

Searching – The basics

Sources and Strategies

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Specialist, ScHARR, University of
Sheffield

What we'll look at:

- About Qualitative Research
- Focusing Qualitative Questions
- Sources of Qualitative Research
- Case study: worked search example
- Practical: Sifting Abstracts Exercise
- Challenges for Searching

Types of Qualitative Research

Qualitative Research

- “Research that derives data from observation, interviews, or verbal interactions and focuses on the meanings and interpretations of the participants (From Holloway and Wheeler, "Ethical issues in qualitative nursing research," Nursing Ethics, 1995 Sep; 2(3): 223-232). Year introduced: 2003”

[MeSH]

Why is it important? - 1

- Qualitative research seeks to understand and interpret personal experiences, behaviours, interactions, and social contexts to explain the phenomena of interest, such as the attitudes, beliefs, and perspectives of patients and clinicians; the interpersonal nature of caregiver and patient relationships; the illness experience; or the impact of human suffering. (Wong et al, 2004)

Why is it important? - 2

- “Qualitative”, represents various research methodologies including ethnography, phenomenology, grounded theory, and narrative analysis. Instead of quantifying or statistically portraying the data, qualitative research focuses on the narrative account of the individual and in so doing gives voice to the patient or provider in the health care decision making process (Wong et al, 2004)

Why do qualitative research?

“Qualitative research has an important role in evidence-based health care, in that it represents the **human dimensions** and experiences of the consumers of health care. This type of research does not answer questions concerning the effectiveness of health care; rather it provides important information about such things as the appropriateness of care and the impact of illness. It also provides a means of **giving consumers a voice** in the decision-making process through the documentation of their experiences, preferences, and priorities.”

Evans, D.
“Database searches for qualitative research”.
J Med Libr Assoc. 2002 Jul; 90(3):290-3.

Qualitative meta-synthesis: contributions to evidence based practice

- For generation of models and theories.
- For subsequent validation and gauging of the empirical support for theories.
- In methodological reviews in determining the existence of certain bodies or "schools" of thought.
- To chart the longitudinal development of concepts
- To complement findings and interpretation of quantitative SRs, e.g. patient acceptance or compliance.
- In identifying significant domains or attributes to enable the development of prototype instruments or scales.

Booth A (2001) Cochrane or Cock-eyed: how should we conduct systematic reviews of qualitative research?

Focusing Qualitative Questions

A structure for formulated questions

Health services research uses **PATIENT-INTERVENTION-COMPARISON-OUTCOME (PICO)** structure

Within social sciences research the following may be more appropriate:

SETTING

PERSPECTIVE

INTERVENTION / EXPOSURE / INTEREST

COMPARISON

EVALUATION

An example of SPICE [Actual Example]

- **SETTING** – Awaiting Surgery
- **PERSPECTIVE** – Patients
- **INTERVENTION** - Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery
- **COMPARISON** – None
- **EVALUATION** – Uncertainty and Anxiety

An example of SPICE

- **SETTING** – Primary Care
- **PERSPECTIVE** – Patients with Diabetes
- **INTERVENTION** – Good Blood Pressure Control
- **COMPARISON** – None
- **EVALUATION** – Attitudes

Try one!

- What is the impact of childhood cancer on their parents in terms of their quality of life in the home?

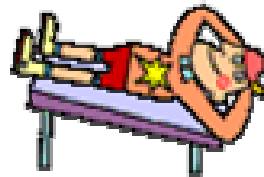


An alternative - ProPheT!

