

Synthesising Qualitative and Quantitative Data

Options

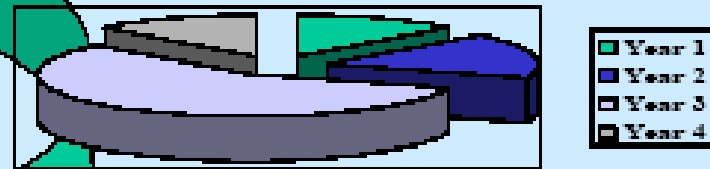
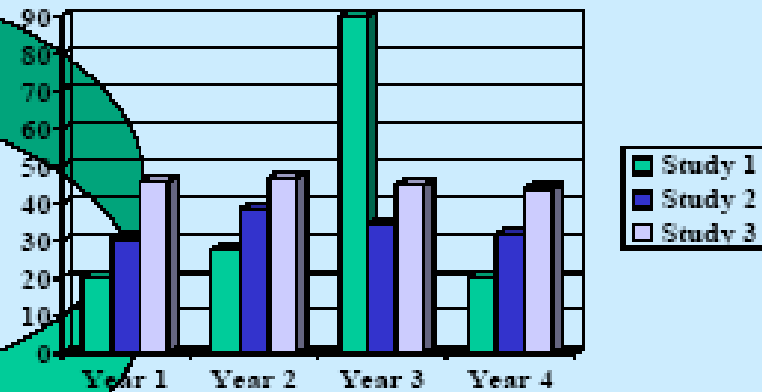
- Narrative Synthesis
- Realist Synthesis
- Bayesian Synthesis
- Critical Interpretative Synthesis
- Eppi-Centre
- Joanna Briggs Institute

