AGENDA

Welcome!
• More on PICO Questions
• Question to Research Plan
• Planning to Research
• Research Log
• Managing the Evidence
• Searching Strategies
Format of PICO Questions

Elements are:

• Population / Problem / Person
• Intervention / Issue
• Comparison
• Outcome
Qualities of Good PICO Questions

Researchable questions are also:

- **Relevant** to the information need
- **Specific** description of the topic
  - Detailed
  - Precise
- **Focused** on one research question with clear boundaries
- **Have an OT perspective** flowing from the OT literature and back to enhance it
Check Your Question

Is it:

✓ **Relevant** Are you asking the question you want to answer?

✓ **Specific** Can your description be more detailed or the wording more precise?

✓ **Focused** How many questions are you asking?

✓ **OT** Is the emphasis on OT constructs?
From Question to Research Plan

Why Plan?

- planning saves time and effort
- I don’t have an unlimited supply of either
- a plan provides direction to my research
- a plan helps me to decide what is important
- a plan keeps me on track
A research plan consists of these four elements:

- Question.
- The major points (claims) I must discuss in order to help my reader fully understand the problem. These points / claims describe what the experts know about the research problem.
- The kinds of facts or information I need to support each point / claim (not the facts themselves; we’re not there yet);
- Where I will search – be as specific as possible.
Research Plan Format

A research plan looks like this:

PICO Question/Research problem

Point / Claim A;

• Kinds of facts / information / evidence needed to support A;
• Where to look to find those kinds of information;

Point / Claim B;

• Kinds of facts / information / evidence needed to support B;
• Where to look to find those kinds of information;

And so forth
Build a Plan

Let’s give it a try...

claims first (we will get to kinds of evidence and where to look in a minute)

What do you need to talk about so the reader will understand the problem?
Let’s continue...

Kinds of information / evidence next (we will get to where to look in a minute)

What are the details? What evidence do you need to support the claims you made?
What Format will the Evidence Take?

- Research article?
- Systematic review?
- Randomized controlled trial?
- Cohort study?
- Case control study?
- Case series?

So... how does this relate to your research plan?
More on Evidence

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary

Where in a research article will you find primary evidence?

Where in an article will you find secondary evidence?
Build a Plan

The final piece - places to Look for Evidence

What did Law and MacDermid say?

Let’s add these to the plan. Now I have a list of topics to search for.
Sources of Evidence

Where will you find all of these recommended sources?

In Brenau’s (ONLINE) Library!

But first, a couple of tools you will need.
Research Log

A Word document or other system used to capture and record your searching process:

• Where you are searching
• Effective search terms
• Useless search terms
• Yield number of results
• Hits number of relevant results
• Obtained number of new articles that might be useful
Managing the Evidence

Bibliographic Organizer: A Word document or system such as Zotero, RefWorks, or End Note, to capture and record usable resources.

- the reference information of the books, articles, etc.
- core ideas from each resource
- key descriptors from each resource
Searching strategies

A curated, comprehensive list of research resources...

http://libguides.brenau.edu
The End

If you need more help, just ask. It’s what we do.

ASK A LIBRARIAN