Universitat Pompeu Fabra Barcelona
Department of Communication

CAS Communication Advertising & Society
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Use of Scopus and WoS in literature reviews for doctoral theses

A Case Study Illustration

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#UPFCommResearch
Department of Communication
November 2023

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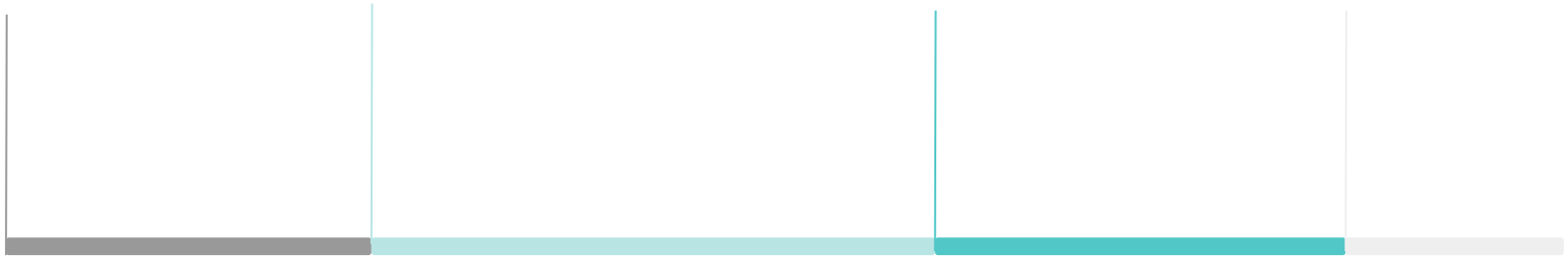

Credits

Title: Use of Scopus and WoS in literature reviews for doctoral theses: A case study illustration

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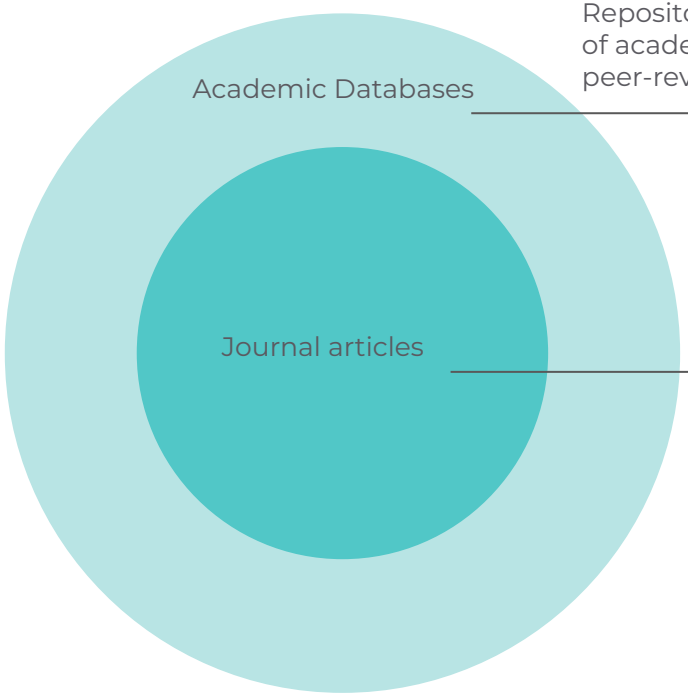
Abstract and Keywords

Abstract: Presentation of a case study and practical guidelines for conducting a scoping review using academic databases. Emphasis on the SALSA framework and its phases, while underscoring key steps for academic writing and dissemination.

Keywords: Literature reviews, scoping reviews, academic databases, research articles, peer-reviewed journals, search equations, SALSA framework, evidence base.

Introduction

Introduction



Some examples: Scopus, Web of Science, Dialnetplus, CSIC

Academic databases serve as a **primary source** for **identifying relevant literature** in a field of study, enabling the subsequent writing of a **literature review** or a **research article**

Introduction

What is a scoping review?

A “type of **evidence synthesis**” which follows a **systematic approach** to broadly explore areas of knowledge.

1. Analyse the extent, range and characteristics of a particular field of knowledge
2. Synthesise methods and theories
3. Identify research gaps

Codina L, Lopezosa C, Freixa P. (2021). Scoping reviews en trabajos académicos en comunicación: frameworks y fuentes, in: Larrondo Ureta A, Meso Ayerdi K, Peña Fernández S, (ed). *Información y Big Data en el sistema híbrido de medios - XIII Congreso Internacional de Ciberperiodismo*; Leoia, Basque Country, Universidad del País Vasco, 15-17 Nov 2021.

