## Tu14-15 Planning Your Review

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### Process of Qualitative Evidence Synthesis (Major & Savin-Baden 2010)

Identify Studies related to research question

Collate Qualitative Studies across chosen topic

Examine theories and methods used in each study in-depth

Compare and Analyse findings for Each Study

Synthesise findings for each study

Undertake interpretation of findings across studies

Present interpretive narrative about synthesis of findings

Provide series of recommendations

## Conducting a meta-ethnography (Atkins et al 2008)

- Step 1: Getting started
- Step 2: Deciding what is relevant to the initial interest
- Step 3: Reading the studies
- Step 4: Determining how studies are related
- Step 5: Translating studies into one another
- Step 6: Synthesising translations
- Step 7: Expressing the synthesis

### Seven Key Questions

- 1. Question as Starting Point or Review Product
- 2. Comprehensive Searching versus Sampling
- 3. Qualitative Data Versus Qualitative Research
- 4. Appraisal for Exclusion or Moderation
- 5. Participants' Comments and/or Authors' Interpretations
- 6. Theory Secure or Evolving
- 7. Theory Generating/Theory Validating/Other

#### Other Considerations

- Relationship with Quantitative Syntheses
  - Pre-existing Review
  - Sequentially
  - In Parallel
  - [Iteratively]
  - [Combined Methods versus Separate Methods]
- To include: Any Qualitative Research? OR Specific methods? OR only well-described methods and thick detail of findings?

# Example: Preliminary searching: Scoping is worth investing in.... (Noyes & Roberts, 2009)

Time to rethink already!:

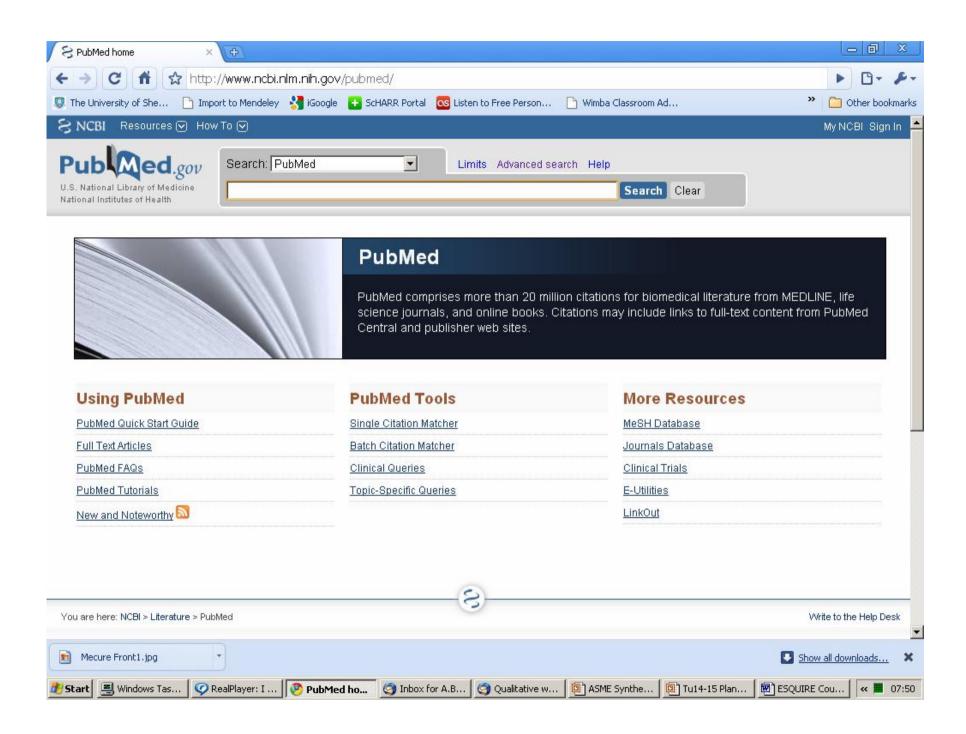
- Published trials of contraceptive technologies excluded women over 40 years
- Many trials conducted by pharmaceutical companies not in public domain other than news releases to promote product
- Ø Barriers and facilitators to accessing services frequently measured by surveys (not just qualitative studies)

