

Searching for evidence

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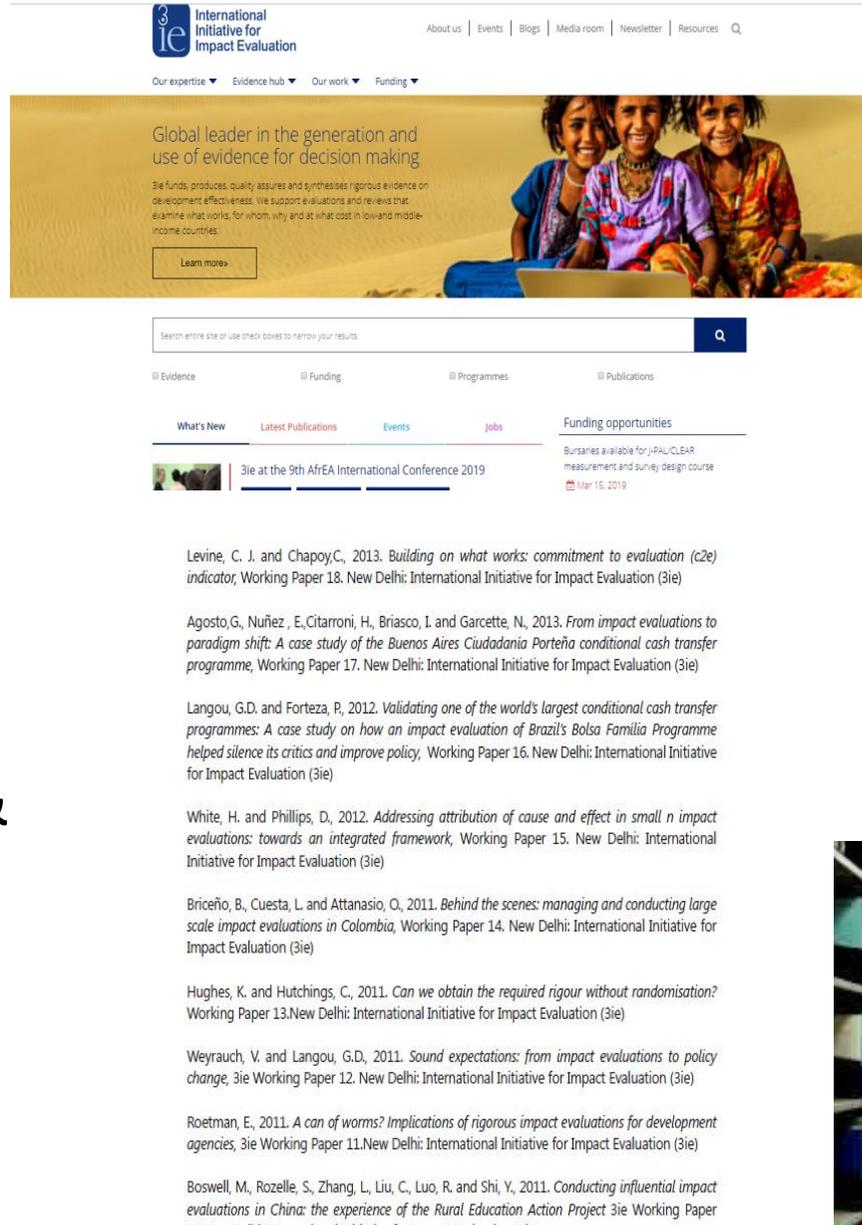
@campbellreviews @AshritaSaran

What are the main resources you would consult and the strategy you will follow to find existing studies relevant to your research question?

- ✓ There are two parts to a search strategy:
 - Where to look
 - How to look (search terms)

Where to look?

