

EXPLORING THE INVOLVEMENT OF LIBRARIANS IN SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS IN BUSINESS

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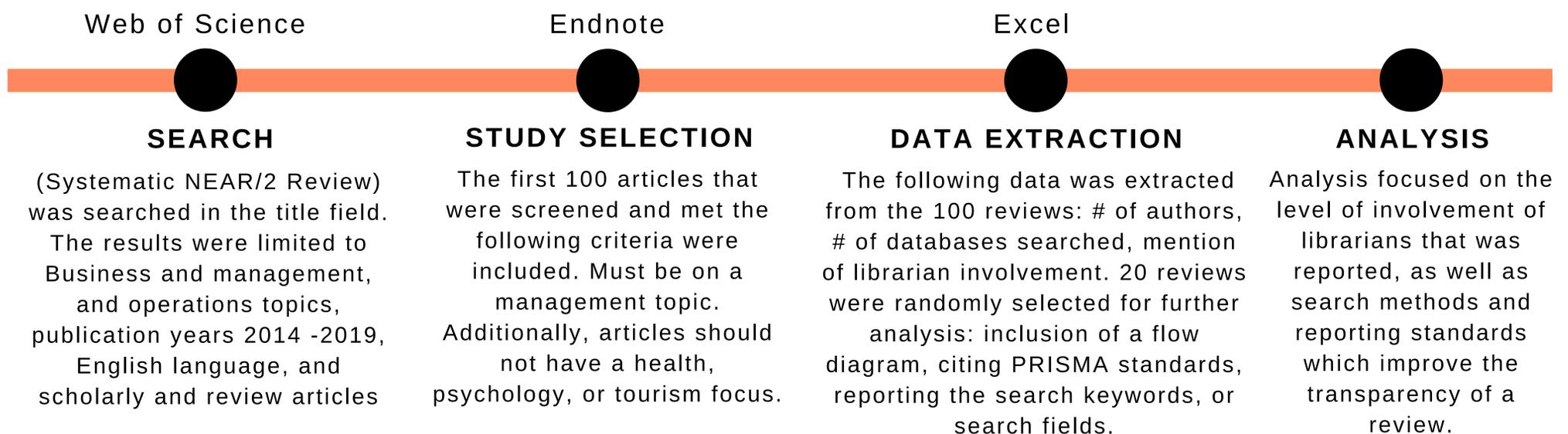


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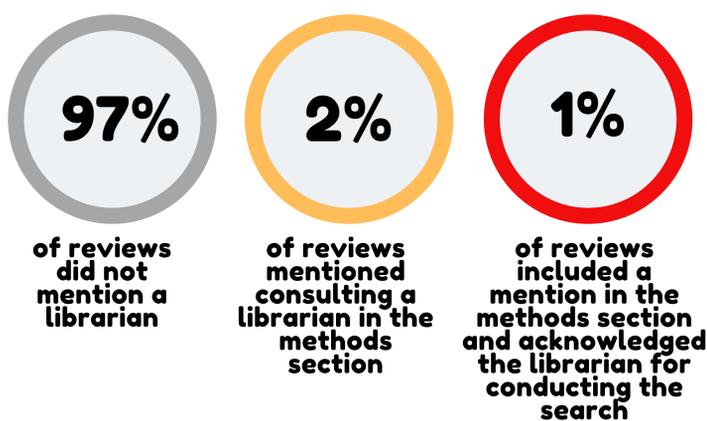
BACKGROUND

Systematic reviews and other forms of evidence synthesis are growing in popularity in disciplines beyond the health sciences. The participation of librarians in systematic reviews in the health disciplines is well established. Guidelines on information retrieval methods state that, "information retrieval is an essential component of the systematic review process, analogous to the data collection phase of a primary research study, and requires the expertise of a trial search coordinator, an information specialist or a librarian" (Kugley et al, 2017). This research sought to examine the prevalence of librarian involvement in systematic reviews on business topics, by analyzing 100 recently published (2019) systematic reviews.

