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
- 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!:

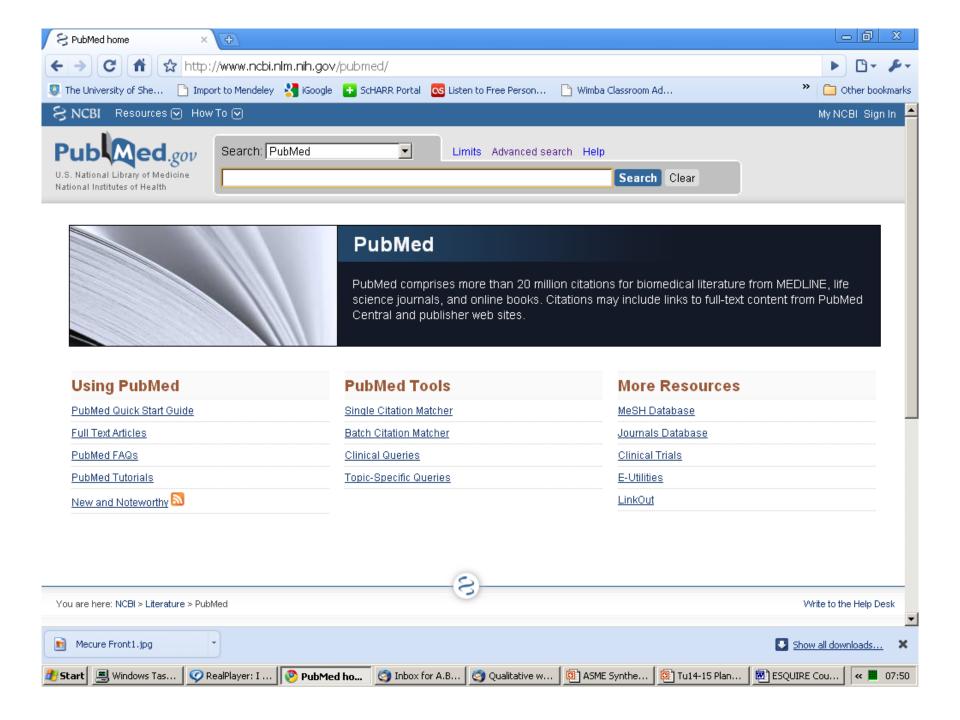
- Published trials of contraceptive technologies excluded women over 40 years
- Many trials conducted by pharmaceutical companies not in public domain other than news releases to promote product
- Barriers and facilitators to accessing services frequently measured by surveys (not just qualitative studies)

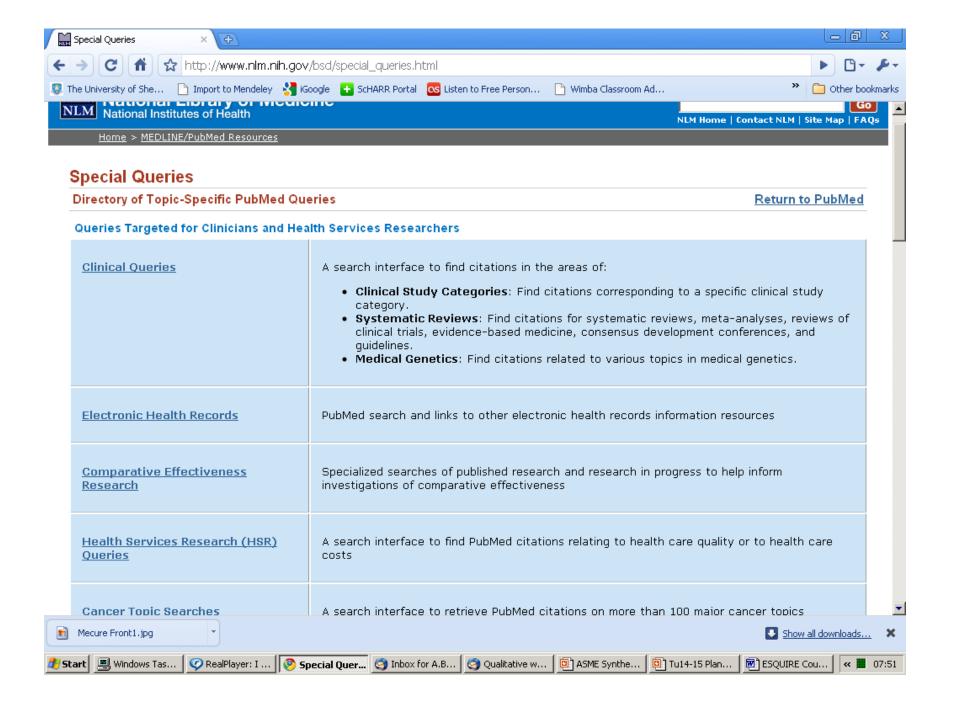
What does the Field look like?

