APPROACHING THE LIT REVIEW: STEP-BY-STEP
IT'S A LITTLE LIKE JUDO...
IT’S A LITTLE LIKE JUDO...

But before you can do this... ...you have to learn this!
STEP 1: “SETTING UP”
IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS: WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR TOPIC?

Are there other disciplines that have a stake in your topic outside of your own field of interest? Economics, sociology, political science...

Who or what is responsible for detecting, protecting or investigating issues related to your topic? In other words, what organizations, associations, government agencies have a stake in the topic?

Remember, identifying stakeholders now will help lead you to ...resources later!
## GETTING ORGANIZED: CREATE AN EVIDENCE TRACKING LOG

### Evidence Analysis Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Methods (Design)</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comparative effectiveness of exercise, acupuncture, and spinal manipulation for low back pain. Standaert CJ, Friedly J, et al. Spine. 2011 Oct 1;36(21 Suppl):S120-30.</td>
<td>&lt; 18 years old</td>
<td>To determine effectiveness of three types of treatment</td>
<td>systematic review</td>
<td>There is insufficient evidence regarding the relative benefits of the acupuncture compared with either structured exercise or SMIT in the treatment of chronic LBP. (etc.)</td>
<td>Few studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GETTING ORGANIZED: DECIDE ON CITATION MANAGEMENT TOOLS
GETTING ORGANIZED:
DECIDE ON CITATION MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Citation management tools are time-saving tools that allow you to:

• Create a personal database of references
• Organize and search your references
• Upload and store PDF documents with their citations
• Insert citations into word processing documents and format bibliographies in a variety of styles

The time to select the right tool for you and learn how to use it effectively is before you begin searching the literature. You can earn more citation management tools at:

**Citation Management Tools**

https://hirshlibrary.tufts.edu/research/citation-tools
STEP 2: “GETTING A GOOD FIT”
‘MAPPING’ YOUR TOPIC

- Break your topic into distinct concepts. For example:
  Does taxing sugar-sweetened beverages reduce obesity?

- Create concept ‘buckets’. List synonyms for each concept in a ‘bucket.’
‘MAPPING’ YOUR TOPIC:
CREATING CONCEPT ‘BUCKETS’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>taxing</th>
<th>sugar-sweetened beverages</th>
<th>obesity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>taxing</td>
<td>sugar-sweetened beverage(s)</td>
<td>obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tax</td>
<td>soda(s)</td>
<td>obese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxes</td>
<td>sport drink(s)</td>
<td>overweight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxed</td>
<td>sugary beverage(s)</td>
<td>bmi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taxation</td>
<td>sugary drink(s)</td>
<td>body mass index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soft drink(s)</td>
<td>waist-hip circumference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>body fat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘MAPPING’ YOUR TOPIC: APPLYING AND / OR
AND (& NOT)

THINK “BURGER KING”

AND - “requires both terms to be in each item returned. If one term is contained in the document and the other is not, the item is not included in the resulting list. (Narrows the search)

“I want pickles, ketchup, mustard”

which means…

“I want pickles AND ketchup AND mustard”

NOT – “the first term is searched, then any records containing the term after the operators are subtracted from the results.”

“I want pickles AND ketchup AND mustard but NOT onions!”
AND (& NOT)
WHAT THIS LOOK LIKE IN A SEARCH

“gluten AND diet”

“gluten AND diet NOT celiac”
OR – “either term (or both) will be in the returned document. (Broadens the search)”. Often used to search for synonyms.

“What do you want to eat for dinner tonight?”

“I don’t know. What are my options?”

“Well, we could go get curry OR pizza OR sushi OR tacos.”