1. Databases and registries
2. 'Grey' literature
3. Hand-search
4. 'Snowballing' references & citations



The screenshot shows the homepage of the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie). The header includes the 3ie logo and navigation links: About us, Events, Blogs, Media room, Newsletter, Resources, and a search icon. Below the header, there are dropdown menus for "Our expertise", "Evidence hub", "Our work", and "Funding". The main content area features a banner with the text "Global leader in the generation and use of evidence for decision making" and a photograph of three women smiling. Below the banner is a search bar and a list of categories: Evidence, Funding, Programmes, and Publications. A "What's New" section highlights "3ie at the 9th AfrEA International Conference 2019". A "Funding opportunities" section lists bursaries available for J-PAL/CLEAR measurement and survey design courses. The main body of the page contains a list of working papers with their titles, authors, and dates.

Levine, C. J. and Chapoy, C., 2013. *Building on what works: commitment to evaluation (c2e) indicator*, Working Paper 18. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Agosto, G., Nuñez, E., Citarroni, H., Briasco, I. and Garcette, N., 2013. *From impact evaluations to paradigm shift: A case study of the Buenos Aires Ciudadanía Porteña conditional cash transfer programme*, Working Paper 17. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Langou, G.D. and Forteza, P., 2012. *Validating one of the world's largest conditional cash transfer programmes: A case study on how an impact evaluation of Brazil's Bolsa Família Programme helped silence its critics and improve policy*, Working Paper 16. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

White, H. and Phillips, D., 2012. *Addressing attribution of cause and effect in small n impact evaluations: towards an integrated framework*, Working Paper 15. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

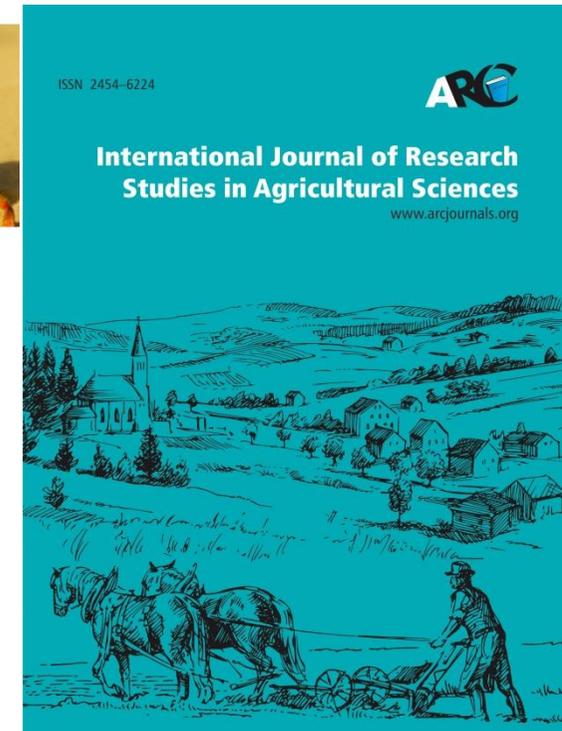
Briçeño, B., Cuesta, L. and Attanasio, O., 2011. *Behind the scenes: managing and conducting large scale impact evaluations in Colombia*, Working Paper 14. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Hughes, K. and Hutchings, C., 2011. *Can we obtain the required rigour without randomisation?* Working Paper 13. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Weyrauch, V. and Langou, G.D., 2011. *Sound expectations: from impact evaluations to policy change*, 3ie Working Paper 12. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Roetman, E., 2011. *A can of worms? Implications of rigorous impact evaluations for development agencies*, 3ie Working Paper 11. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

Boswell, M., Rozelle, S., Zhang, L., Liu, C., Luo, R. and Shi, Y., 2011. *Conducting influential impact evaluations in China: the experience of the Rural Education Action Project* 3ie Working Paper 10. New Delhi: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)



- Social Sciences Citation Index
- Scholar Google
- International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (Proquest)
- ERIC (education) <http://eric.ed.gov/>
- Econlit
- The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
- WHO's Global Health Library
- CABI's Global Health

- Cochrane
- Campbell
- 3ie Systematic Review Database
- Research for Development
- Epistemonikos

THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION ONLINE LIBRARY

Featured reviews

 <p>Individualised funding interventions to improve health and social care outcomes for people with a disability</p> <p>Download: Protocol Title Review Plain language summary</p> <p>Online supplements</p>	 <p>Impact of financial inclusion in low- and middle-income countries</p> <p>Download: Title Protocol Review Plain language summary</p>
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Full text keyword search ^[?]

