

Handout Module 5: Quality appraisal overview

You can use the following questions to guide your understanding of quality appraisal:

- Which pieces of evidence do I usually access?
- What makes me trust this evidence?
- Why am I more confident in this type of evidence than other types?

You can use the following questions to guide your relevance assessment of evidence:

- What question am I asking?
- What evidence could / could not answer this question?
Content: does the evidence treat the same subject?
Context: is the evidence generated in a comparable context?
Format: is the type of evidence acceptable in my organisational environment?

Remember: Your question defines your evidence.

You can use the following checklist to guide your rigour assessment of evidence:

Evidence design:

- ✓ Statement of study question, objectives, and applied methods.
- ✓ Description of research setting / sample.
- ✓ Proof that study created new data / knowledge (not authors' opinions)

Evidence conduct:

- ✓ The authors did what they said they would do.
- ✓ No preferential / different treatment of any samples.
- ✓ Conduct was professional (e.g. ethics, declaration of interest).

Evidence analysis:

- ✓ Data is complete. No samples, groups missing.
- ✓ All possible analyses have been explored.
- ✓ All conducted analyses are reported.

Author's conclusions:

- ✓ There is a link between data, conclusions, and recommendations.
- ✓ A strong claim is supported by strong (number & quality) data.
- ✓ Limitations of study are acknowledged (all research is limited!).
- ✓ Background information on research is provided to contextualise findings.

Remember: Evidence ideally is rigorous and relevant.

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