the quality appraisal.*
4. **Discussion and conclusion:** *A discussion on what the findings mean and how they relate to existing literature and a conclusion on the next steps and any required future research.*

The review report should be written in the [FSAI Generic Report template](#).

5. References

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Appendix 1: Approach Followed to Develop this Guide and Working Group Terms of Reference

This guide was developed by a self-selected working group of colleagues across the FSAI. The Internal Working Group for Systematic Review Development operated to a Terms of Reference, see below, over an 18 month period.

Working group members completed a training course either in advance of or during the lifetime of the Working Group. This guide is based on this training as well as a review of

1. Scientific evidence, published guidance and standard protocols for systematic reviews and their approaches.
2. Guidance on rapid review published by academic institutions and libraries.

An outline of this guidance was agreed by the Working Group. Working group members each developed and reviewed this. This guidance was finalised following a review by FSAI colleagues.

Working Group for the Development of a Systematic Approach to Literature Review for the Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Background

In an era of information explosion and overload literature review serves the following purposes:

1. To place each work in the context of how it contributes to an understanding of the subject under review.
2. To describe how each work relates to the others under consideration.
3. To identify new ways to interpret, and shed light on gaps in, previous research.
4. To identify and resolve conflicts across seemingly contradictory previous studies.
5. To identify what has been covered by previous scholars to prevent you needlessly duplicating their effort.
6. To signpost the way forward for further research.
7. To locate your original work within the existing literature (1).

Systematic literature reviews are considered the highest form of evidence (1). Systematic reviews aim to identify, evaluate, and summarize the findings of all relevant individual studies on a particular topic of interest, thereby making the available evidence more accessible to decision makers (2). However, a systematic literature review is not always suitable or feasible due to resource constraints (time, staff). When this is the case it is still possible to take a systematic approach to reviewing the literature. Taking a systematic approach to reviewing literature ensures

relevant literature is identified, the search process is transparent and repeatable, and the limitations of the results are documented.

Following a workshop on systematic literature review in July 2021, the FSAI decided to develop a guide on systematic approaches to literature review.

Aim

The aim of this working group is to develop an internal guide for systematic approaches to literature review to support FSAI staff in their work.

Proposed approach

The working group will be made up of interested staff who volunteer to participate from across the organisation.

The working group will have an initial meeting to define and agree on a way of working.

A draft guide will be developed and circulated to managers, chief specialists and the director of food science and standards.

A final version of the guide will be developed and made available to staff to support them in their work.

Time frame

December 2021 – March 2023

Output

A guide to systematic approaches for literature review.

References

1. Booth, Andrew & Papaioannou, Diana & Sutton, Anthea. (2012). Systematic Approaches to a Successful Literature Review.
2. Gopalakrishnan S, Ganeshkumar P. *Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis: Understanding the Best Evidence in Primary Healthcare. J Family Med Prim Care.* 2013;2(1):9-14. doi:10.4103/2249-4863.109934



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