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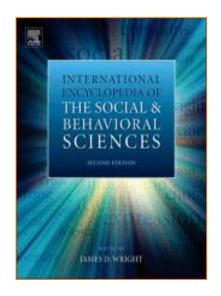


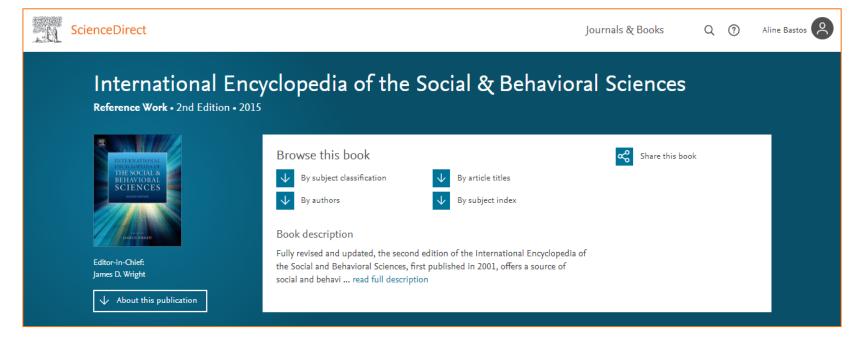
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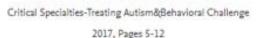




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Chapter 1 - Systematic Review

Susan M. Wilczynski

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Abstract

This is the first chapter in the section on best available evidence. Evidence-based practice requires the use of professional judgment to integrate the best available evidence and client variables, values, and preferences to select the best treatment for the client. A systematic review represents the best source of information about treatment effectiveness because it is based on a careful, transparent, and comprehensive review of the scientific literature. The process for conducting a systematic review is less biased than alternate forms of evidence. However systematic reviews are not entirely without bias. Experts make decisions while completing a systematic review that can influence the likelihood that treatments will be deemed effective or ineffective. This chapter familiarizes the reader with the process of conducting systematic reviews and describes both the strengths and limitations of this method.



A systematic review is secondary research that seeks to collate all primary studies that fit prespecified eligibility criteria in order to address a specific research question, aiming to minimize bias by using and documenting explicit, systematic methods (Higgins and Green, 2011).

From: International Encyclopedia of Public Health (Second Edition), 2013

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Work for People with Autism, 2017

Susan M. Wilczynski, in A Practical Guide to Finding Treatments That

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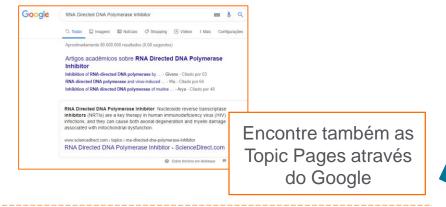
Systematic reviews require a careful analysis of the quality, quantity, and consistency of research findings (Moher, Liberati, Tetzlaff, Altman, & The PRISMA Group, 2009; Slocum et al., 2012). The process of initiating a systematic review typically begins with a team of experts who are motivated to answer one of two types of questions. The experts may ask:

1. "Is a given treatment effective (The term "efficacious" is often used to describe treatments that are effective under research conditions and "effective" is used for treatments that work in realand a continue to this accomplishment will also become "official in " to

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are an important source of evidence for EbM. Systematic reviews are 'studies of studies.' Like any study of patients or healthy volunteers, they are done using a systematic approach to minimize bias and random error, which is described in a study protocol. The protocol details the eligibility criteria for studies to be included and describes the search strategy to identify potentially eligible studies, and their critical appraisal. Systematic reviews may, or may not, include meta-analysis, a statistical combination of results from several studies to produce a



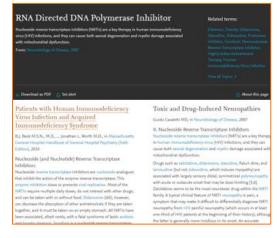
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