

# Improving the reproducibility and reporting quality of search strategies in biomedical systematic reviews

Citation for published version (APA):

Rethlefsen, M. L. (2025). *Improving the reproducibility and reporting quality of search strategies in biomedical systematic reviews*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Maastricht University. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20250121mr>

## Document status and date:

Published: 21/01/2025

## DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20250121mr](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20250121mr)

## Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

## Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

[Link to publication](#)

## General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the "Taverne" license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:

[www.umlib.nl/taverne-license](http://www.umlib.nl/taverne-license)

## Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:

[repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Download date: 12 Feb. 2025

## Propositions

1. When librarians and information specialists are co-authors, they can better contribute to the methodological quality and reporting of systematic reviews. (Chapter 2)
2. PRISMA-S is a reporting guideline that provides an international standard for the minimum elements needed to report literature searches transparently. (Chapter 4)
3. Substantial work is needed to improve the reporting quality of systematic review searches, particularly to ensure their reproducibility. (Chapters 3, 5)
4. Librarians and information specialists can serve as methodological peer reviewers for systematic reviews and related review types. (Chapters 6,7)
5. Database and platform providers should work to create unique identifiers to enable better understanding of what is being searched.
6. Systematic review teams and researchers should advocate for hiring additional information specialists and librarians at their institutions.
7. More librarians and information specialists need education and training to prepare them to work with systematic review searching and methodology.
8. Librarians and information specialists must be leaders in pushing for changes in policies, documentation, and guidance to enhance search reproducibility, including championing open science techniques for systematic review data and methods sharing.
9. It's the people who take care of my brain babies, the librarians and the editors, of whom I have always been afraid. - Dr. Charles (Charlie) Mayo