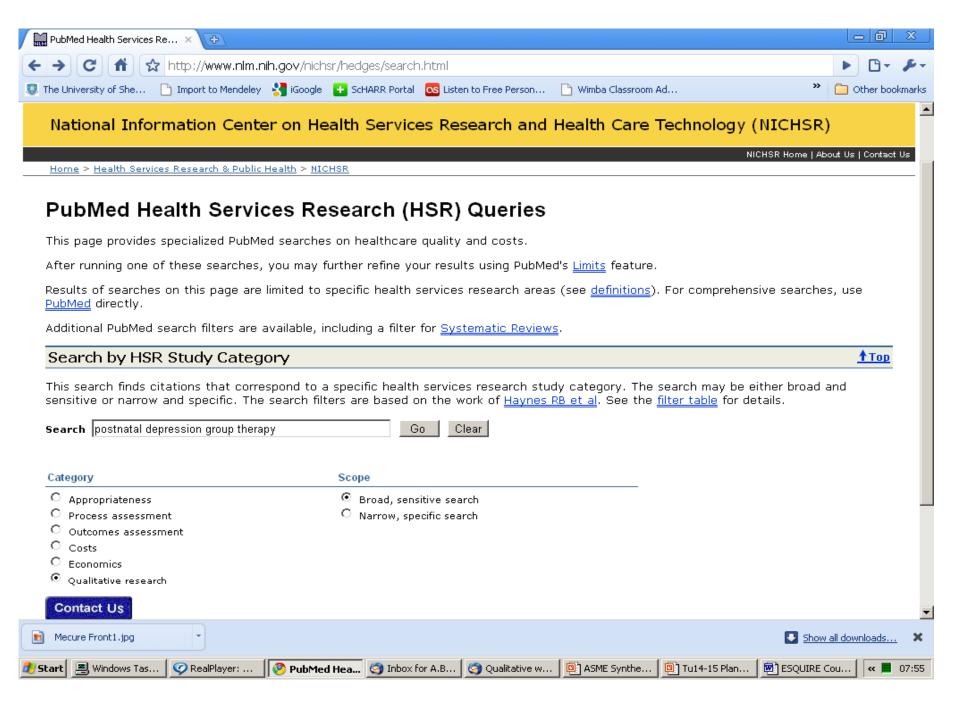
- Some Tools
 - PubMed Health Services Research Special Queries