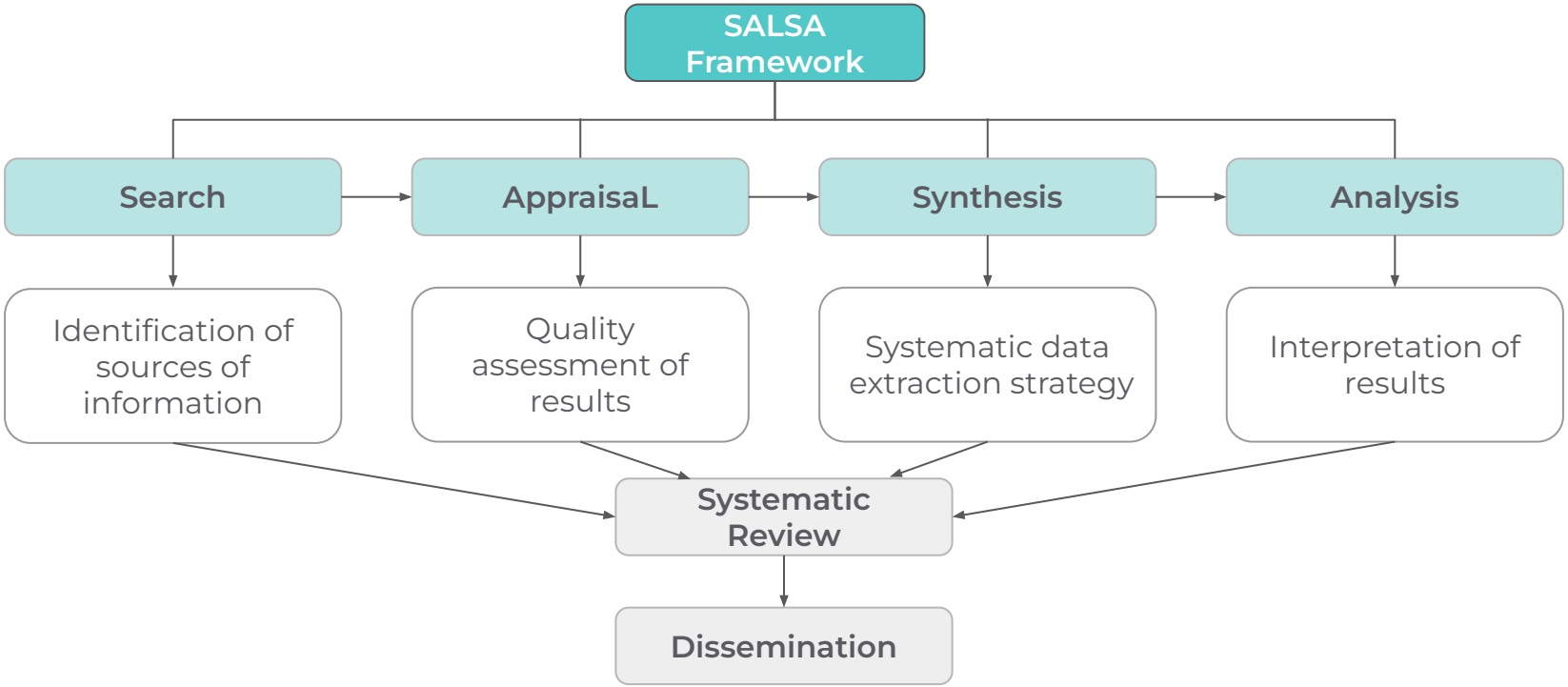
Tricco, A.C. et al. (2018) ‘PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR): Checklist and Explanation’. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 169(7), pp. 467-473. Available at: doi: 10.7326/M18-0850

Systematised reviews follow a **systematic**, **transparent** and **replicable** approach that promotes **rigour** and **traceability**

Grant, M. J., & Booth, A. (2009). 'A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies', *Health information & Libraries Journal*, 26(2), pp. 91-108. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x

