



**EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS**  
IRELAND



# An Introduction to Systematic Searching (Half day workshop)

## Background

One of the key features of all evidence synthesis is to conduct a systematic search strategy. Systematic literature searching requires that we plan and run searches in a way that ensures clarity, validity and reliability. Documenting the searching process is vital to ensure transparency and reproducibility.

## Aim

This workshop provides attendees with the knowledge and skills to conduct a basic systematic search of the literature including running searches on key databases, experimenting with search filters and exploring supplementary searching.

## Learning outcomes

In this course, participants will be enabled to:

- Design a basic systematic search strategy
- Use study-design search filters
- Explore supplementary search techniques
- Report the search methods

## Target Audience

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision makers, librarians, information specialists, and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and teaching faculty who would like to learn more about systematic searching.

## Date:

**February 11 2022**

## Time:

**9:00-13:30**

## Facilitators:

**Mike Smalle**

Academic Skills Librarian,  
NUI Galway Library

## Skill level:

**Introductory /  
Intermediate**

## Prerequisites:

**A basic understanding  
of searching and using  
databases.**

## Venue:

**Áras Moyola, NUI Galway  
campus**

**In the event that the  
workshop cannot  
take place in person,  
depending on public  
health guidance at the  
time, we plan to hold it  
virtually, via Zoom.**

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**Cochrane**  
Ireland

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## Teaching strategies

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations, small group activities with practical exercises. A short reading list/activity list will be sent to enrolled attendees in advance of the session. The number of participants for the course is limited to 30.

## Places:

**30**

## Fee:

**€50 (General)**

**€25 (Student)**

## Course content/timetable

| PROGRAMME |                                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00      | An Introduction to Searching: searching basics.                                                  |
| 9:15      | Using Subject Headings and Keywords (including exercises).                                       |
| 9:45      | Conducting a systematic search/ Translating the research question (presentation and activities). |
| 10:30     | Methodological search filters (incl. exercises).                                                 |
| 11:00     | Break                                                                                            |
| 11:30     | Peer reviewing search strategies (Group activity)                                                |
| 12:00     | Supplementary Search Techniques                                                                  |
| 12:30     | Documenting and reporting the search strategy                                                    |
| 1:00      | Wrap up, discussion and evaluation                                                               |
| 1:30      | Close                                                                                            |

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