



# MASTERING THE SYSTEMATIC REVIEW DAY - 8

# TODAY'S TARGET

## CONTINUING WHERE WE LEFT...

**"MASTERING PROSPERO: STEP-BY-STEP REGISTRATION MADE SIMPLE!"**

**"UNLOCKING JOURNALS: YOUR GATEWAY TO PUBLICATION!"**

# LIST OF 12 QUESTIONS ON PROSPERO

- ☒ REVIEW TITLE AND BASIC DETAILS
- ☒ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
- ☒ SIMILAR REVIEWS
- ☒ TIMELINE OF THE REVIEW
- ☐ AVAILABILITY OF FULL PROTOCOL
- ☐ SEARCHING AND SCREENING
- ☐ DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

# LIST OF 12 QUESTIONS ON PROSPERO

- ☐ OUTCOMES TO BE ANALYSED
  - ☐ PLANNED DATA SYNTHESIS
  - ☐ CURRENT REVIEW STAGE
  - ☐ REVIEW AFFILIATION, FUNDING AND PEER REVIEW
- ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



## 5) AVAILABILITY OF FULL PROTOCOL

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This question is asking whether your complete plan (protocol) for the systematic review has been published anywhere else (e.g., in a journal, a website, or other platforms).





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## □ 5) AVAILABILITY OF FULL PROTOCOL

### WHAT SHOULD YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR ANSWER?

You have two choices, depending on your situation:

1) If your protocol is NOT published anywhere yet:

**Write something like this:**

“The full protocol has not been published elsewhere but will be made available upon request.”



## 5) AVAILABILITY OF FULL PROTOCOL

2) If your protocol IS already published somewhere (e.g., on a journal or website):

**Write something like this:**

“The full protocol is published on [Name of Journal or Website] and can be accessed at [insert link].”



## ❑ 5) AVAILABILITY OF FULL PROTOCOL

### BONUS TIP

If you want to share your protocol later, you can upload it on Open Science Framework (OSF) – it's free and allows open sharing:



<https://osf.io>



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### A) SEARCH FOR UNPUBLISHED STUDIES

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Unpublished studies include things like theses, dissertations, preprints, or clinical trial reports that are not in journals.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

IF YOU PLAN TO INCLUDE THESE, SAY “YES, WE WILL INCLUDE GREY LITERATURE LIKE PREPRINTS AND THESES.”

IF NOT, SAY “NO, ONLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES WILL BE INCLUDED.”



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### B) MAIN BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES THAT WILL BE SEARCHED

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Which main platforms will you use to find studies?

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

#### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL SEARCH PUBMED, GOOGLE SCHOLAR, COCHRANE LIBRARY, AND SCIENCEDIRECT.”

(ADD OTHERS LIKE DOAJ, EMBASE, IF APPLICABLE.)



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### C) SEARCH LANGUAGE RESTRICTIONS

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Will you limit your search to studies in a particular language?

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

#### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL INCLUDE ONLY STUDIES PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH.”

OR

“NO LANGUAGE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE APPLIED.”



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### D) SEARCH DATE RESTRICTIONS

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Are you limiting your search to studies published in a certain time period?

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

#### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL INCLUDE STUDIES PUBLISHED FROM 2010 TO 2024.”

OR

“NO DATE RESTRICTIONS WILL BE APPLIED.”



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### E) OTHER METHODS OF IDENTIFYING STUDIES

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Apart from database searching, will you find studies in other ways?

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

#### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL ALSO CHECK REFERENCE LISTS OF INCLUDED STUDIES AND SEARCH TRIAL REGISTRIES LIKE CLINICALTRIALS.GOV.”

(ALSO MENTION: EXPERT CONSULTATION, CONTACTING AUTHORS IF NEEDED.)





## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### F) LINK TO SEARCH STRATEGY

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

If you already created your detailed search strategy (keywords, Boolean operators, filters), you can upload or link it.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A LINK, SAY:

“THE SEARCH STRATEGY IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND WILL BE SHARED UPON REQUEST.”

OR

“WE WILL USE A COMBINATION OF KEYWORDS AND MESH TERMS WITH BOOLEAN OPERATORS LIKE AND/OR IN PUBMED. FOR EXAMPLE: (SMOKING CESSATION) AND (CHOLESTEROL) AND (DIET OR EXERCISE).”



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### G) SELECTION PROCESS

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

How will you choose which studies to include?