Methodology

Methodology



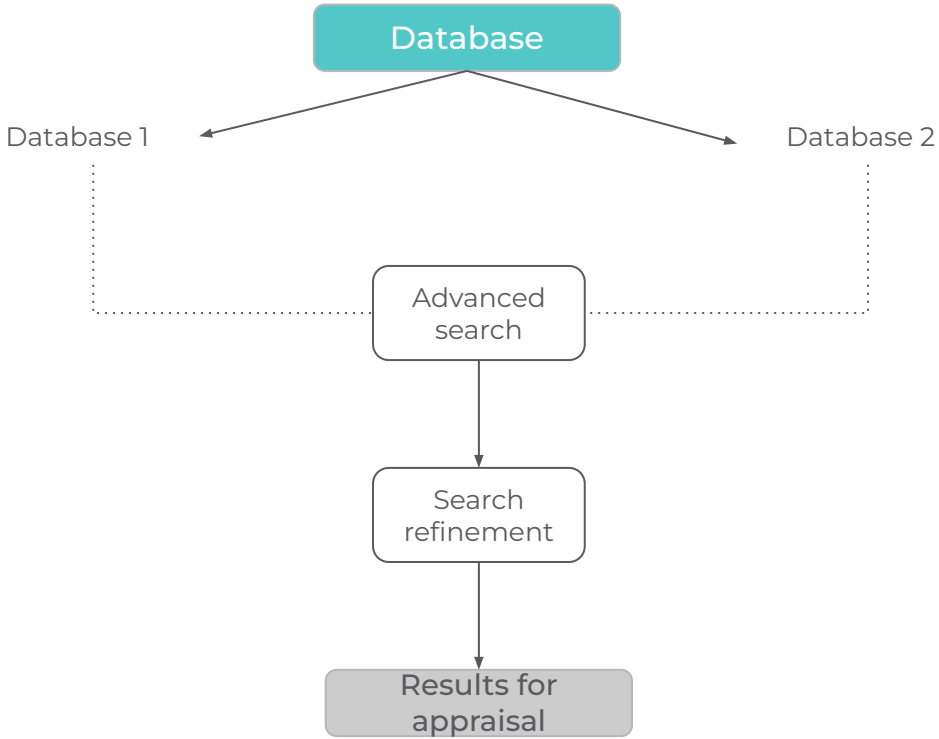
Grant, M. J., & Booth, A. (2009). 'A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies', *Health information & Libraries Journal*, 26(2), pp. 91-108. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x

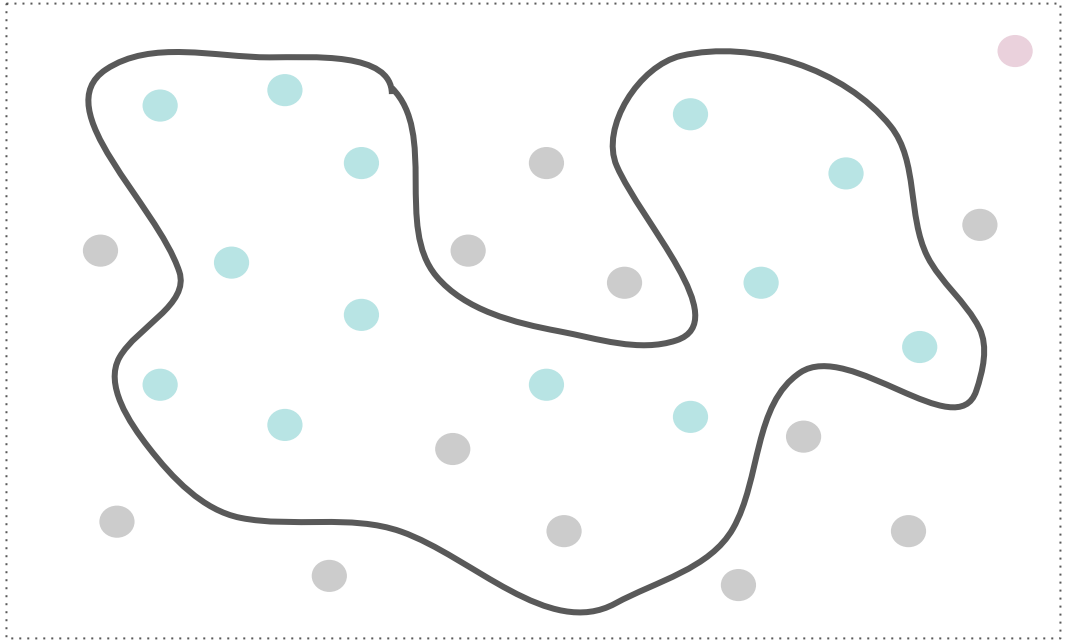
Search
AppraisaL
Synthesis
Analysis

Checklist

- ☑ Keep record of the search process
- ☑ Select sources of information
- ☑ Choose the right keywords
- ☑ Form your search equation
- ☑ Use advanced search filters and refine results
- ☑ Save your search

