Exercises

# Chapter 4: Defining your scope

## Exercise 4.2: Using a framework to focus your question

Choose a framework that best fits your research areas and formulate your own research question. So, if you’re using the PICOS model, consider:

**P**opulation

**I**ntervention OR Exposure

**C**omparison

**O**utcome(s)

**S**tudy Type(s)

### Sample Response

For our earlier (fictitious) systematic review on mobile health interventions for maternal, newborn and child health in low and middle-income countries we have devised the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **P**opulation  | Mothers, their newborns and young children |
| **I**ntervention OR Exposure  | Mobile health interventions |
| **C**omparison  | Usual (traditional) support to mothers and children |
| **O**utcome(s)  | Improved maternal health, Improved child health, Body Mass Index, maternal and infant well-being |
| **S**tudy type(s) | Empirical comparative studies (randomised controlled trials; cohort studies) |

## Exercise 4.3 Examining a review protocol

Either examine one of the review protocols from Table 4.6 or one that you have identified yourself and consider the following:

● What are the key databases and sources within my discipline?

● What methodological documentation does the author cite that may be of value for my own review?

● What does the way that the review protocol is organised and presented tell you about the quantity and quality of the literature available in your field?

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**Protocol: Impact of School Library Services on Achievement and Learning (**[**https://www.rgu.ac.uk/3AC6AB20-595B-11E1-BF5B000D609CB064**](https://www.rgu.ac.uk/3AC6AB20-595B-11E1-BF5B000D609CB064)**), Appendix**

**What are the key databases and sources within Information Studies/Education (the most relevant disciplines for the topic)?**

- ERIC

- British Education Index

- Education Abstracts

- LISA including Current Research in Library and Information Science

- Information Science Abstracts (ISA)

- Library Literature and Information Science

**What methodological documentation does the author cite that may be of value in my own review?**

The critical appraisal framework (General Teaching Council for England) referenced may be of use, with possible adaptation.

**What does the way that the review protocol is organised and presented tell you about the quantity and quality of the literature available?**

The protocol gives the impression that literature relating to this topic is vast and crosses multiple disciplines. There seems to be a range of quality – ranging from high to unknown. There is also a need to adopt supplementary methods to database searching such as reference list checking, hand-searching and contact with experts due to the diversity of the topic fields.