

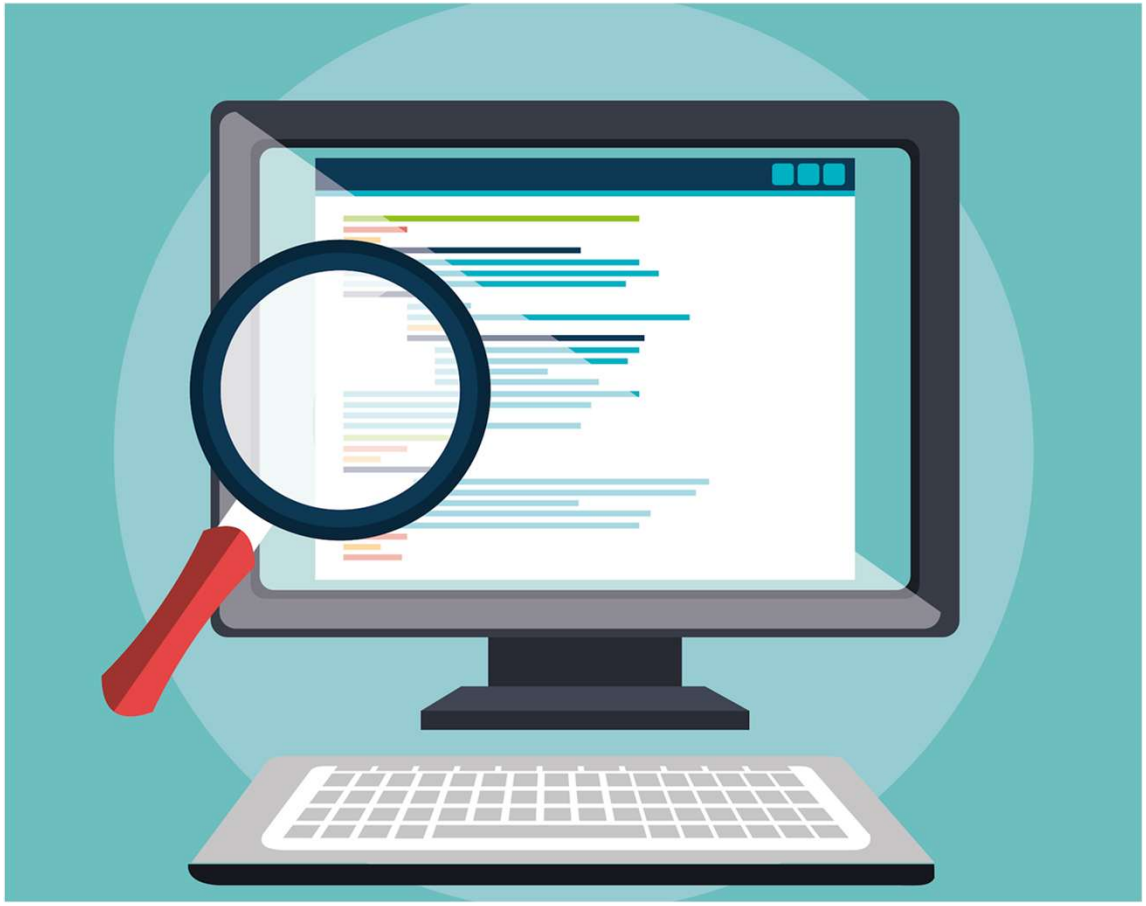
Search Filters:
a 'Net Gain' for literature searching

Cecily Gilbert, AALIA Health
Honorary Research Specialist
University of Melbourne
Centre for Digital Transformation of Health
| Mob: 043 1210 043 | E: cecilygilbert@yahoo.com.au

Search filters combine words & phrases to retrieve records with a common feature, e.g. study design, clinical topic.