Search process diagram




False positive
True positive
False negative

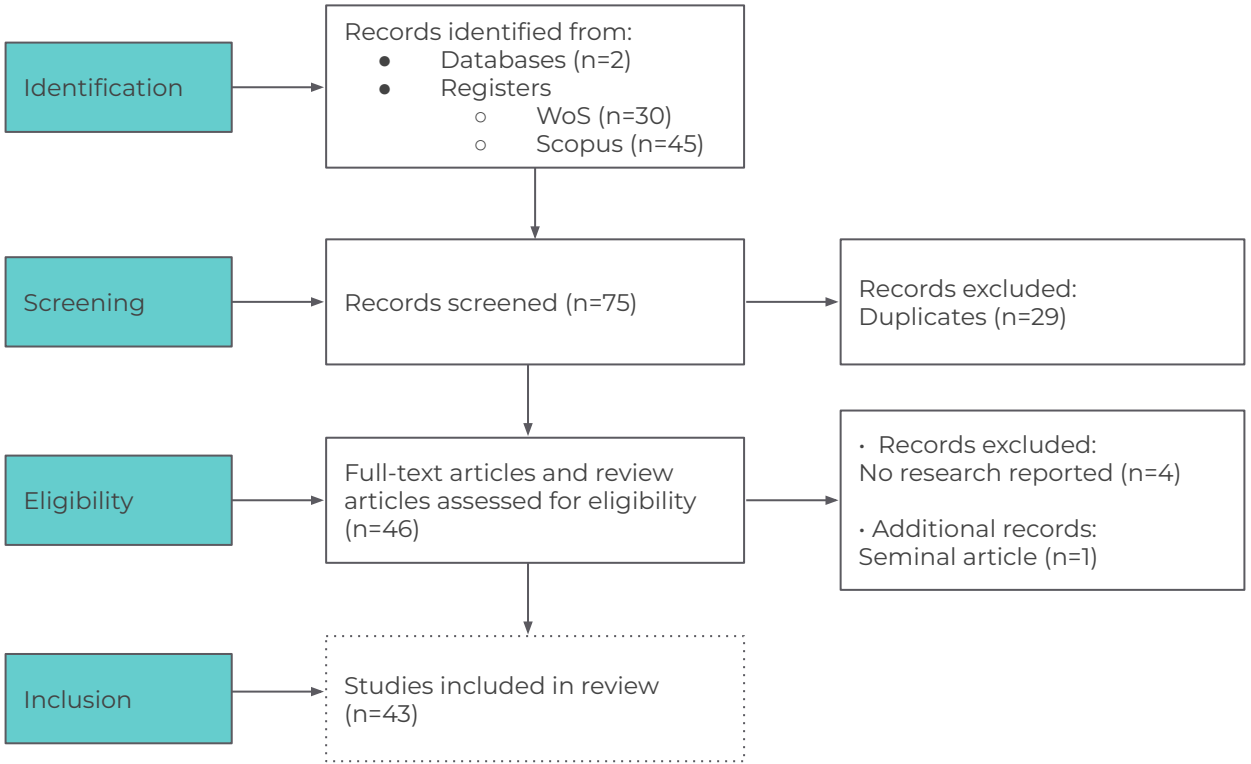
Search
AppraisaL
Synthesis
Analysis

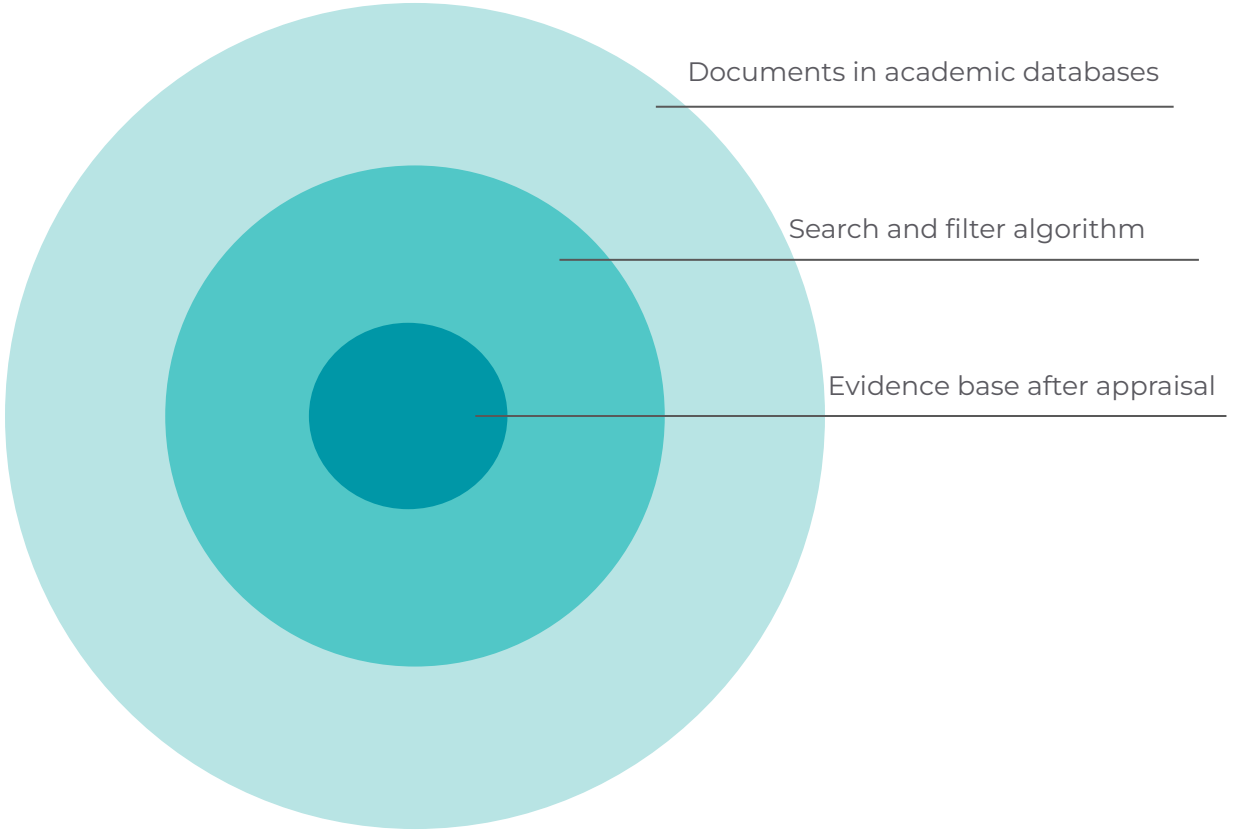
Checklist

- ☑ Keep record of the appraisal process
- ☑ Read abstracts