Narrative Synthesis

Qualitative theme 1

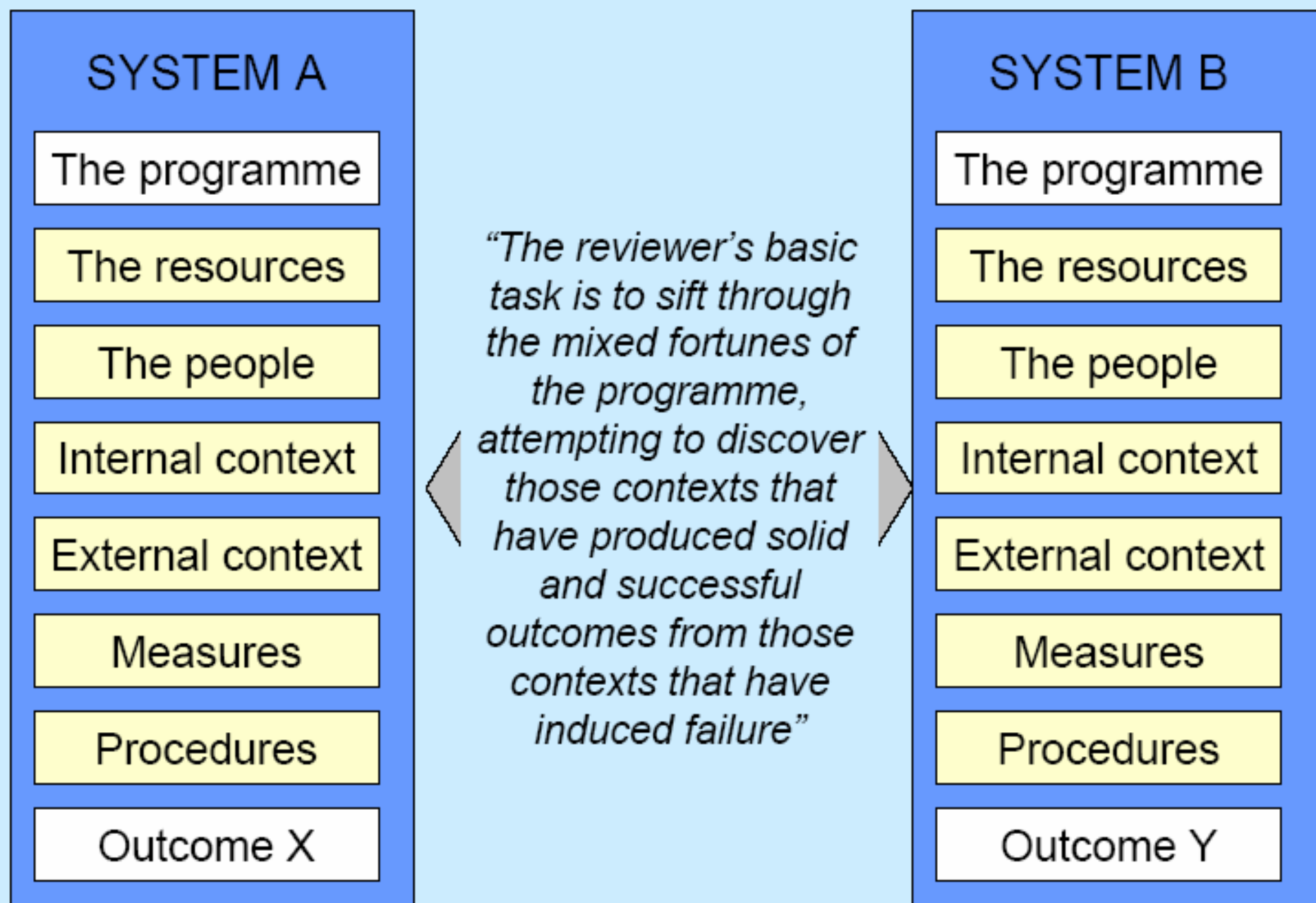
Qualitative theme 2