[Advanced search](#)

Campbell systematic reviews

Browse by Coordinating Group

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Campbell plain language summaries

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Advanced Search

Please note that the Advanced Search is optimised for English search terms. Certain features, such as search operators and MeSH terms, are only available in English.

[Search](#) [Search manager](#) [Medical terms \(MeSH\)](#)

[Save search](#) [View searches](#) [Search help](#)

Title Abstract Keyword ▼

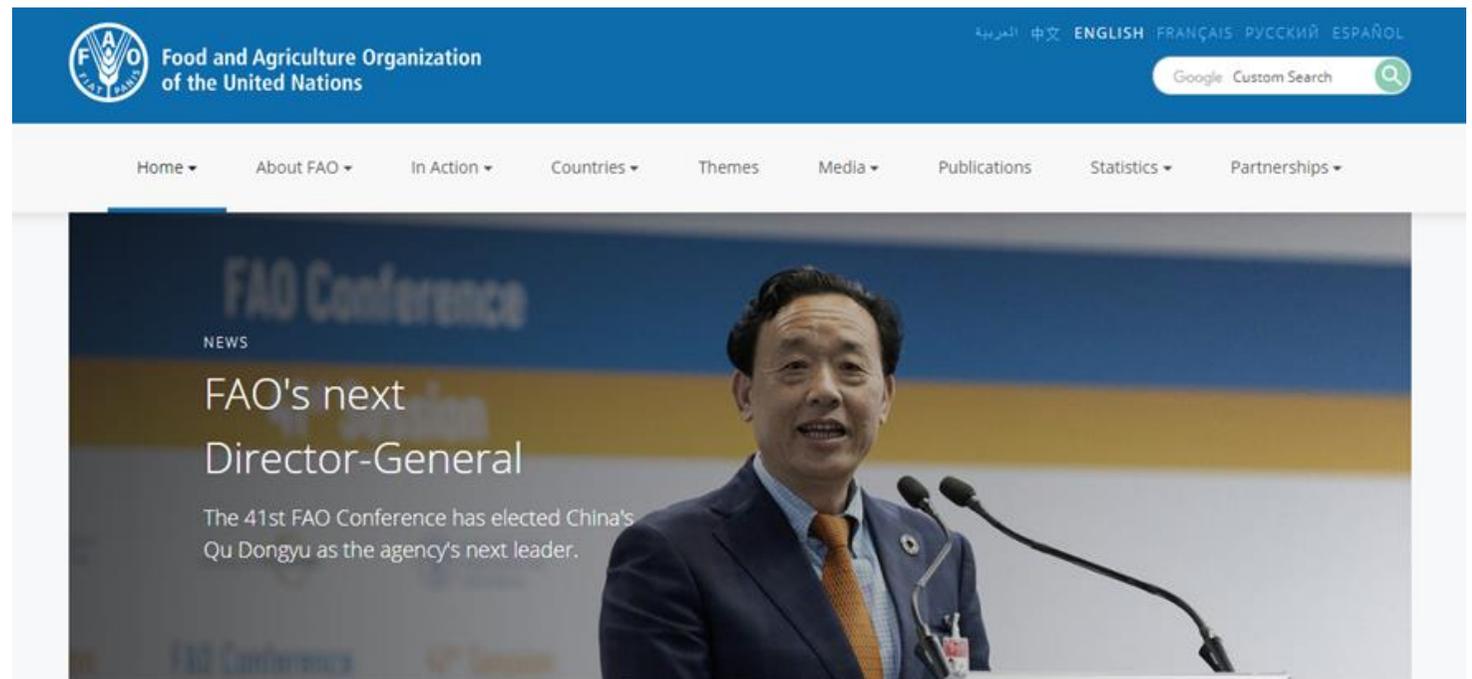
(Word variations have been searched)