- ☑ Remove false positives
- ☑ Remove duplicates
- ☑ Confirm your evidence base

SALSA
framework

Flow Diagram (masked data)

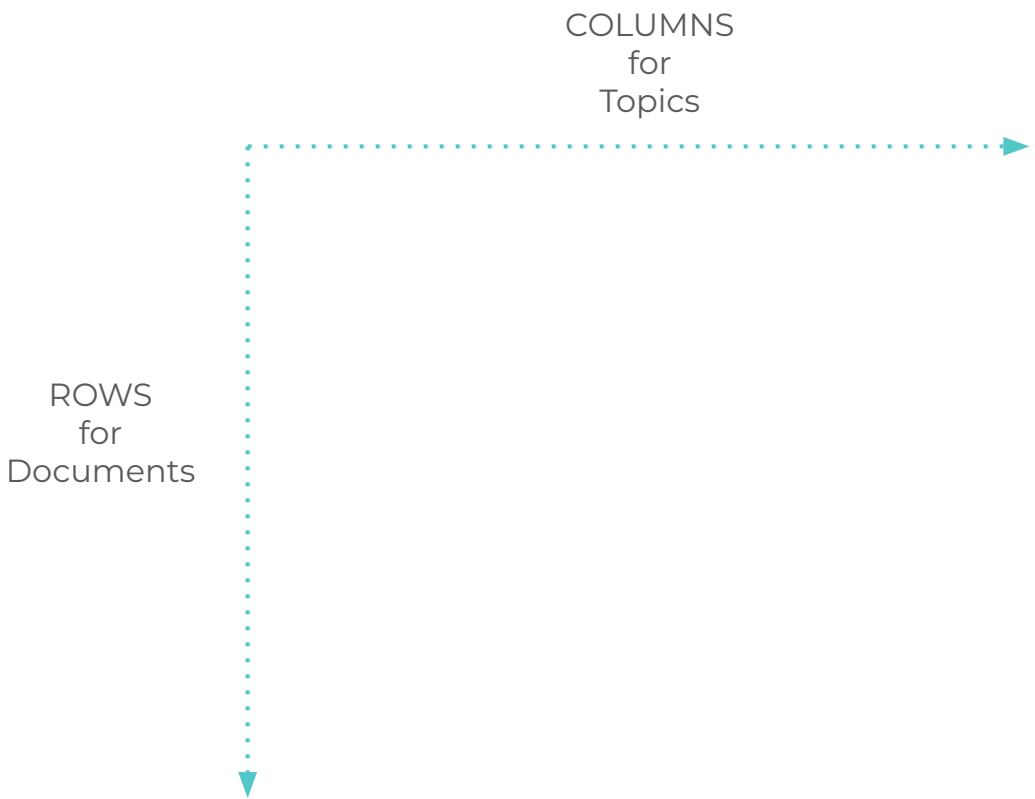



Documents in academic databases
Search and filter algorithm
Evidence base after appraisal