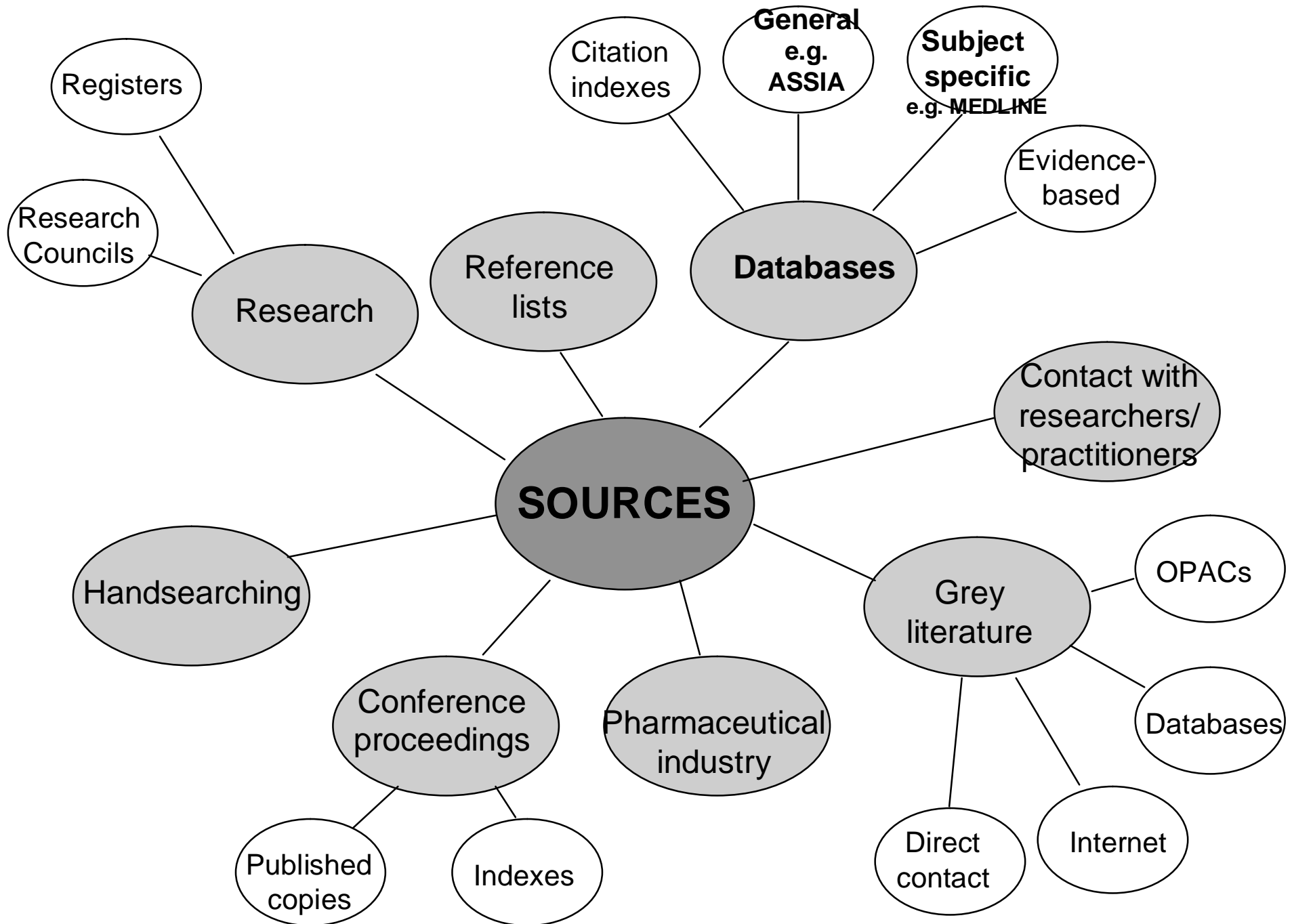
- **P**roblem – First time mothers
- **P**henomenon of Interest – Attitudes to Breastfeeding
- **T**ime – Within first six months of birth



Exercise: Now you try! Use the SPICE framework to formulate your own research question



Sources of Qualitative Research



Sources of Qualitative Research - 1

Journal Articles

- ASSIA
- British Nursing Index
- CINAHL
- ERIC
- MEDLINE
- Social Science Citation Index
- Sociological Abstracts