Qualitative theme 3



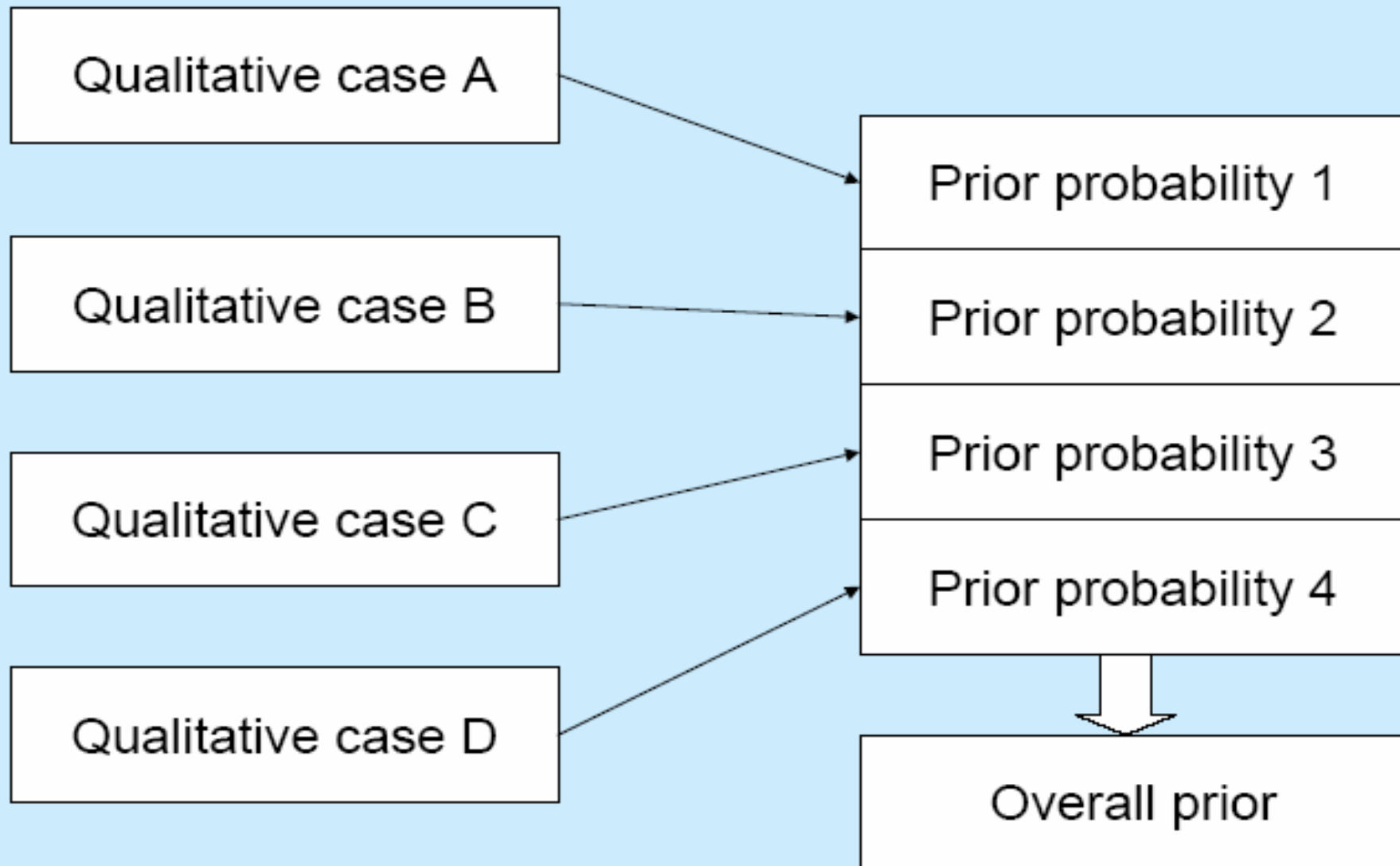
Narrative synthesis (Dixon-Woods et al)