[Search limits](#) [Send to search manager](#) [Run search](#)

[Clear all](#)

- National and regional database
- Citation searches
- Web of science
- Scopus



Academic databases/ search engines examples

Name	Discipline	Access Cost
African Journals OnLine (AJOL)	Multidisciplinary	Free abstracts; Subscription full-text
CINAHL: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health	Nursing, Allied Health	Subscription
EconLit	Economics	Subscription
EMBASE	Biomedicine, Pharmacology	Subscription
Global Health	Public health	Subscription
Google Scholar	Multidisciplinary	Free
NBER: National Bureau of Economic Research	Economics	Free
POPLINE	Population, Family Planning, Reproductive Health	Free
PsycINFO	Psychology	Subscription

What is Grey Literature?

Grey literature refers to academic, business, government or industry print or electronic literature that is not controlled by commercial publishers.

Conference proceedings (*EMBASE, Scopus, Web of Science, Google*)

- Research reports
- Government reports
- Dissertations, theses
- Research monographs
- Organization websites

- Long lead times before publication:
 - publication gaps after conference presentation
 - Cheng et al (1998): Only 8.1% of a set of conference papers achieved publication within 12 months, 40% within 5 years
 - Hopewell et al (2007) Cochrane review: trials with positive results are published sooner than other trials
- Indexing lag – between publication and recording in databases

Where to Find Evidence: grey literature

- OpenGrey (Multidisciplinary)- <http://www.opengrey.eu/>
- Grey Lit Report (Health) - <http://www.greylit.org/>
- Google Scholar (Multidisciplinary) - <http://scholar.google.co.uk/>
- Most databases that index books, reports, conferences contain grey literature. Those that index journals *only* will not
- Web sites of organizations relevant to the review question (such as the World Health Organization or the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)

How to look?

Effective search strategy can allow us:

- ✓ Find evidence we want amongst the huge number of online resources available
 - More than 20,000 full text journals online
 - Newspapers, databases, books, pages, dictionaries, encyclopedia, individual home page etc.

- ✓ Save time and money

What sort of information is needed?

- ✓ Facts or figures, prevalence: Web, Individual or organizational home page,
- ✓ Specific information: Such as research done in agriculture subject gateways, relevant database as Agricola database, AgEcon, google scholar, EBSCO, online journals (American Journal of Agricultural Economics).
- ✓ Grey literature: Reports from key national donors such as USAID, DFID, World Bank Economic Review

Define your Information need?

What sort of key words will be used?

What sort of key concept is it a part of or related to?

Are there any synonyms for this key concepts?

Are there any alternative spellings for this keyword?

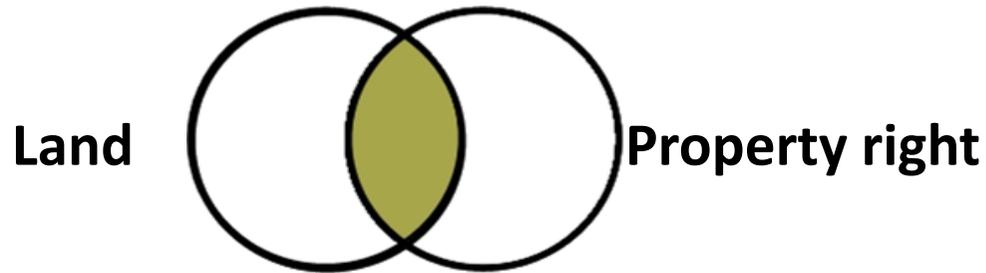
I want to find information about The Impact of Land Property Rights Interventions on Agricultural Productivity in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review

- Key words: Land property rights
- Concepts/synonyms: tenure or right, property right, certifications
- Alternative spellings?