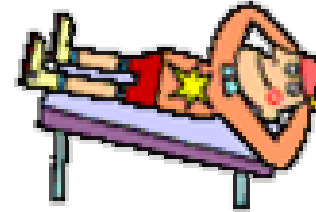
Sources of Qualitative Research - 2

Dissertations

- Dissertation Abstracts
- Index to Theses
- CINAHL

Books and Book Chapters

- British Library OPAC
- COPAC
- Specialist Library Collections



Exercise

Identifying Qualitative Research from Abstracts

Identifying Qualitative Research - Terminology

- Generic terms: e.g. “qualitative” plus
- **Exploratory Methods:** Focus group, Grounded theory, Action Research, Content analysis, Thematic analysis
- **Software:** Nudist or NVivo
- **Citations:** Glaser & Strauss
- **Application:** Ethnology, Psychology
- **Phenomenon:** Perceptions, Attitudes, User Views, Standpoint, Viewpoint
- **Approaches:** Ethnographic
- **Data:** Stories, Narratives, Descriptions, Themes, Findings
- **Experiences:** Encounters, Experiences

Case Study – A fistful of doulas?



- You are working on an ESRC funded project looking at the benefits of a doula (a woman experienced in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to the mother before, during and just after childbirth) for low-income mothers.

Our example of SPICE

- **SETTING** – the Developed World (with comparable health systems to the UK)
- **PERSPECTIVE** – Low-income mothers
- **INTERVENTION** – Doula (Lay support)
- **COMPARISON** – Professional support [or No Support]
- **EVALUATION** – Perceived levels of social support, birth outcomes, levels of breastfeeding etc.

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 Map Term to Subject Heading Universal Search

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Mapping Display

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:
Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the tree.

Include All Subheadings

Combine selections with:

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor, Obstetric	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Midwifery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mothers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Delivery, Obstetric	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Obstetrical Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nurse's Role	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Breast Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caregivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>doula.mp. search as Keyword</i>			

Hints:

- Click on a Subject Heading to view its tree - related terms that are more general and more specific.
- Select the Explode box if you wish to retrieve results using the selected term and all of its more specific terms.
- Select the Focus box if you wish to limit your search to those documents in which your subject heading is considered the major point of the article.
- If your search did not map to a desirable subject heading, select the box Search as Keyword.
- If you select more than one term, you can combine them using a boolean operator (AND or OR).
- If you wish to see the scope note for any term or heading, click on the information [i](#) icon, when available.

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<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	doula.mp.	54	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	social support/ or lay support.mp.	36344	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 or 2	36372	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	childbirth.mp. or parturition/	11623	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	labour.mp. or exp labor, obstetric/	49115	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	4 or 5	57941	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	exp poverty/ or low income.mp.	29411	Advanced	Display More ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3 and 6 and 7	24	Advanced	Display More ▾

CONTRACT

Remove Selected

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Combine selections with:

And

Or

RSS

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Search

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Search >

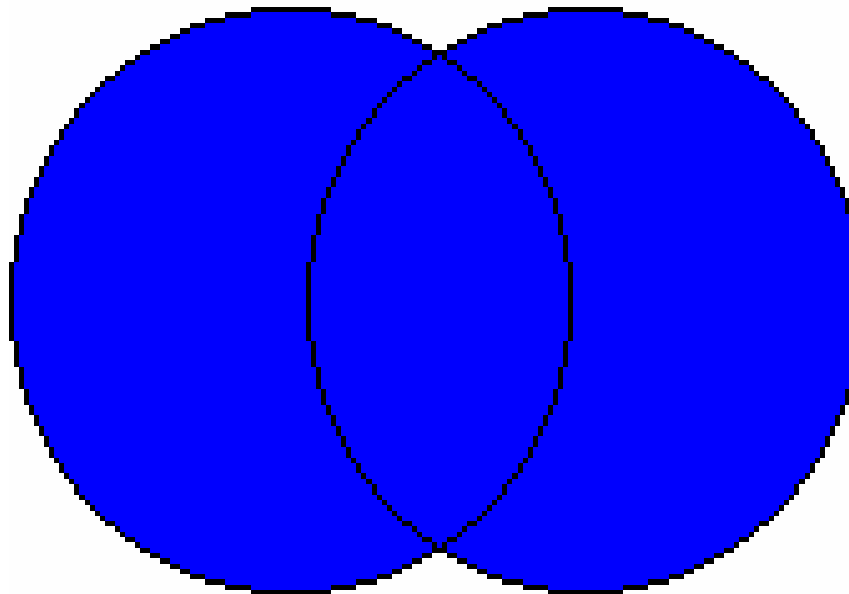
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Boolean - OR