Realist Synthesis



Realist synthesis for process evaluation studies (Pawson)

Bayesian Synthesis



**‘Bayesian’ analysis of qualitative data
(Roberts et al; Dixon-Woods et al)**

Critical Interpretative Synthesis

Critical Interpretive Synthesis

- Aim is generation of a synthesising argument
- Sampling involves constant dialectic process concurrently with theory generation; highly iterative
- Development of theoretical categories is based on analysis of conceptual similarities and differences that identified in the literature, and constant comparison across these
- Synthesising argument – synthesis of synthetic and “found” constructs = mid-range theory

CIS: critique not critical appraisal

- Embraces all types of evidence (qual, quan, theoretical) and is attentive to procedural defects in primary studies
- CIS conducts critique rather than critical appraisal – treats literature as an object of inquiry
- Questions taken-for-granted and “normal science” conventions and what influences choice of proposed solutions

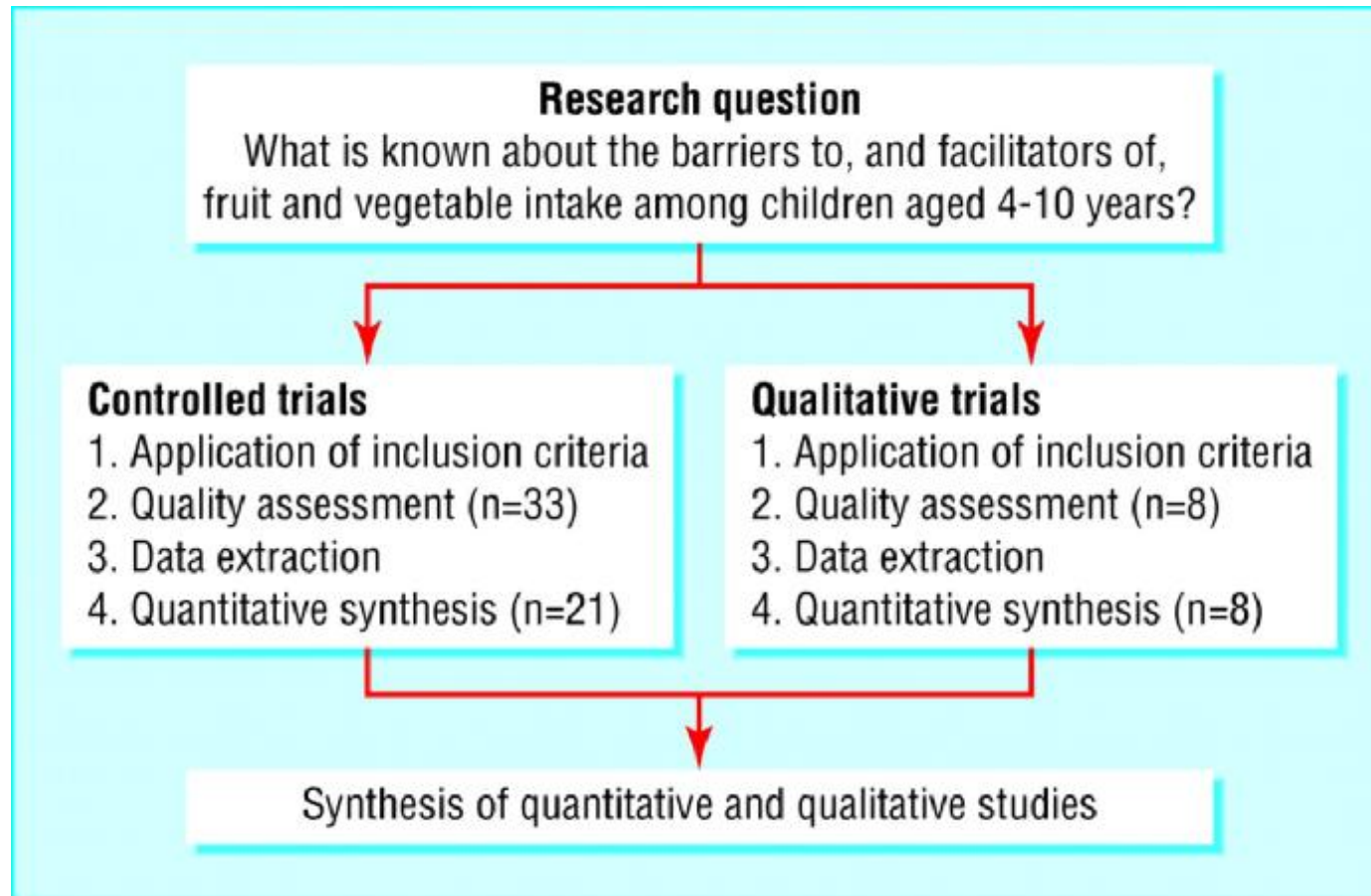
The claim to credibility

Alternative accounts of the same evidence might be possible using different authorial voices, but....all accounts should be grounded in the evidence, verifiable and plausible, and that reflexivity will be paramount”.