Electronic search tool interpret search term using:

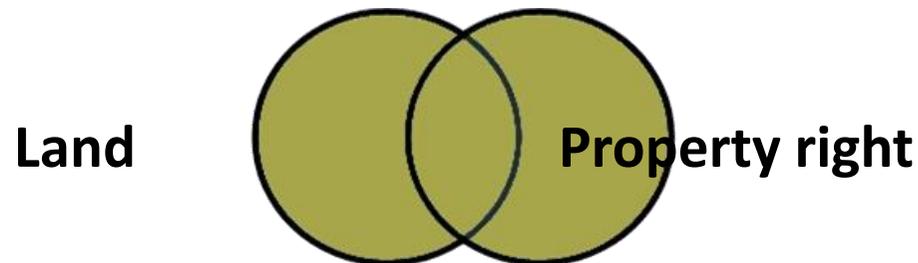
- ✓ Boolean Operators (Uses Command such as AND, OR, NOT)
- ✓ Phrase searching
- ✓ Truncations and wild cards
- ✓ Case sensitivity

AND



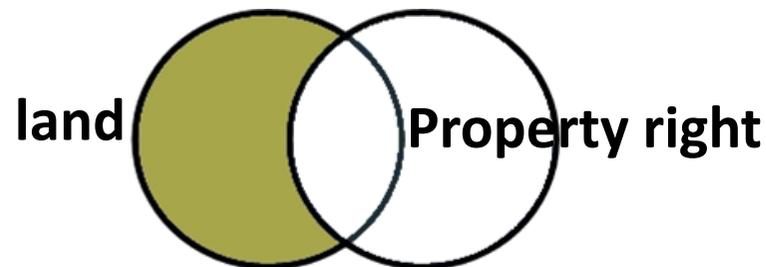
I am interested in land and property right

OR



I would like information on land or property right

NOT



I would like information on land and Not property right

- Using quotation allows you to search for exact phrase
example, “property right”
- Using NEAR/ADJ allows you to specify how close to each other
the terms you are searching for should be

Use asterisk * to retrieve variant forms of terms:

- ❑ Litera\$ = literacy, literature, literal
(anything that comes after 'litera')