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

#### EXAMPLE:

“TWO REVIEWERS WILL SCREEN TITLES AND ABSTRACTS INDEPENDENTLY. FULL TEXTS WILL THEN BE REVIEWED TO DECIDE ELIGIBILITY. ANY DISAGREEMENTS WILL BE RESOLVED BY DISCUSSION OR A THIRD REVIEWER.”



## 6) SEARCHING AND SCREENING

### H) OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION ABOUT SEARCHING AND SCREENING

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Anything else useful about your process?

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

#### EXAMPLE:

#### YOU CAN SAY:

“WE WILL USE FREE TOOLS LIKE RAYYAN FOR SCREENING AND ENDNOTE/ZOTERO FOR MANAGING REFERENCES.”

IF NOTHING EXTRA TO ADD, SIMPLY WRITE: “NOT APPLICABLE.”



## 7) DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

### A) DATA EXTRACTION FROM PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND REPORTS

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THIS IS ABOUT HOW YOU WILL COLLECT IMPORTANT DETAILS FROM THE STUDIES YOU FOUND.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

##### EXAMPLE:

“TWO REVIEWERS WILL EXTRACT DATA INDEPENDENTLY USING A PRE-DESIGNED TABLE. INFORMATION COLLECTED WILL INCLUDE STUDY AUTHOR, YEAR, POPULATION, INTERVENTION, OUTCOME, AND RESULTS.”

✓ YOU CAN ALSO MENTION IF YOU’LL USE TOOLS LIKE EXCEL, GOOGLE SHEETS.



## 7) DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

### B) STUDY RISK OF BIAS OR QUALITY ASSESSMENT

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THIS IS HOW YOU WILL CHECK THE QUALITY AND FAIRNESS OF EACH STUDY. YOU'LL SEE IF THE STUDY WAS DONE WELL OR IF IT HAD PROBLEMS (BIAS).

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

##### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL USE THE ROB-2 TOOL TO ASSESS THE RISK OF BIAS FOR RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS. TWO REVIEWERS WILL ASSESS INDEPENDENTLY. DISAGREEMENTS WILL BE RESOLVED THROUGH DISCUSSION.”



## 7) DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

### C) REPORTING BIAS ASSESSMENT

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THIS MEANS CHECKING IF SOME RESULTS ARE MISSING OR IF ONLY POSITIVE RESULTS WERE REPORTED (WHICH CAN GIVE A FALSE IMPRESSION).

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

##### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL COMPARE THE STUDY’S PROTOCOL OR CLINICAL TRIAL REGISTRATION WITH ITS FINAL PUBLISHED RESULTS TO CHECK FOR SELECTIVE REPORTING. IF PROTOCOLS ARE UNAVAILABLE, REPORTING BIAS WILL BE ASSESSED BASED ON THE METHODS AND RESULTS SECTIONS.”

✓ THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF YOU’RE INCLUDING CLINICAL TRIALS.





## 7) DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

### D) CERTAINTY ASSESSMENT

#### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THIS MEANS JUDGING HOW CONFIDENT YOU ARE IN THE RESULTS AND HOW TRUSTWORTHY THE EVIDENCE IS OVERALL.

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?

##### EXAMPLE:

“WE WILL USE THE GRADE APPROACH TO EVALUATE THE CERTAINTY OF EVIDENCE ACROSS STUDIES FOR EACH MAIN OUTCOME. FACTORS SUCH AS RISK OF BIAS, INCONSISTENCY, AND PRECISION WILL BE CONSIDERED.”



## 8) OUTCOMES TO BE ANALYSED

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This question asks you to list what results you are going to focus on in your systematic review. These are called outcomes.

Think of outcomes as the things you're trying to measure or find out from the studies you include.



## 8) OUTCOMES TO BE ANALYSED

### HOW TO ANSWER IN PROSPERO?

#### 1. LIST YOUR MAIN (PRIMARY) OUTCOME

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.

**EXAMPLE:**

**PRIMARY OUTCOME:** LDL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS IN PEOPLE WHO QUIT SMOKING.

#### 2. LIST YOUR SECONDARY OUTCOMES (IF ANY)

THESE ARE OTHER USEFUL THINGS YOU'LL REPORT BUT THEY'RE NOT THE MAIN FOCUS.

**EXAMPLE:**

**SECONDARY OUTCOMES:** HDL CHOLESTEROL, TOTAL CHOLESTEROL, TRIGLYCERIDES, BMI, BLOOD PRESSURE.



## 8) OUTCOMES TO BE ANALYSED

### BONUS TIP

**Make sure the outcomes you mention here match what you collect during the data extraction stage. No need to guess results—just state what you plan to look for.**



## 9) PLANNED DATA SYNTHESIS

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This section asks you to explain how you will put the findings from different studies together. This is the “data synthesis” part of your systematic review – where you combine and summarize what all the studies say.