Search
AppraisaL
Synthesis
Analysis

SALSA
framework

Matrix



SALSA framework

Examples of Types of Data

Bibliographic Data	Narrative Data	Geographical Data	SDGs Data
Authorship	Object of study	Continent	Quotes
Year of publication	Objectives	Country	Mapped by Scopus
Title	Methodology	Region	
Keywords	Results		
Source	Implications		

SALSA
framework

Example 1 - Bibliographic Data

ID	Author	Year	Title	Keywords	Source
1	Ripoll-González, Laura; Gale, Fred	2020	Place branding as participatory governance? An interdisciplinary case study of Tasmania, Australia	participatory governance; place branding; public policy; regional studies; action research; place development; Tasmania	Sage Open
2	Acuti, Diletta; Grazzini, Laura; Mazzoli, Valentina; Aiello, Gaetano	2019	Stakeholder engagement in green place branding: A focus on user-generated content	city identity; city image; environmental policy; green city; place branding; stakeholder engagement; user-generated content	Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management

SALSA
framework

Example 2 - Geographical Data (masked data)

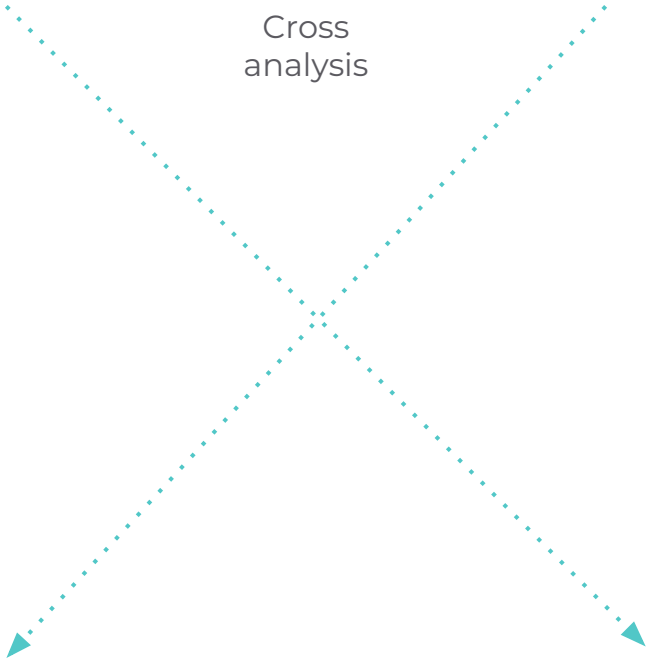
ID	Continent	Country	Region
8	Europe	Denmark	Aarhus
9	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
10	South America	Brazil	Rio de Janeiro
11	Asia	China	Pekin