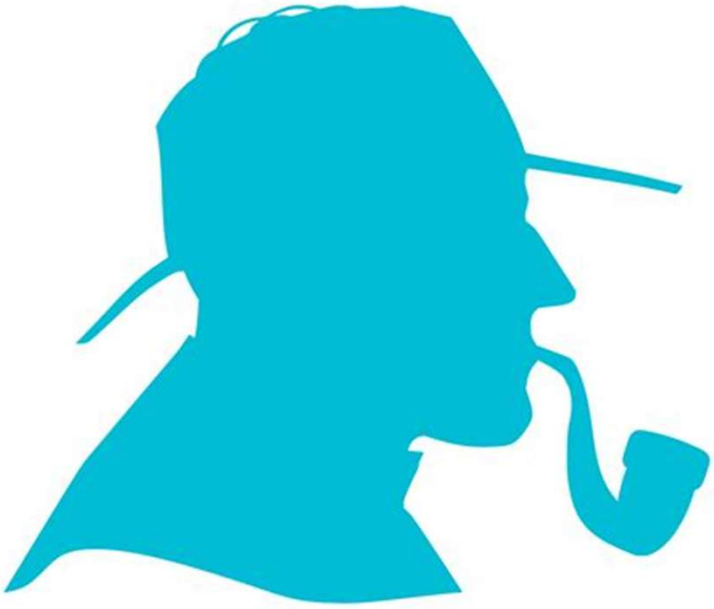
"A systematic review cannot be done properly without a systematic search" –

Paul Levay (2022)



Designed by studiogstock / Freepik

1. What is already known?

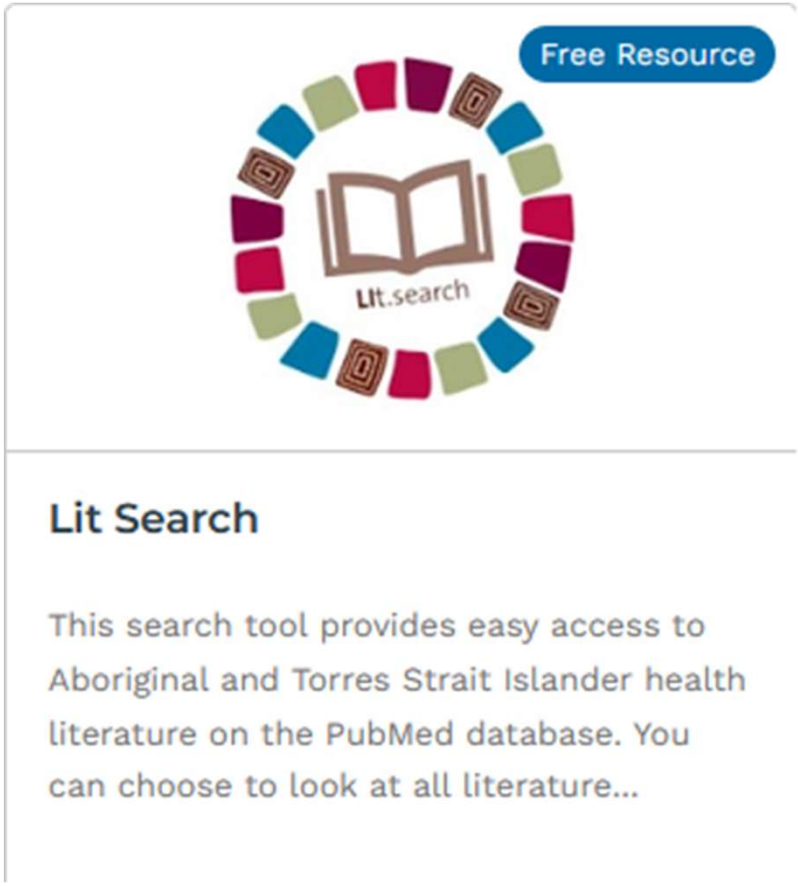


Search strategies for literature reviews:

- take time to devise
- lean heavily on other people's searches
- found in search filter repositories.