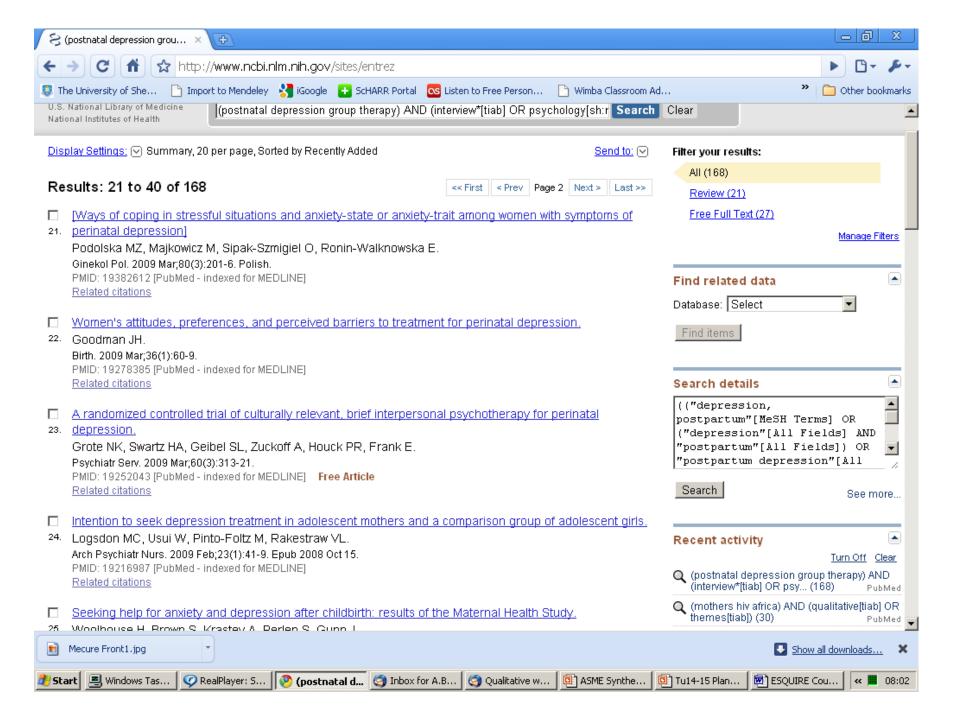
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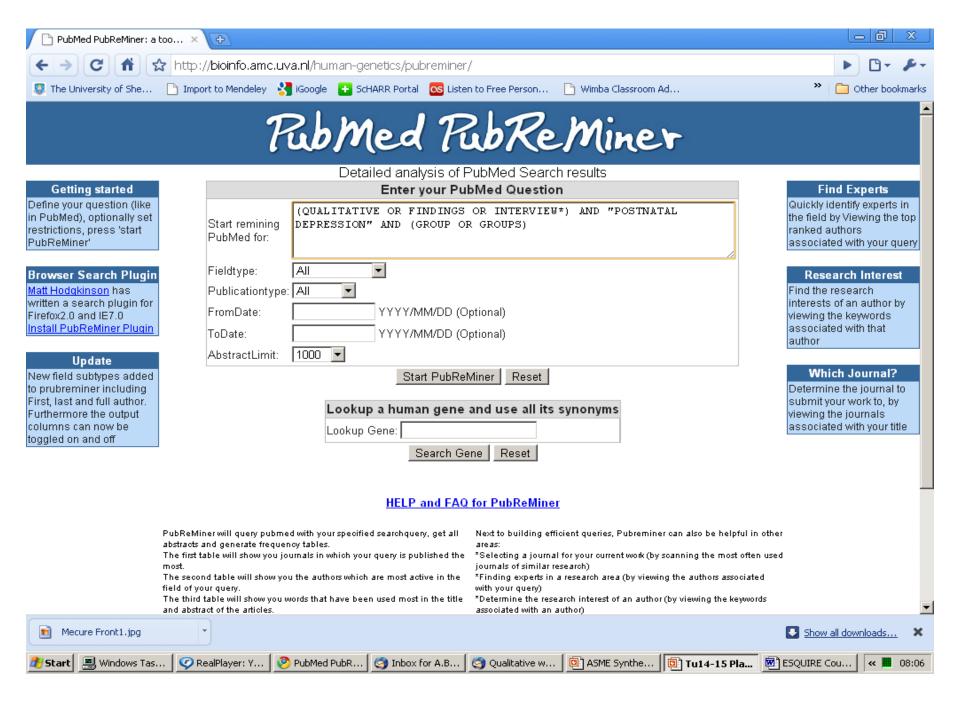
- PubMed Reminer
- http://bioinfo.amc.uva.nl/human-genetics/pubreminer/