“Any of those options sound good to me!”
OR
WHAT THIS LOOK LIKE IN A SEARCH

felines OR cats

myocardial infraction OR heart attack

kidney OR renal
USING — AND (& NOT) / OR — TOGETHER
“COMBO PLATE”

Yes, you can combine AND/OR - but — you have to put the OR terms in (). Why? Hint: Remember order of operations from 3\textsuperscript{rd} grade?

\[(3 + 7) \times 2\]

\[9 - 5 \div (8 - 3) \times 2 + 6\]
USING - AND/OR - TOGETHER
WHAT THIS LOOK LIKE IN A SEARCH

(soft drinks OR soda) AND taxes

(“affordable care act” OR “Obama care”) AND Medicaid

(vegetarian OR vegan) NOT raw
‘MAPPING’ YOUR TOPIC: APPLYING AND/OR TO CONCEPT BUCKETS
‘MAPPING’ YOUR TOPIC:
APPLYING AND / OR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>taxing</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>sugar-sweetened beverages</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>obesity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>taxing</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>sugar-sweetened beverage(s) OR</td>
<td>obesity OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tax</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DETERMINING SOME REASONABLE CONSTRAINTS

What are you actually willing to read?

- Language: are you fluent reading a language other than English?
- Population of interest: only certain age groups?
- Date range: how far back in time are you willing to go?
- Type of study methodology: depends on the nature of topic, especially the outcomes you want to measure!
DATABASE SELECTION

- Refer back to the stakeholders you identified!
- Consult Research Guides [http://researchguides.library.tufts.edu/hhs](http://researchguides.library.tufts.edu/hhs)
- Ask a librarian (me!) for suggestions
BEFORE YOU START SEARCHING...

Consider creating personal accounts on the databases you use, so that you can:

- Save your search strategies for later editing
- Review your results over time
- Have a record of how you searched (no reinventing the wheel!)
- Create an alert to let you know when a new article for your search is available

Take a quick look at “Help” or “Search Tips” page to learn more about how the database works - or ask a librarian to give you a ‘tour’ of the database
STEP 3: "THE THROW"
TRANSLATING YOUR TERMS INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY

Remember this…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>taxing</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>sugar-sweetened beverages</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>obesity</th>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>body fat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Almost all databases allow for truncation using the asterisk *.

For example:

tax* will retrieve: tax, taxes, taxing, taxed, taxation

taxing OR taxing OR tax OR taxes OR taxed OR taxation OR taxing
TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY: FOR EXAMPLE
## TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sugar-sweetened beverages</th>
<th>sugar-sweetened beverages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sugar* beverage* OR</td>
<td>sugar-sweetened beverage OR sugar-sweetened beverages OR sugary beverage OR sugary beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soda* OR</td>
<td>soda OR sodas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sport drink* OR</td>
<td>sport drink OR sport drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sugar* drink* OR</td>
<td>sugar-sweetened drinks OR sugary drink OR sugary drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft drink*</td>
<td>Soft drink OR soft drinks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY: FOR EXAMPLE

Basic Search

Sugar* beverage* OR Soda* OR sport drink* OR sugar* drink* OR soft drink*
## TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obesity</th>
<th>Obesity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>obes* OR</td>
<td>obesity OR obese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>overweight OR</td>
<td>overweight OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bmi OR</td>
<td>bmi OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>body mass index OR</td>
<td>body mass index OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waist-hip circumference OR</td>
<td>waist-hip circumference OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>body fat</td>
<td>body fat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY: FOR EXAMPLE

Basic Search

- obes*
- OR
  - overweight
- OR
  - bmi
- OR
  - body mass index
- OR
  - hip waist circumference
- OR
  - body fat

Topic

Search

+ Add Another Field  |  Reset Form
TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY: USE SEARCH HISTORY
### Translating Your Term Map into a Search Strategy: Use Search History

#### Search History: Web of Science™ Core Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Edit</th>
<th>Combine Sets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>443,647</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOPIC: (obes*) OR TOPIC: (overweight) OR TOPIC: (bmi) OR TOPIC: (body mass index) OR TOPIC: (hip waist circumference) OR TOPIC: (body fat) &lt;br&gt; Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>29,241</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TS=(Sugar* beverage*) OR TS=(Soda*) OR TS=(sport drink*) OR TS=(sugar* drink*) OR TS=(soft drink*) &lt;br&gt; Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years</td>
<td>Edit</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>349,020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOPIC: (tax*) &lt;br&gt; Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&amp;HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TRANSLATING YOUR TERM MAP INTO A SEARCH STRATEGY: USE SEARCH HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Query Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| #4  | 189     | #3 AND #2 AND #1  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years |
| #3  | 443,647 | TOPIC: (obes*) OR TOPIC: (overweight) OR TOPIC: (bmi) OR TOPIC: (body mass index) OR TOPIC: (hip waist circumference) OR TOPIC: (body fat)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years |
| #2  | 29,241  | TS=(Sugar* beverage*) OR TS=(Soda*) OR TS=(sport drink*) OR TS=(sugar* drink*) OR TS=(soft drink*)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years |
| #1  | 349,020 | TOPIC: (tax*)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC Timespan=All years |
MANAGING RESULTS