METHODS



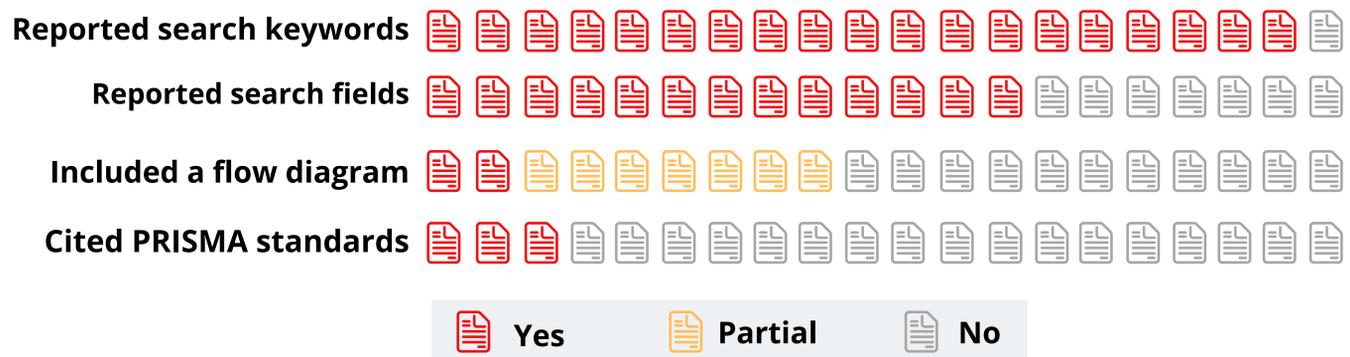
RESULTS



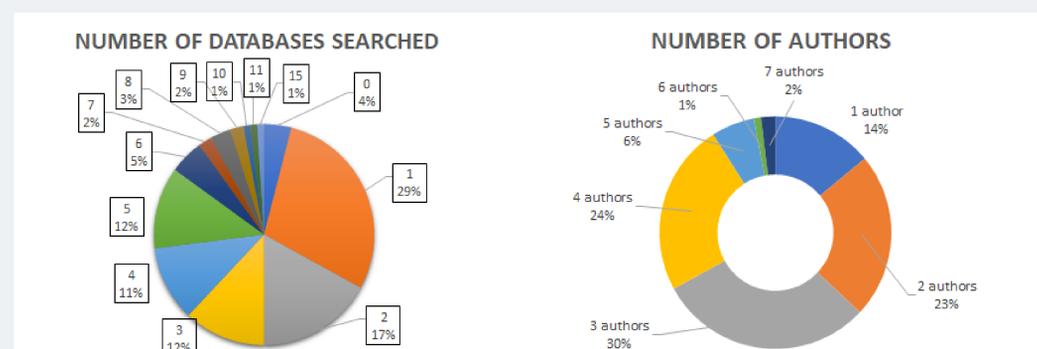
1) Extent of reported librarian involvement: Librarian involvement was reported in only 3 (of 100) systematic reviews. Is this a gap waiting to be filled or is it occurring but simply not being reported? A survey of business librarians may shed some light on this issue.

2) Reporting: Only 3 (of 20) studies cited the PRISMA standards (Moher et al, 2009). 11 studies did not have a flow diagram reporting the study selection process. Search strategies were not well-reported: 7 (of 20) reviews did not specify the search fields, though keywords were reported in 19 (95%) reviews. Searching and reporting are aspects of the systematic review process that librarians can provide support and guidance on.

Analysis of 20 randomly selected reviews



3) Methodological aspects: Systematic reviews have a prescribed methodology that requires searching for all available studies (which requires searching more than one database), and certain steps are recommended to be done in duplicate (which would require more than one author/individual). The results from this exploratory study show that 14% of reviews had only one author, and 33% of reviews searched 0 or 1 database.



CONCLUSION

Business librarians can play a role by offering a systematic review service, to provide support or guidance on methodological requirements, and best practices for conducting evidence synthesis reviews in their discipline, similar to what is currently offered by health sciences librarians.

REFERENCES

Kugley, S., Wade, A., Thomas, J., Mahood, Q., Jørgensen, A.-M.K., Hammerstrøm, K. and Sathe, N. (2017), Searching for studies: a guide to information retrieval for Campbell systematic reviews. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 13: 1-73. doi:10.4073/cmg.2016.1

Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. *PLoS Med* 6(7): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097