Use to combine like terms or terms within the same concept

DOULAS

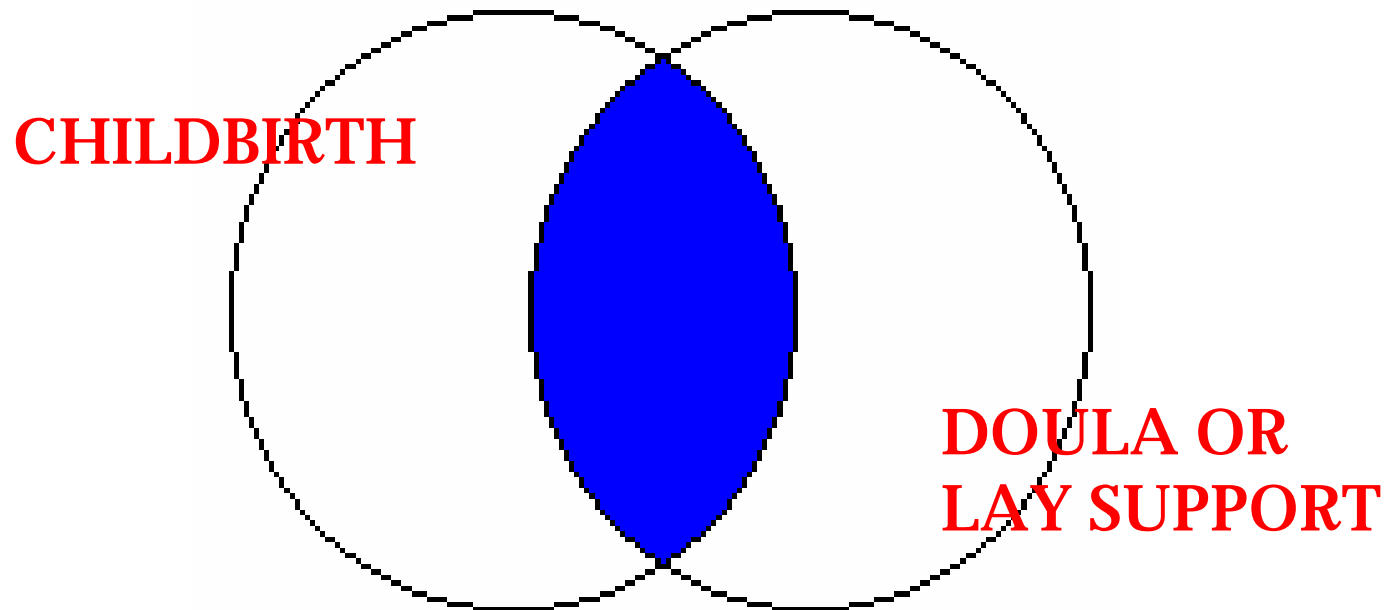


**LAY
SUPPORT**

DOULAS OR LAY SUPPORT

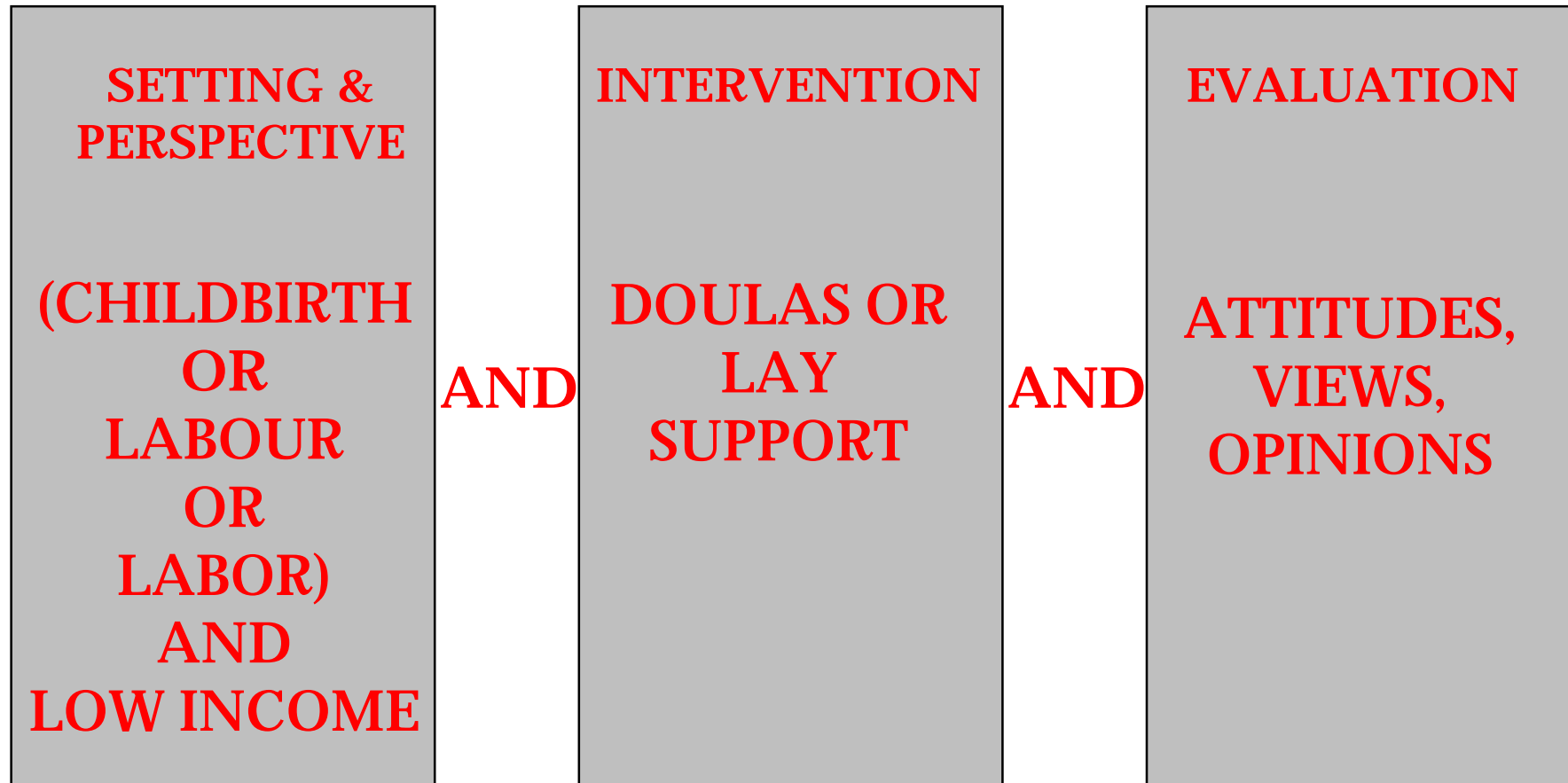
Boolean - AND

Use to combine together different concepts



CHILDBIRTH AND DOULA OR LAY SUPPORT

Using Boolean in your strategy



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<input type="checkbox"/>	2	social support/ or lay support.mp.	36344	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 or 2	36372	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	childbirth.mp. or parturition/	11623	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	labour.mp. or exp labor, obstetric/	49115	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	4 or 5	57941	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	exp poverty/ or low income.mp.	29411	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3 and 6 and 7	24	Advanced	Display More