Lowitja Institute *Lit.search* tool finds Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health literature

- 27 pre-defined topics
- searches in PubMed database
- user can add keywords to focus search topic, dates etc.
- filter launched in 2014



More local examples

Health Libraries Australia

NSQHS Standards – Live Literature Searches

SEARCHES:

Partnering with Consumers: Health Literacy | Partnering with consumers | Shared decision making

Healthcare Associated Infections: Infection prevention | Wound management

Medication Safety: Medication safety

Comprehensive Care: Delirium | Falls prevention | Pressure injuries | Malnutrition

Communicating for Safety: Clinical handover

Blood Management: Blood management

Acute Deterioration: Delirium | Deteriorating patient

Flinders Filters

real world solutions - search filters and online search tools

Developing search filters

The development of search filters by Flinders Filters and CareSearch follows an established methodology designed to be objective and to minimise bias, set out in the published papers associated with each filter.

Repository examples overseas

The InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group Search Filter Resource

ISSG Search Filters Resource (@issg-filters.bsky.social)

The ISSG Search Filters Resource is a collaborative venture to identify, assess and test #searchfilters designed to retrieve research by study design or focus. Website: https://t.co/g0gFnjkI24

Library of Search Strategy Resources

- Open access site
- Compiled by members in UK, Europe, Canada, US



CDA-AMC Canada's Drug Agency / L'Agence des médicaments du Canada

Search Filters Database

ISSG search filter resource – Carol Lefebvre & Julie Glanville

Wide array of topic filters

- study designs or focus
- settings
- population groups
- geographic areas
- concepts – AI, health equity, patient safety, deprescribing, quality improvement…more!

Core UK group plans & evaluates work

International cohort of volunteers (like me!) for data extraction

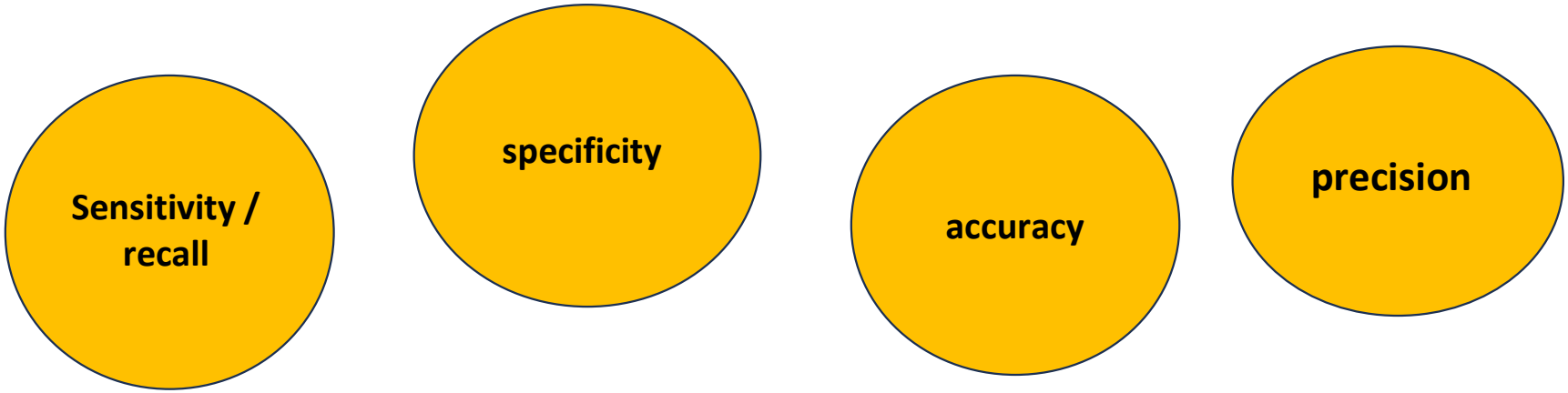
- ISSG *Search Filter Checklist* proforma

Resources list updated monthly.

Creating a **Validated** search filter

6-step process - needs time & patience

- 2 sets of citations: “development set” and “validation set”
- metrics include:



Using a filter? Implications for practice and/or policy

- Test results of filter use before full-scale implementation in search
- Discuss potential impact of filter use with review author team
- Sensitive strategies advisable for searches on service delivery, practice guidance, policy or change management
- Caution when filters or strategies are AI-assisted
- Be aware of the automated methods used by external vendors in their multidisciplinary databases.

What filter do **you** wish for?