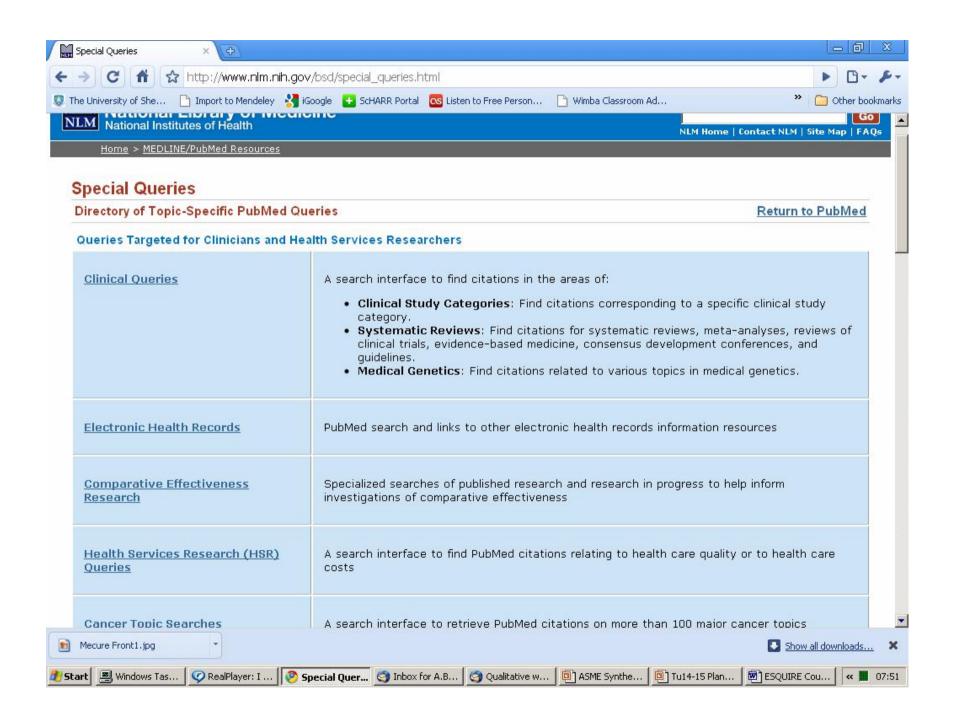
#### What does the Field look like?

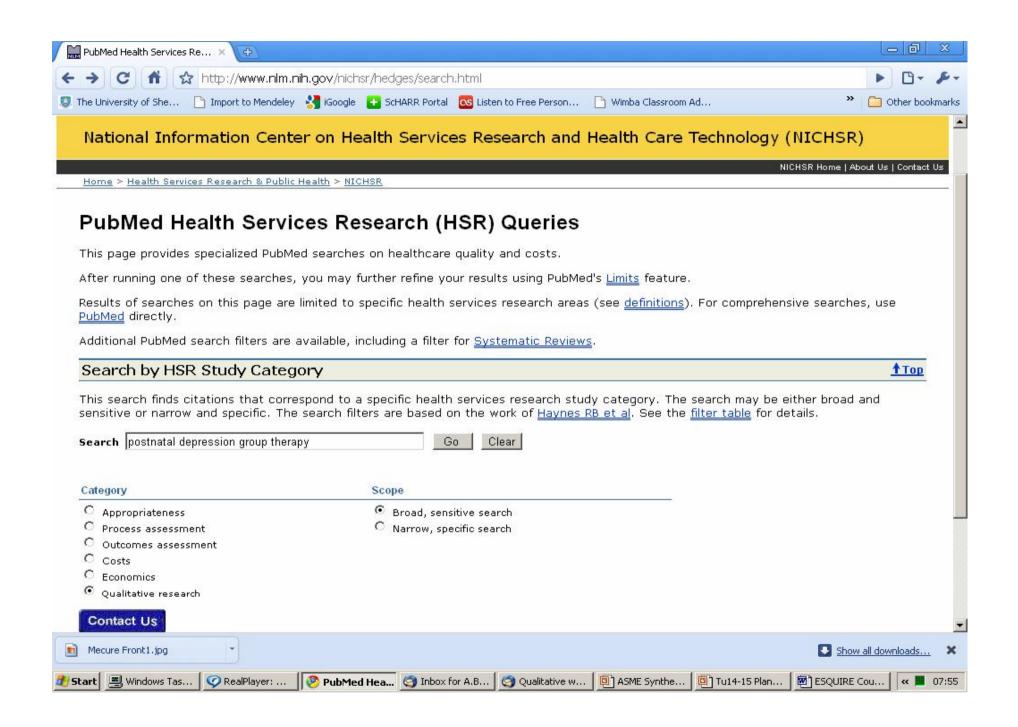
- Some Tools
  - PubMed Health Services Research Special Queries