Dixon-Woods, Bonas, Booth et al, 2006

Eppi-Centre

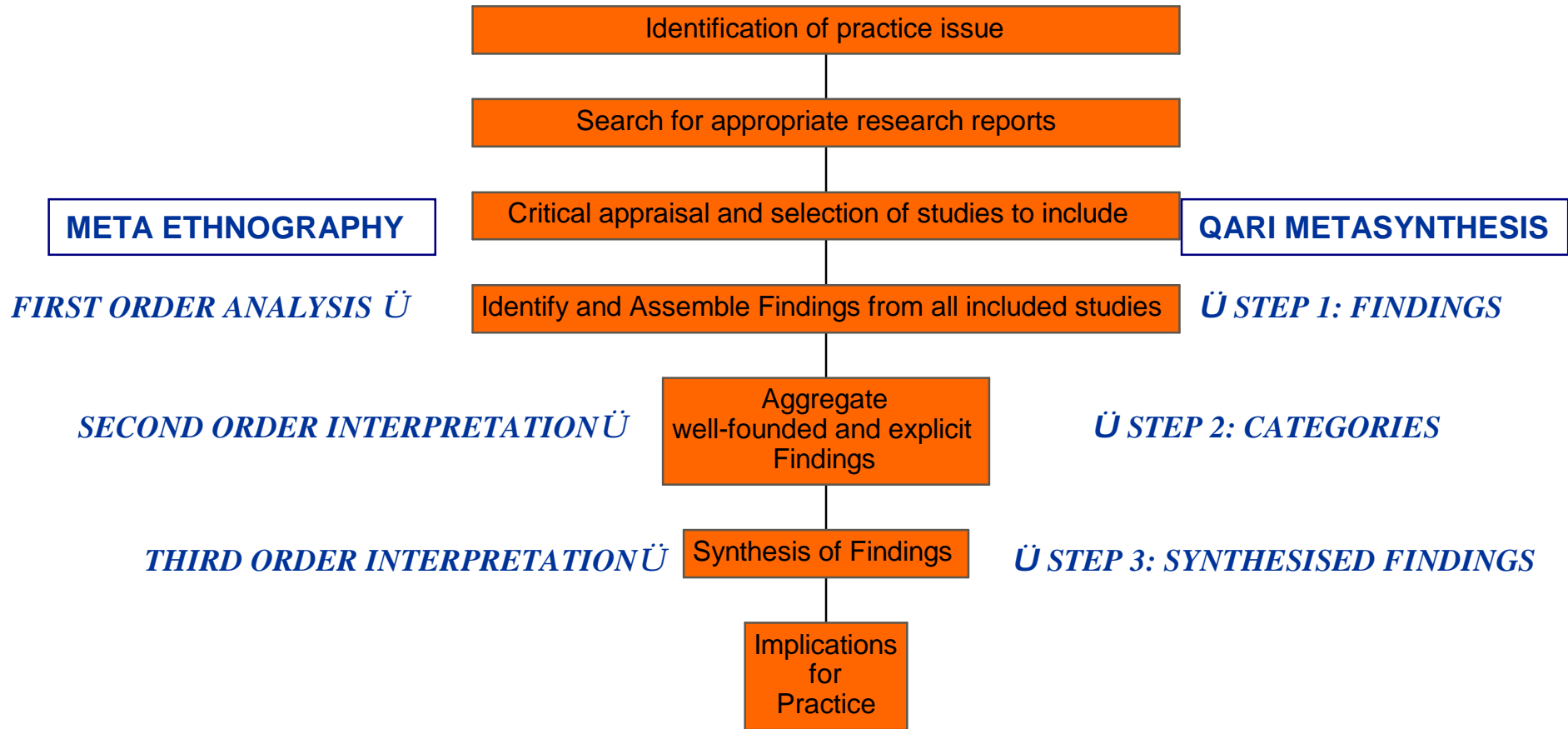
Fig 1 Stages of the review



Thomas, J. et al. *BMJ* 2004;328:1010-1012

JBI (Aggregative) Synthesis

METASYNTHESIS OF QUALITATIVE RESEARCH STUDIES



Extracting Findings

- The units of extraction in this process are specific findings and illustrations from the text that demonstrate the origins of the findings
- In QARI a finding is defined as: *A conclusion reached by the researcher(s) and often presented as **themes or metaphors***



QARI

Qualitative Assessment Review Instrument

Reviews

Studies

Categorise

Synthesis

Logout

Select
Detail
Assessment
Extraction
Findings

Findings for : Pearson - blah (2000)

Finding

Living with incontinence limits social activity

Illustration from Studies
(Include Page Reference)

"I can't socialise at all now as it is so embarrassing wetting yourself in front of others"
p12

Evidence

Unequivocal

Category

(None)

Include

Yes

Update

Delete

Cancel

Assigning a Level of Credibility/ Authenticity/Trustworthiness to Qualitative Evidence

- **Unequivocal** - relates to evidence beyond reasonable doubt which may include findings that are matter of fact, directly reported/observed and not open to challenge
- **Credible** - those that are, albeit interpretations, plausible in light of data and theoretical framework. They can be logically inferred from the data. Because the findings are interpretive they can be challenged.
- **Not Supported** - when 1 nor 2 apply and when most notably findings are not supported by the data



QARI

Qualitative Assessment Review Instrument

[Reviews](#)[Studies](#)[Categorise](#)[Synthesis](#)[Logout](#)[About](#)

This is the QARI-view displaying the syntheses for the Review: **Experience of incontinence in people with MS.**

Note that only those syntheses that have had valid categories allocated to them are shown here.

Synthesis	Category	Finding
People with MS and IC May need to be assisted to develop their own strategies to cope with embarrassment, control of their lives and social activity Participants described how being IC is embarrassing and makes them feel they have no control. They overcame this through developing coping strategies	Being incontinent is embarrassing	Living with incontinence limits social activity
	Loss of Control	Every day is different when managing incontinence The men perceived that living with MS and IC meant that they no longer had control of their body
	People with MS and IC Need to Develop their own strategies	People with MS and IC developing their own strategies to cope The men were motivated to make changes in their lives by developing strategies to overcome problems