Search
AppraisaL
Synthesis
Analysis

SALSA
framework

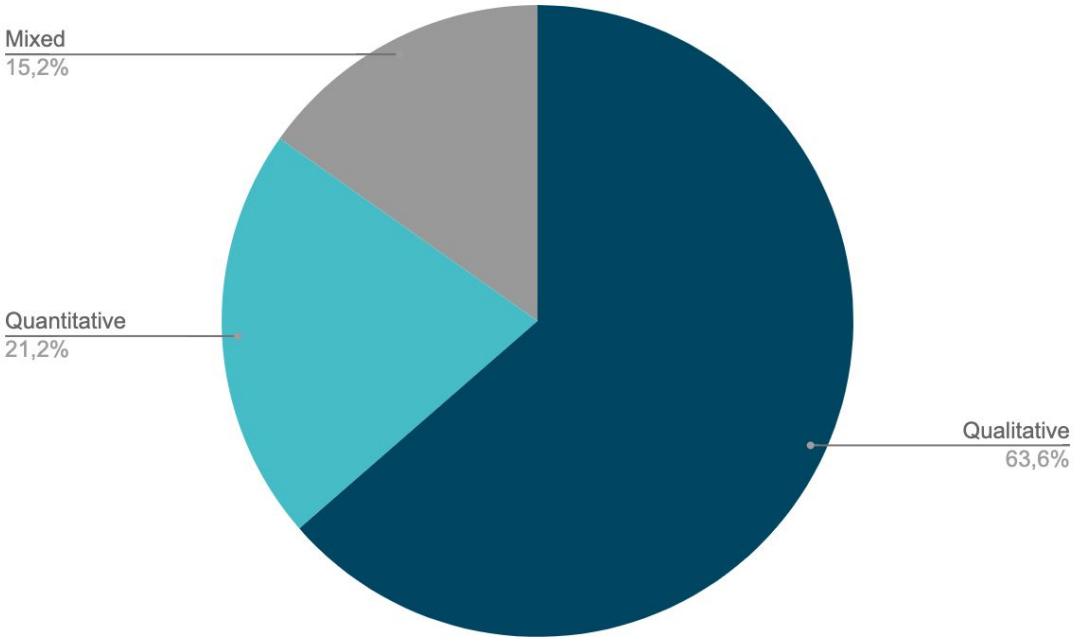
Linear
analysis

Cross
analysis



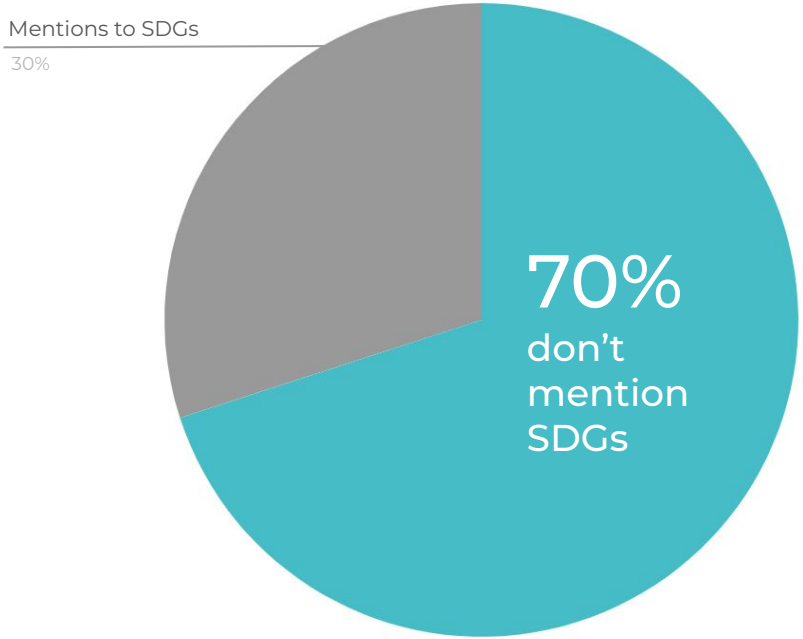
SALSA
framework

Example 1 - Linear Analysis (masked data)



SALSA
framework

Example 2 - Cross Analysis (masked data)



Researches published from 2015 (n=25)