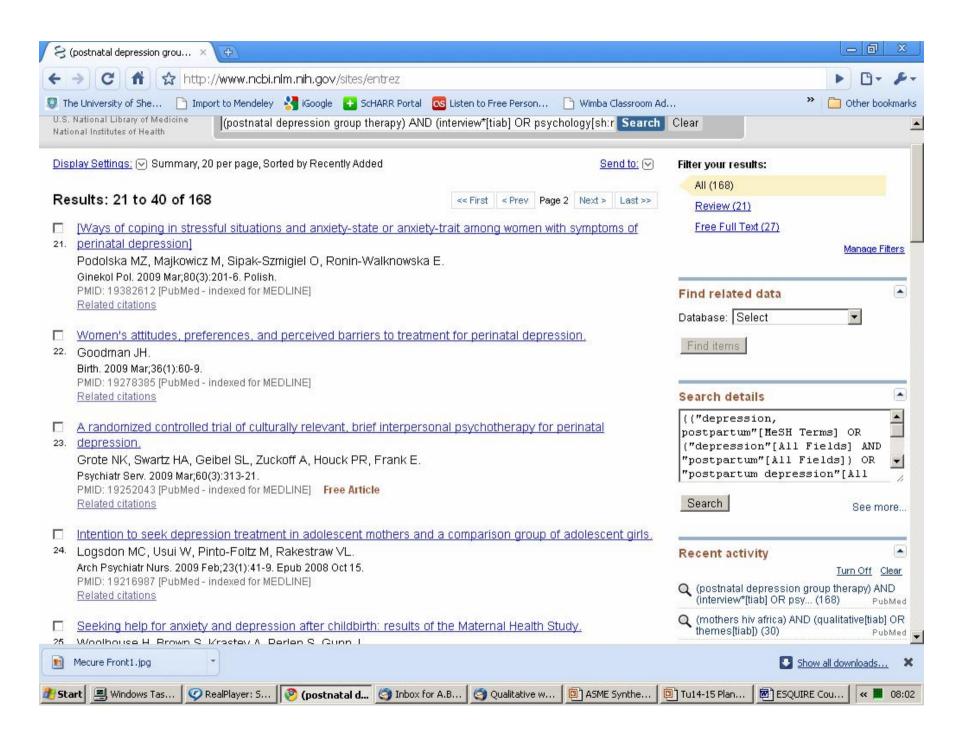
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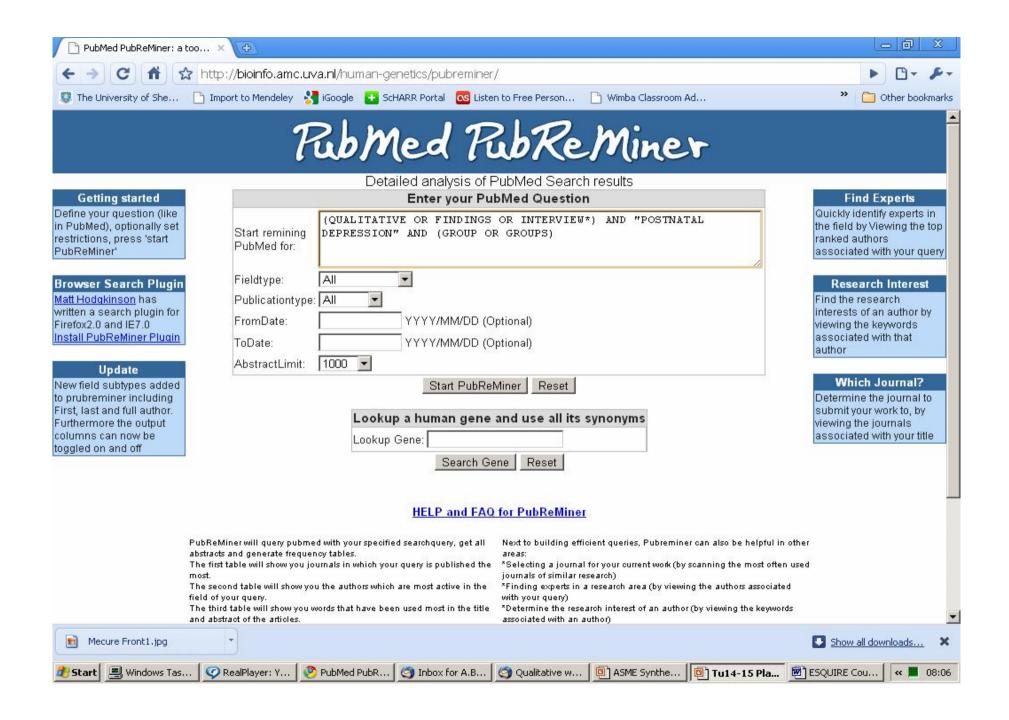
- PubMed Reminer
- <a href="http://bioinfo.amc.uva.nl/human-genetics/pubreminer/">http://bioinfo.amc.uva.nl/human-genetics/pubreminer/</a>