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Your search

Search terms used:

- childbirth
- doula
- income
- labor, obstetric
- labour
- lay
- low
- parturition
- poverty
- social support
- support

Narrow search

Narrow your results by:

- ▶ Subjects
- ▶ Authors
- ▶ Journals

1. **Doula care, early breastfeeding outcomes, and breastfeeding status at 6 weeks postpartum among low-income primiparae.**

Nommsen-Rivers LA. Mastergeorge AM. Hansen RL. Cullum AS. Dewey KG.
JOGNN - Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing. 38(2):157-73, 2009 Mar-Apr.
 [Journal Article. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't]

UI: 19323712

Authors Full Name
 Nommsen-Rivers, Laurie A. Mastergeorge, Ann M. Hansen, Robin L. Cullum, Arlene S. Dewey, Kathryn G.

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2. **Supporting working carers: do policies in England and The Netherlands reflect 'doulia rights'?**

Arksey H. Moree M.
Health & Social Care in the Community. 16(6):649-57, 2008 Dec.
 [Journal Article. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't]

UI: 18564198

Authors Full Name
 Arksey, Hilary. Moree, Marjolein.

▶ View Abstract

3. **A randomized controlled trial of continuous labor support for middle-class couples: effect on cesarean delivery rates.**

McGrath SK. Kennell JH.
Birth. 35(2):92-7, 2008 Jun.
 [Journal Article. Randomized Controlled Trial. Research Support, N.I.H., Extramural]

UI: 18507579

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Field Tags	Booleans
TS=Topic	AND
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GP=Group Author	SAME
ED=Editor	
SO=Publication Name	
PY=Year Published	
CF=Conference	
AD=Address	
OG=Organization	
SG=Suborganization	
SA=Street Address	
CI=City	
PS=Province/State	
CU=Country	
ZP=Zip/Postal Code	
FO=Funding Agency	
FG=Grant Number	
FT=Funding Text	

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Search within results for

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- EDITORIAL MATERIAL (7)
- MEETING ABSTRACT (5)
- REVIEW (5)
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Authors

Source Titles

Publication Years

Conference Titles

Institutions

Languages

1. Title: The Collaboration for Maternal and Newborn Health: Interprofessional Maternity Care Education for Medical, Midwifery, and Nursing Students
 Author(s): Saxell L, Harris S, Elarar L
 Source: **JOURNAL OF MIDWIFERY & WOMENS HEALTH** Volume: 54 Issue: 4 Pages: 314-320 Published: JUL-AUG 2009
 Times Cited: 0
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2. Title: Chinese midwifery: the history and modernity
 Author(s): Cheung NF
 Source: **MIDWIFERY** Volume: 25 Issue: 3 Pages: 228-241 Published: JUN 2009
 Times Cited: 0
[Find It](#)
3. Title: The role of ethnicity on pain perception in labor among parturients at the university college hospital Ibadan
 Author(s): Olayemi O, Morhason-Bello IO, Adedokun BO, et al.
 Source: **JOURNAL OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY RESEARCH** Volume: 35 Issue: 2 Pages: 277-281 Published: APR 2009
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4. Title: Domains of Postpartum Doula Care and Maternal Responsiveness and Competence
 Author(s): McComish JF, Visger JM
 Source: **JOGNN-JOURNAL OF OBSTETRIC GYNECOLOGIC AND NEONATAL NURSING** Volume: 38 Issue: 2 Pages: 148-156 Published: MAR-APR 2009
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5. Title: Doula Care, Early Breastfeeding Outcomes, and Breastfeeding Status at 6 Weeks Postpartum Among Low-Income Primiparae
 Author(s): Nommensen-Rivers LA, Mastergeorge AM, Hansen RL, et al.
 Source: **JOGNN-JOURNAL OF OBSTETRIC GYNECOLOGIC AND NEONATAL NURSING** Volume: 38 Issue: 2 Pages: 157-173 Published: MAR-APR 2009
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<input type="checkbox"/>	2	social support/ or lay support.mp.	36344	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 or 2	36372	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	childbirth.mp. or parturition/	11623	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	labour.mp. or exp labor, obstetric/	49115	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	4 or 5	57941	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	exp poverty/ or low income.mp.	29411	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	3 and 6 and 7	24	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	(finding or interview* or qualitative).mp. or interviews/	404486	Advanced	Display More
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	3 and 6 and 9	163	Advanced	Display More