QARI

Qualitative Assessment and Review Instrument

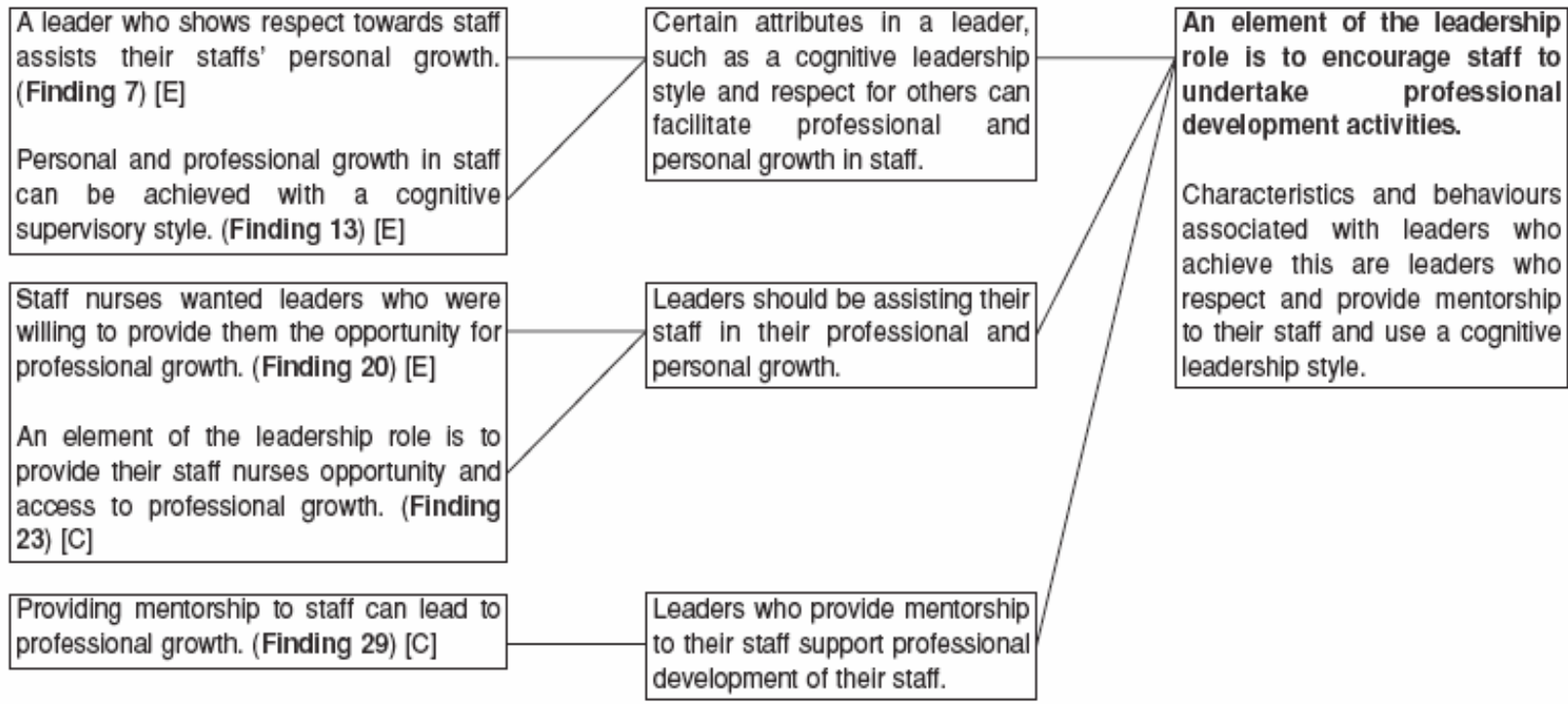
[Reviews](#) [Studies](#) [Categorise](#) [Synthesis](#) [Logout](#) [About](#) [Primary](#) [Closed](#)

Review: Implementation of EBP in Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health in Australia

Synthesis	Category	Finding
<p>Readiness for Change Change can only be successfully promoted and implemented if a readiness or openness exists, This readiness is influenced by a number of factors.</p>	<p>Clinician knowledge of EBP increases their acceptability of it</p>	<p>EBP is seen as a way of controlling clinicians</p> <p>Evidence based guidelines minimise individualised patient care</p> <p>Knowledge of the SR process increases clinician acceptance of EBP</p>
	<p>Felt need for change</p>	<p>Clinicians prioritise change projects</p> <p>Clinicians will adopt change if they feel it is an important and useful change</p>
	<p>Organisational Impacts on the implementation of change</p>	<p>Medical control over decisions impedes change</p> <p>Organisational systems can militate against change</p>

[Add Synthesis](#)

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Unequivocal [E]: evidence beyond reasonable doubt.
 Credible [C]: evidence that is plausible in light of the data.
 Unsupported [S]: findings are not supported by the data.