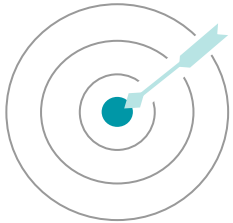
Lessons Learned

1 Starting a scoping review

Your strategy determines your result

Choose the right keywords and databases

Design an appropriate data extraction strategy



Keep track of your progress

2 Writing a research article

Framing your research

Write a report

- Datasets

Agree on authorship

- Conceptualisation
- Contribution
- Revision

Choose a journal

- Scope
- Indexation
- Positioning
- Issues
- Language
- Charges

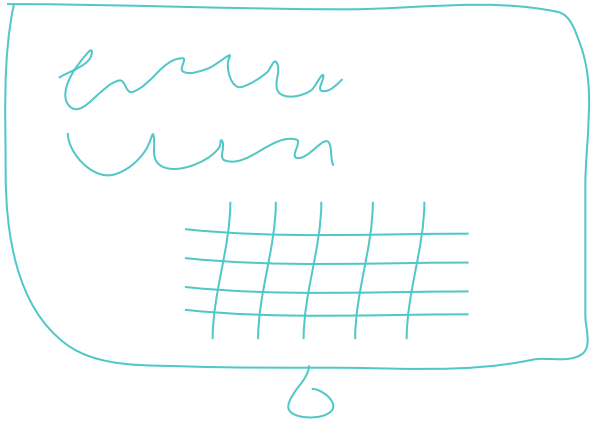
Write your paper

- IMRaD structure
- Formal tone

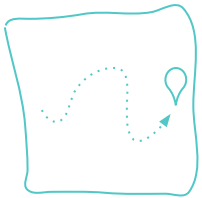
3 Giving a presentation

It's your time to shine

Manage your time



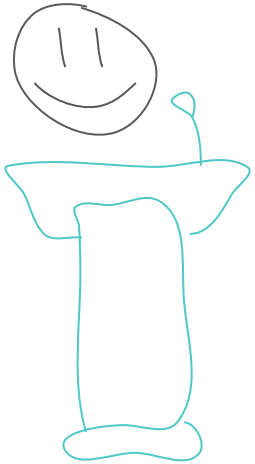
Programme your trip



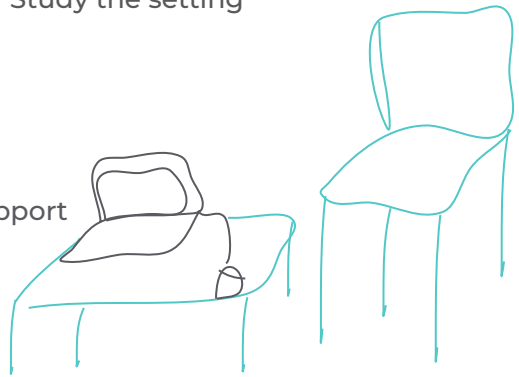
Enjoy the spotlight

Stress your methodology

Worry, but not too much



Study the setting

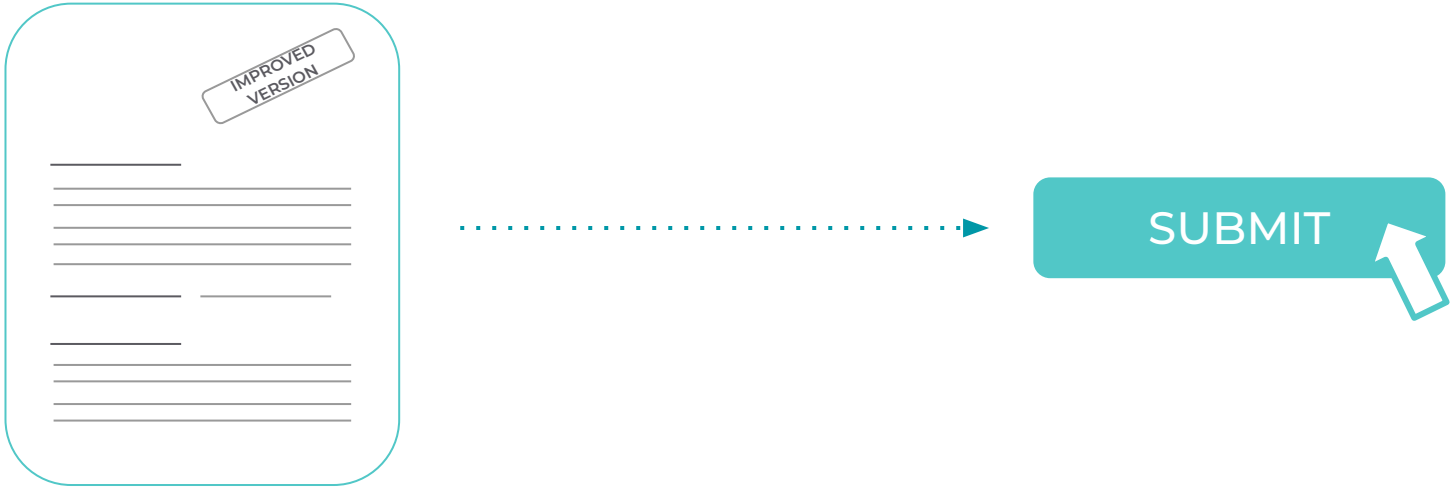


Practice your speech

Bring your
logistic support

4 Leveraging the research article

Upgrade your version to ‘Pro’



Conclusion

Academic databases contain a vast collection of articles published in **peer-reviewed journals**, serving as the **primary source for scientific advancement**. A comprehensive understanding of these databases and the development of systematic reviews allows for a **rigorous and transparent approach** to producing literature reviews and research articles.

Terminology

Advanced search

Scoping reviews

Matrices

Academic databases

Peer-reviewed journals

IMRaD structure

SALSA framework

False positives

False negatives

Search equations

Boolean operators

Research articles

Evidence base

Systematised reviews

FROM...

High energy, low focus

TO...

Mastering the state-of-the-art

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Thank you!

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