

Types of questions

- BACKGROUND QUESTIONS
 - Target central knowledge that helps to understand a condition, assessment or procedure
 - E.g. what causes a stroke? How is sound transmitted through the ear?
 - Commonly asked by students
- FOREGROUND QUESTIONS
 - Address specific knowledge that's related to the management of your clients
 - Informs clinical decisions and actions
 - E.g. is early intensive treatment targeting communication effective for adult stroke patients?
 - There are 5 main types of foreground questions:
 1. Effectiveness e.g. is bed rest more **effective** than exercise for back pain?
 2. Prevention e.g. does reducing BP **prevent** strokes in adults?
 3. Assessment e.g. is picture naming an effective assessment of language function after stroke?
 4. Description e.g. comparing adult female smokers with adult female non-smokers, which group is likelier to have one or more parents who smoked?
 5. Risk e.g. are mini-strokes in the elderly risk factors for severe strokes?

PICO questions

- POPULATION/PROBLEM
 - Identify the patient's problem and population
 - Includes disease/primary problem, co-morbidities
 - Describes the group of people with similar conditions to your patient including;
 - Primary problem
 - Patient's main concern
 - Health status
 - Age and sex
 - Previous ailments
 - E.g. males over 40 with knee pain after a reconstruction
- INTERVENTION
 - Identify what you want to do for the client/ what the factor you're interested in is
 - Isn't always something you implement
 - E.g. may look at smokers vs non-smokers
 - E.g. exercise
- COMPARISON
 - The main alternative you are considering – generally the gold standard or placebo
 - Should be specific and limited to one choice
 - May be omitted
 - E.g. massage for knee pain
- OUTCOME
 - Specifies the result(s) you intend to accomplish/improve/affect
 - Generally involves either
 - Eliminating symptoms
 - Improving or maintaining conditions
 - Preventing specific conditions
 - Higher degree of specificity provides better search results
 - Client should be involved in determining desired outcome

Week 3: acquiring evidence

What are databases and which ones should I use?

- Electronic indexing tools that allow you to find citations or references leading to journal articles

- There are 3 types of data bases
 - o CITATION – contain citation and sometimes the full text e.g. MEDLINE, CINAHL, Embase, Psyc INFO etc.
 - o FULL TEXT – contain full text of article attached to the record as a PDF e.g. ProQuest
 - o PRE-APPRAISED EVIDENCE – also full text databases e.g. Cochrane Library, Clinical Evidence
- ** MEDLINE and CINAHL are most useful for us**

Database descriptions

- MEDLINE: medical information with bibliographic citations and abstracts from biomedical and science journals
- CINAHL: most in-depth resource for nursing and allied health – covers nursing, biomedicine, allied health and consumer health
- Joanna Briggs institute : searches for appraised evidence and searches for evidence based recommendations for practices, evidence summaries, consumer information sheets etc.
- Cochrane library: systematic health reviews
- Clinical evidence: evidence on effects of common clinical interventions, summarises current state of knowledge and uncertainty of treatments
- Embase: biomedical and pharmacological database
- PsycINFO: psychology
- ProQuest Health and Medicine: all major healthcare disciplines
- ProQuest Nursing and Allied Health: nursing, allied health, alternative medicine etc.
- ProQuest Social Services abstracts: mental health, social services, family and social welfare etc.
- Sociological abstracts: index in sociology and social/behavioural sciences
- Informit health: full texts for credible research in AUS and NZ

Key words vs subject heading search

- 2 methods for searching databases
 1. KEYWORDS – searches for words anywhere in the document
 - ⇒ Retrieves more results, but they won't be as specific
 2. SUBJECT HEADING – finds topics
 - ⇒ Less results retrieved, but what returns is more relevant
- Key searching tips
 - o Alternate spellings – paediatrics vs paediatrics
 - o Terminology – car vs automobile
 - o Medical terminology – cerebrovascular vs cerebralvascular

Boolean operators AND and OR

- Using PICO we'll search:
 - 1) Population/ problem e.g. backpain/backache
 - 2) Concept of exercise/physical activity
 - 3) Bed rest
 - After searching for the above, we'll then combine the searched with AND which will combine the 3 concepts
- In keyword searching:
 - o TRUNCATION: use * to denote this
 - Will increase search results
 - E.g. backache* = backache, backaches
 - o IN CINAHL:
 - Use wildcard symbol '?' if you aren't sure about spelling e.g. organi?ation
 - Use wildcard symbol '#' where alternative spelling may contain extra characters e.g. p#ediatric
 - o IN MEDLINE:
 - Use wildcard symbol '#' if you aren't sure about spelling e.g. organi#ation
 - Use wildcard symbol '?' where alternative spelling may contain extra characters e.g. p?ediatric
 - o PHRASES:
 - Use " quotation marks " when searching for phrases

- E.g. “quality of life”