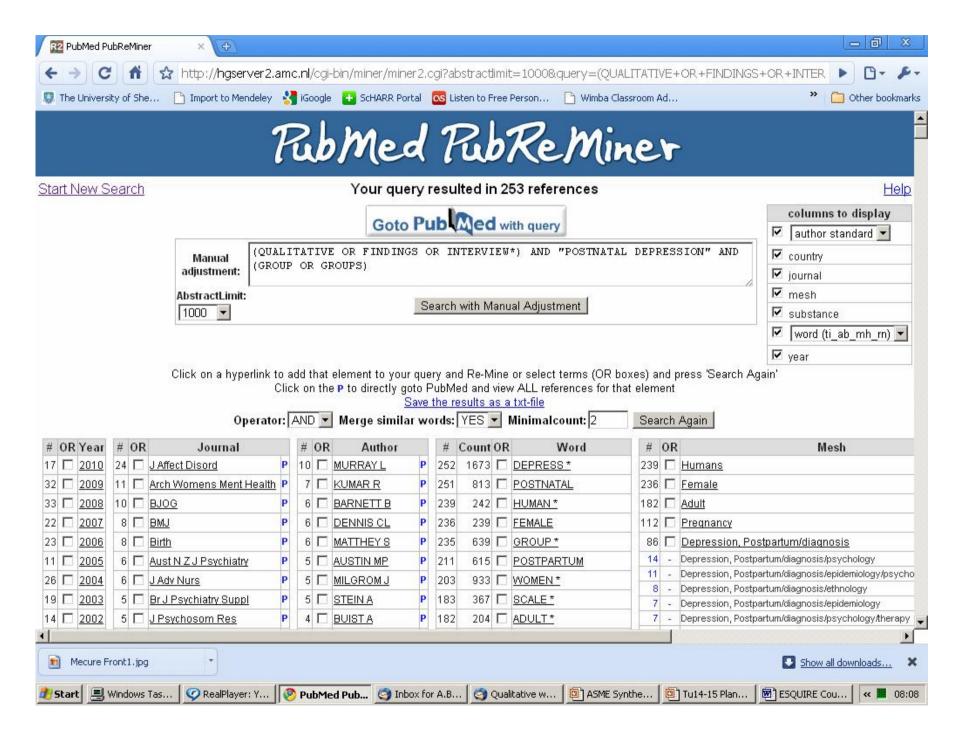








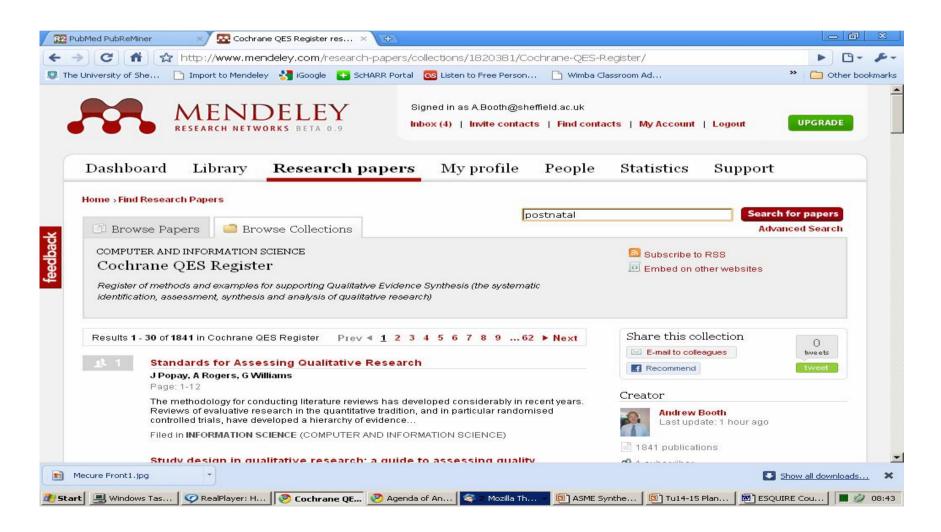


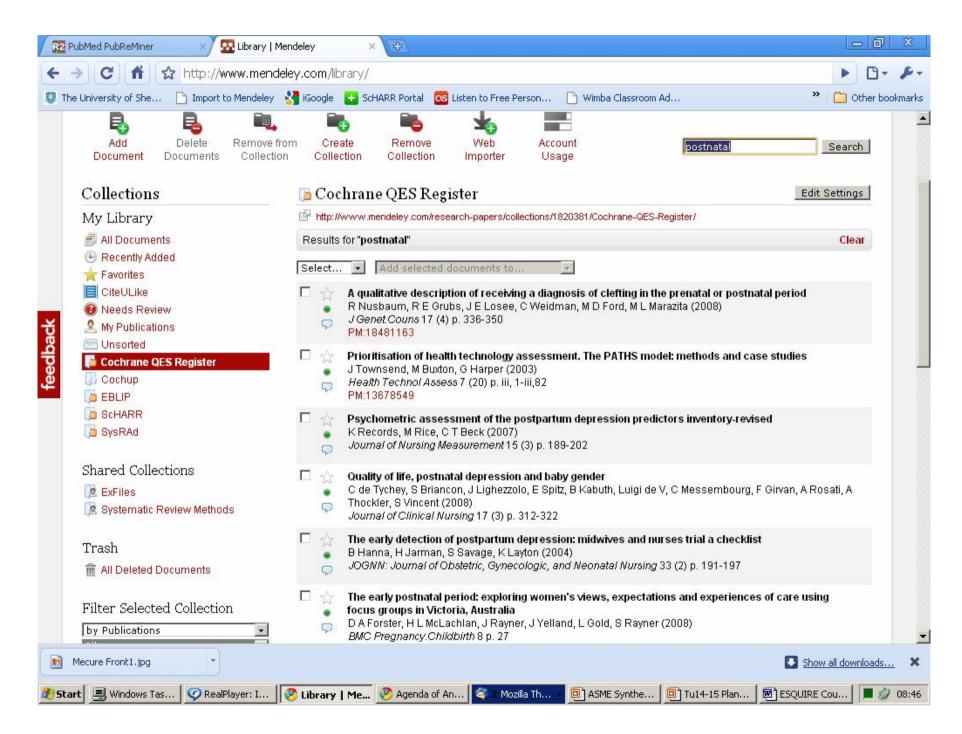


#### Similar Reviews?

http://www.mendeley.com/research-

papers/collections/1820381/Cochrane-QES-Register/





#### Some Practicalities

- Use of/Selection of Methodological Filters
- Key studies for Citation Searching
- Examples of Data Extraction Forms
- Selection of Critical Appraisal Checklist
- Selection of Synthesis Method
  - [See Following Slide]
- Innovative Ways of Presentation

#### **Toolbox Texts**

- Popay J, Roberts H, Sowden A et al. (2006) Guidance on the Conduct of Narrative Synthesis in Systematic Reviews: a Product from the ESRC Methods Programme.
- Barnett-Page E, Thomas J. Methods for the synthesis of qualitative research: a critical review. BMC Med Res Methodol. 2009 Aug 11;9:59. <a href="http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/9/59">http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/9/59</a>
- Barnett-Page, E and Thomas, J (2009) Methods for the synthesis of qualitative research: a critical review. NCRM Working Paper. NCRM. (Unpublished)
   http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/690/1/0109%2520Qualitative%2520synthesis%2520methods%2520paper%2520NCRM.pdf
- Dixon-Woods M, Agarwal S, Young B et al (2006). *Integrative approaches to qualitative and quantitative evidence*. Health Development Agency <a href="http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/Integrative\_approaches\_evidence.pdf">http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/Integrative\_approaches\_evidence.pdf</a>
- Pope C, Mays N & Popay J. Synthesizing Qualitative and Quantitative Health Evidence: A Guide to Methods. ISBN: ISBN: 033521956X Open University Press.
- Thomas J, Harden A (2008) Methods for the thematic synthesis of qualitative research in systematic reviews BMC Medical Research Methodology 8:45<a href="http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/8/45">http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/8/45</a>

#### Conclusions

- Question may involve experience of Condition as well as Intervention studies
- Scoping is Time Well-Spent
- Searching will be more challenging
- Sifting will be more time-consuming
- Allow extra time for Interpretation (Synthesis is not an End but a Means!)