

## A Comparison of Reviews

Review Type	Description	Methodology	Requirements	Timeline
<b>Integrative review</b>	Combines experimental and non-experimental literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of a topic.	Allows for the combination of research methodologies. Conclusions from each evidence type synthesized into an integrated summary.	Follows systematic review methods. Best done with a team.	6-12 months
<b>Literature or Narrative review</b>	An examination of recent literature.	May or may not include comprehensive searching or quality assessment. Analysis may be chronological, conceptual, thematic, etc.	Typically a narrative article written by an expert in the field.	Weeks to months
<b>Meta-analysis</b>	Combines quantitative studies to provide a precise effect of the results.	Aims for exhaustive searching. Quality assessment may determine inclusion/exclusion and/or sensitivity analyses.	A statistical technique synthesizes data into a quantitative estimate or summary effect size.	9-24 months
<b>Rapid review</b>	Uses systematic review methods to more quickly search for and appraise research.	Completeness of searching determined by time constraints.	Tailors systematic review methods to expedite the process.	1-6 months
<b>Scoping review</b>	Preliminary assessment of the size and scope of research literature on a topic.	Completeness of searching determined by time/scope constraints. May include research in progress. No formal quality assessment.	Approaches a broad question. Best done with a team.	7-8 months
<b>Systematic review</b>	Seeks to systematically search for, appraise, and synthesize research.	Aims for comprehensive and replicable searching following a protocol formulated to minimize bias.	Requires a team of researchers and a protocol.	9-24 months

**Adapted from:**

Grant MJ, Booth A. A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health Info Libr J.* 2009 Jun; 26(2):91–108. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-1842.2009.00848.x.

Kelly, S.E., Moher, D. and Clifford, T.J. (2016) Defining rapid reviews: a modified delphi consensus approach. *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, published online 11 October 2016. doi: 10.1017/S0266462316000489.

Levac, D., Colquhoun, H., & O'Brien, K. K. (2010). Scoping studies: advancing the methodology. *Implementation Science* : IS, 5, 69. <http://doi.org/10.1186/1748-5908-5-69>

Whittemore, R., Knafl, K. The integrative review: updated methodology. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 2005 Dec; 52(5): 546–553. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2648.2005.03621.x