Browse results to see concepts/terms that you hadn’t considered

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. | **Study protocol**: combining experimental methods, econometrics and simulation modelling to determine price elasticities for studying food taxes and subsidies (The Price ExaM Study)  
By: Waterlander, Wilma E.; Blakely, Tony; Nghiem, Nhunh; et al  
BMC PUBLIC HEALTH Volume: 16 Article Number: 601 Published: JUL 19 2016  
[Find It@Tufts](#) Full Text from Publisher View Abstract |
| 2. | **Impact of Sugars and Sugar Taxation on Body Weight Control: A Comprehensive Literature Review**  
By: Bes-Rastrollo, Maira; Sayon-Orea, Carmen; Ruiz-Canela, Miguel; et al  
OBESITY Volume: 24 Issue: 7 Pages: 1410-1426 Published: JUL 2016  
[Find It@Tufts](#) View Abstract |
| 3. | **Sugar and metabolic health: is there still a debate?** |
MANAGING RESULTS

Refine search with any new concepts/terms you discovered
### MANAGING RESULTS

Re-run the refined search strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Search History</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| #6  | 212     | \#5 AND \#2 AND \#1  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  
Timespan=All years |
| #5  | 1,675,937 | TOPIC: (obes*) OR TOPIC: (overweight) OR TOPIC: (bmi) OR TOPIC: (body mass index) OR TOPIC: (hip waist circumference) OR TOPIC: (body fat)  
OR TOPIC: (body weight) OR TOPIC: (metabol*)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  
Timespan=All years |
| #4  | 189     | \#3 AND \#2 AND \#1  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  
Timespan=All years |
| #3  | 443,647 | TOPIC: (obes*) OR TOPIC: (overweight) OR TOPIC: (bmi) OR TOPIC: (body mass index) OR TOPIC: (hip waist circumference) OR TOPIC: (body fat)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  
Timespan=All years |
| #2  | 29,241  | TS=(Sugar* beverage*) OR TS=(Soda*) OR TS=(sport drink*) OR TS=(sugar* drink*) OR TS=(soft drink*)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  
Timespan=All years |
| #1  | 349,020 | TOPIC: (tax*)  
Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, BKCI-S, BKCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, IC  
Timespan=All years |
MANAGING RESULTS

Apply any constraints you have to your results, such as language

---

[Diagram showing refine options including Editors, Source Titles, Book Series Titles, Conference Titles, Publication Years, Organizations-Enhanced, Funding Agencies, Languages (English 210), and Refine button.]
MANAGING RESULTS

Save search to your personal database account
MANAGING RESULTS

Save search to your personal database account
MANAGING RESULTS

Transfer results to a citation management program (NB: if searching multiple databases, use citation management program to de-duplicate results)
ANALYZING THE MATERIAL

Moving from reporter to interpreter is scary! So, remember to:

- Use the evidence tracking log to describe relevant articles
- Consider what relevant articles have in common?
- Is there a trend among relevant articles? (NB: one article doth not a trend make!)
- What conclusions can be made? Did anything surprise you?
- What is it about each relevant article that matters to you and to stakeholders?
GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

Hirsh Librarians
http://hirshlibrary.tufts.edu/research/liaison-program

We can help you:
- clarify the intent of the research
- identify stakeholder resources
- modify search strategies

The Writing Consultants
http://researchguides.library.tufts.edu/writingconsultants

They can help you with structuring the paper and avoiding plagiarism.
GET HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT

Amy E. LaVertu, MLS
Research & Instruction Librarian
Tufts University Hirsh Health Sciences Library
617.636.3988
amy.lavertu@tufts.edu
THE RESULT....
Alliant Libraries. "What is a Boolean Operator?"