LIBRARY RESEARCH
Finding the Evidence

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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
From Question to Research Plan

A research plan consists of these four elements:

1. **Question.**
   - The major points I must discuss in order to help my reader fully understand the problem. These points describe what the experts know about the research problem.

2. **The kinds of facts or information I need to support each point (not the facts themselves; we’re not there yet);**

3. **Where I will search – be as specific as possible.**


Research Plan Format

A research plan looks like this:

PICO Question/Research problem

Point A

Kinds of facts / information / evidence to support A;
Where to look for it;

Point B

Kinds of facts / information / evidence to support B;
Where to look for it;

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)

For each point, what are the details? What evidence do you need to support the points 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 and places to search.
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
- Ideas for search terms
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
- keywords from each resource
Searching strategies

A curated, comprehensive list of research resources...

http://libguides.brenau.edu/OT
The End

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

ASK A LIBRARIAN