There are two main types of data synthesis:

- **Narrative synthesis** (words-based summary)
- **Meta-analysis** (statistics-based summary)



## 9) PLANNED DATA SYNTHESIS

### HOW TO ANSWER IN PROSPERO?

#### 1. NARRATIVE SYNTHESIS

USE THIS IF YOU'RE EXPLAINING RESULTS WITHOUT USING COMPLEX STATS OR SOFTWARE

#### 2. META- ANALYSIS (IF APPLICABLE)

ONLY FOR THOSE USING STATISTICAL METHODS (E.G., CALCULATING AVERAGE EFFECT SIZES).

 ONLY WRITE THIS IF YOU'RE CONFIDENT WITH STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND SOFTWARE





## 10) CURRENT REVIEW STAGE

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THIS QUESTION IS ASKING:

**"HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU IN YOUR SYSTEMATIC REVIEW?"**

YOU NEED TO TICK/MENTION THE STAGES YOU'VE ALREADY COMPLETED AND WHAT YOU'RE CURRENTLY WORKING ON. THIS HELPS PROSPERO KNOW THAT YOU'RE REGISTERING THE REVIEW EARLY ENOUGH (BEFORE RESULTS ARE FULLY ANALYZED).



## 10) REVIEW AFFILIATION, FUNDING & PEER REVIEW

### A) REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS

#### WHAT IS IT?

THIS IS WHERE YOU LIST ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING ON THE REVIEW.

#### WHAT TO INCLUDE:

- FULL NAMES
- ROLES (E.G., LEAD AUTHOR, DATA EXTRACTOR, SUPERVISOR, ETC.)
- INSTITUTION (IF ANY)



## 10) REVIEW AFFILIATION, FUNDING & PEER REVIEW

### B) REVIEW AFFILIATION

#### WHAT IS IT?

THE INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION YOUR REVIEW IS CONNECTED TO (IF ANY).

#### IF NO OFFICIAL AFFILIATION?

THAT'S OKAY! YOU CAN SIMPLY WRITE:

**“THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT-LED REVIEW PROJECT WITHOUT  
INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION.”**



## 11) REVIEW AFFILIATION, FUNDING & PEER REVIEW

### C) FUNDING SOURCE

#### WHAT IS IT?

YOU NEED TO STATE WHETHER ANY ORGANIZATION OR PERSON IS FUNDING YOUR WORK — INCLUDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT, RESEARCH GRANTS, OR SCHOLARSHIPS.

#### IF THERE IS NO FUNDING:

THAT'S PERFECTLY FINE. JUST SAY:

**“NO EXTERNAL FUNDING WAS RECEIVED FOR THIS REVIEW.”**



## 11) REVIEW AFFILIATION, FUNDING & PEER REVIEW

### D) PEER REVIEW

#### WHAT IS IT?

THEY WANT TO KNOW WHETHER YOUR REVIEW HAS ALREADY BEEN CHECKED BY EXPERTS OR ADVISORS (E.G., A TEACHER, SUPERVISOR, OR JOURNAL EDITOR).

#### IF YES:

“THE REVIEW PROTOCOL HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY DR. X, SENIOR FACULTY MEMBER AT XYZ UNIVERSITY.”

#### IF NOT YET PEER-REVIEWED:

“THE PROTOCOL HAS NOT YET UNDERGONE PEER REVIEW BUT MAY BE REVIEWED BEFORE JOURNAL SUBMISSION.”



## 12) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### A) REVIEW CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### WHAT IS IT?

YOU MUST DECLARE IF ANY TEAM MEMBER COULD PERSONALLY BENEFIT FROM THE RESULTS OF THIS REVIEW. THIS INCLUDES FINANCIAL INTERESTS, INSTITUTIONAL PRESSURE, OR PERSONAL BELIEFS THAT MIGHT BIAS YOUR REVIEW.

IF THERE'S NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

**"THE AUTHORS DECLARE NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST."**

IF THERE IS ONE:

**YOU MUST CLEARLY DESCRIBE IT.**





## 12) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

# B) MEDICAL SUBJECT HEADING (MESH)



*Thank you for having you guys!!!*

**SEE YOU AT  
WORKSHOP!!!**