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Search terms used:
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doula
finding
interview*
interviews
labor, obstetric
labour
lay
parturition
qualitative
social support
support

Narrow search
Narrow your results by:
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▶ Authors
▶ Journals

[Social outcome of schizophrenics in Tunisia: a transversal study of 60 patients]. [French]

1. Rafrafi R. Zaghoudi L. Mahbouli M. Bouzid R. Labbane R. El Hechmi Z.
Encephale. 35(3):234-40, 2009 Jun.
[Comparative Study. English Abstract. Journal Article]
UI: 19540409

Authors Full Name
Rafrafi, R. Zaghoudi, L. Mahbouli, M. Bouzid, R. Labbane, R. El Hechmi, Z.
▶ View Abstract

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Hispanic Labor Friends Initiative: supporting vulnerable women.

2. Hazard CJ. Callister LC. Birkhead A. Nichols L.
MCN, American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing. 34(2):115-21, 2009 Mar-Apr.
[Comparative Study. Journal Article. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't]
UI: 19262266

Authors Full Name
Hazard, Cambria Jones. Callister, Lynn Clark. Birkhead, Ana. Nichols, Lisa.
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Measurement of maternal perceptions of support and control in birth (SCIB).

3. Ford E. Ayers S. Wright DB.
Journal of Women's Health. 18(2):245-52, 2009 Feb.
[Journal Article. Research Support, Non-U.S. Gov't. Validation Studies]
UI: 19183096

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Abstract Reference
Complete Reference
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Challenges for Searching

Challenges for searching

- Qualitative research is small part of two million plus articles published every year in biomedical research literature
- Inconsistent indexing hinders ability to search the literature.
- Qualitative studies using creative titles or providing inadequate abstracts have greater risk of inappropriate indexing
- Variations in indexing practices necessitate using more than one database and different search filters.
- Qualitative studies in MEDLINE use fewer methodologic index terms than CINAHL which focuses on professions that commonly use qualitative methodologies
- Searching MEDLINE plus CINAHL may improve yield for relevant qualitative studies.

References - 1

- Barroso J, Gallup CJ, Sandelowski M, Meynell J, Pearce PF, Collins LJ: The challenge of searching for and retrieving qualitative studies. *Western Journal of Nursing Research* 2003, **25**:153-178.
- Booth A (2001) *Cochrane or Cock-eyed: how should we conduct systematic reviews of qualitative research?* Qualitative Evidence Based Practice Conference, Coventry, 14-16 May 2001, Coventry University.
- Edward G Miner Library, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY 14642.
- Evans DJ. Database searches for qualitative research. *J Med Libr Assoc* 2002;90:290-293.

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- Evidence Network. Searching Guidelines.
<http://evidencenetwork.org/Searching.html>
- Grayson, L & Gomersall, A. A difficult business: finding the evidence for social science reviews. London: Evidence Network. ESRC UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice, Department of Politics, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, 2003. 23pp (Working Paper 19)
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