

A search summary table for systematic reviews

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Current Practice. Information specialists design and run searches for systematic reviews using key papers, systematic reviews, information retrieval research, search filters and experience

Aim of the search summary table. To gather evidence about searching in a systematic review into one simple table.

What is the impact of using outdoor spaces such as gardens on the physical and mental well-being of those with dementia? A systematic review of quantitative and qualitative evidence

Included references	Format	Database searches (Feb 2013, re-run Jun 2014)											Supplementary searches			
		amed	assia	bni	cin'l	coch	embase	hmic	medline	psycinfo	sco	wok	fcs	bcs	wss	org
Bengtsson 2006	jnl						n		n	n						x
Calkins 2007	jnl		x				n		n	n						
Cohen-Mansfield 1998	bkch						n		n	n						x
Connell 2007	bkch						n		n	n				x		
Cox 2004	jnl	x					x		x	n		x				
Detweiler 2009	jnl		x				X		x	x		x				
Detweiler 2008	jnl						x		x	x		x				
Edwards 2013	jnl						y		y	n						x
Hernandez 2007	jnl	x	x				n		n	n						
Innes 2011	jnl		x				y		x	x						
Luk 2011	jnl		x				x		x	x						
Mather 1997	jnl		x				n		n	x						
Mooney 1992	jnl						z		z	n				x		
Morgan 1999	jnl		x				x		x	x						
Rappe 2007	jnl						n		n	n				x		
Raske 2010	jnl						z		z	z		x				
Vuolo 2003	rpt						n		n	n						x
No. included refs		2	3	0	0	0	5	0	6	6	0	3		3		4
No. unique refs		0	2	0	0	0								3		4
Total no. refs downloaded		5	48	7	0	282	548	5	180	288	243	26				
No. refs screened		3	24	0	0	0	382	0	176	212	237	10				
Sensitivity		11.76	17.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.41	0.00	35.29	35.29	0	17.65				
Precision		40.00	6.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.00	1.67	0.69	0.00	11.54				
No. database searches carried out =						11										
Total no. refs found from searching =						1632										
No. refs screened at Ti&Ab =						1044										
No. of included refs from searching =						10										
Total no. of included refs =						17										

All the non journal studies were found from supplementary searching

Two studies were in some of the databases but the search strategy did not pick them up

BNI, CINAHL, Cochrane, HMIC and SCO found no included studies

ASSIA found 2 unique studies

x = reference found in the database
y = in the database and picked up when search re-run
z = in database but not picked up when search re-run
n = not in the database

jnl = journal article
bkch = book chapter
rpt = report
red = search re-run

fcs = forward citation searching
bcs = backwards citation searching
wss = web site searching
org = contacting organisations

How does it help? i) provides evidence at a specific systematic review level, ii) evidence to inform searching, database selection and search methods, iii) evidence for information specialists to undertake research and iv) evidence for future reviews.

What next? Encourage use in all systematic reviews to facilitate better record keeping and search transparency leading to increased efficiency in the search process. Make it part of the guidelines and methods of systematic review reporting.



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