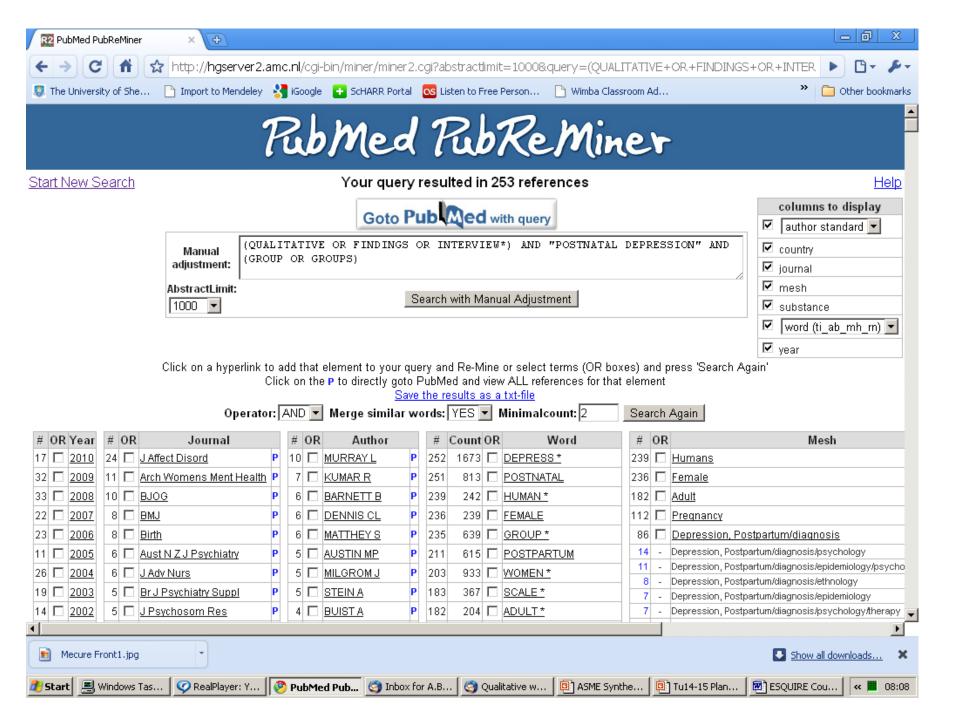








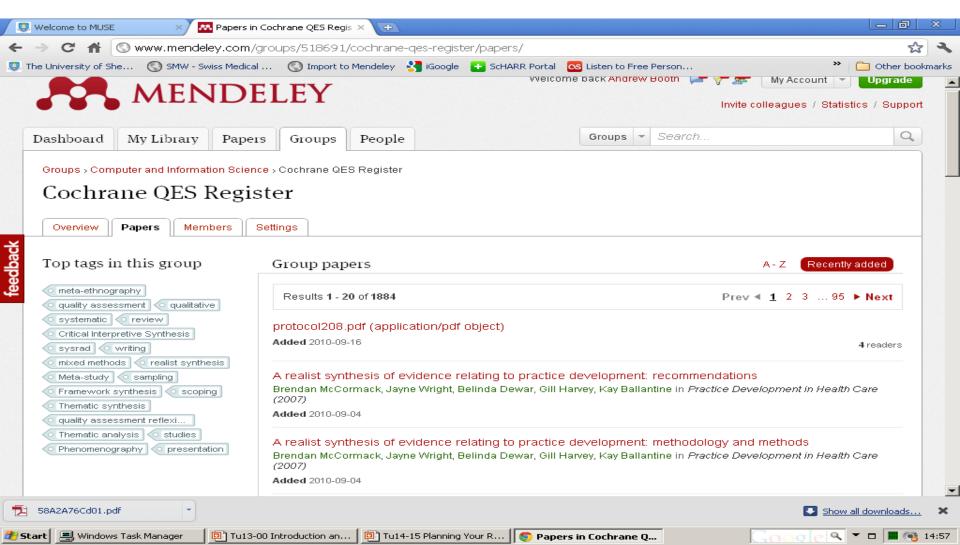




Similar Reviews?

http://www.mendeley.com/groups/518691/coch

rane-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. http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/9/59
- 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 http://www.nice.org.uk/niceMedia/pdf/Integrative_approaches_evidence.pdf
- 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 8:45http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2288/8/45

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!)