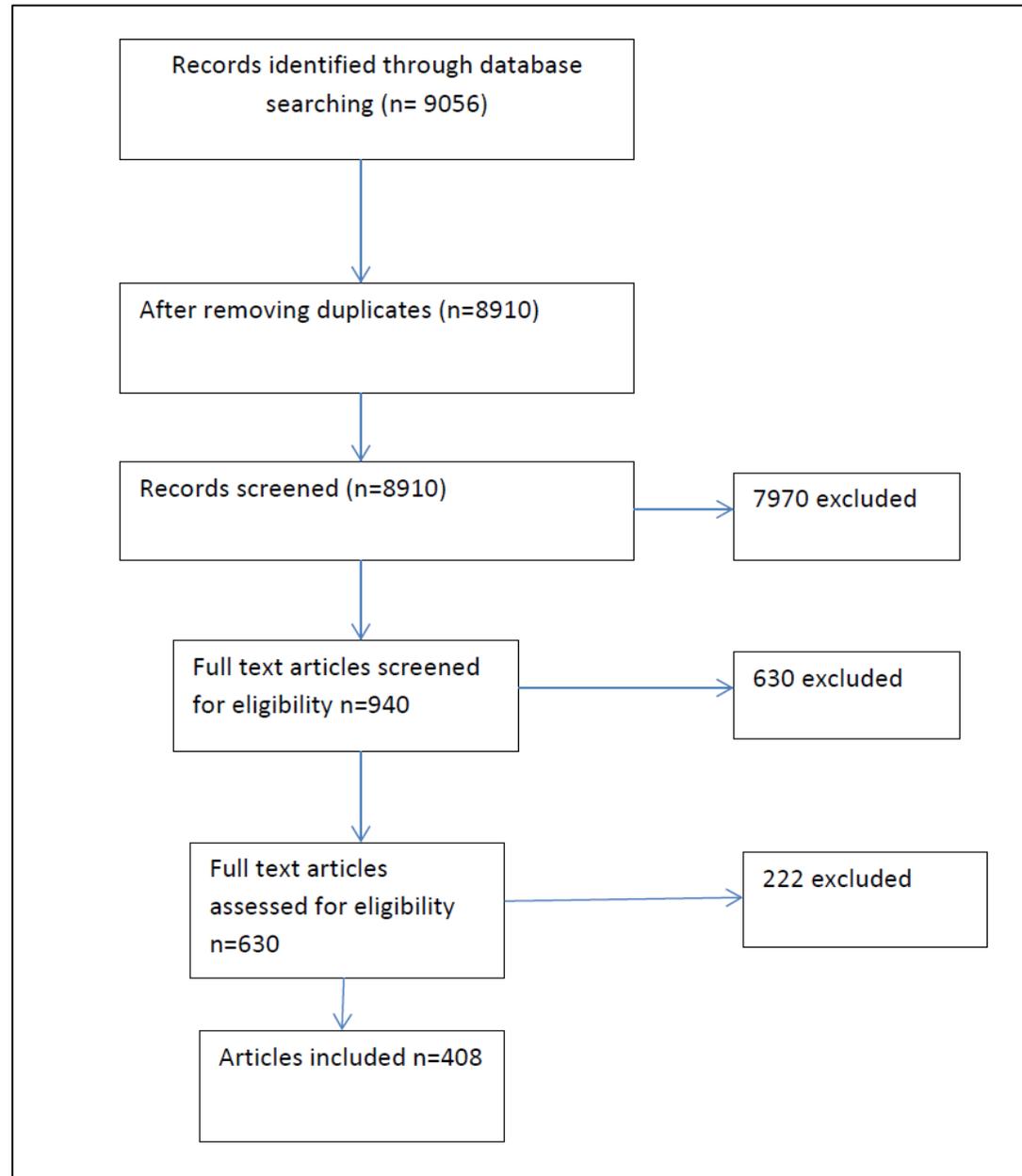
- ❑ Analy*e= analyse, analyze

Interactive exercise

	Scholar google	ERIC
School based management	4,450,000	11,787
“School based management”	21,800	11,787
“School based management” Since 1990	16,000	2086

ERIC (search conducted 18 July 2014)

S1	TI (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 school OR AB (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 school	1504
S2	TI (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 education OR AB (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 education	1167
S3	TI ("school based management" OR SBM) OR AB ("school based management" OR SBM)	691
S4	TI ("shared decision making" OR SDM) OR AB ("shared decision making" OR SDM)	633
S5	Ti "school management committee*" OR AB "school management committee"	13
S6	TI accountability n2 school OR AB accountability n2 school	1671
S7	TI accountability n2 education OR AB accountability n2 education	1096
S8	TI "report cards" OR AB "report cards"	768
S9	TI "principal leadership" OR AB "principal leadership"	428
S10	TI "School level planning" OR AB "School level planning"	15
S11	TI "school autonomy" OR AB "school autonomy"	179
S12	Ti "parent-teacher association" OR AB "parent-teacher association"	160
S13	Ti "community participation" n2 school OR AB "community participation" n2 school	101
S14	Ti "community participation" n2 education OR AB "community participation" n2 education	70
S15	TI "community based management" OR AB "community based management"	23
S16	TI (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 budget* OR AB (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 budget*	122
S17	Ti "resource allocation" n2 school OR AB "resource allocation" n2 school	107
S18	TI "resource allocation" n2 education OR AB "resource allocation" n2 education	66
S19	TI "capitation grant*" OR AB "capitation grant"	13
S20	TI "block grant*" n2 school OR AB "block grant*" n2 school	14
S21	TI "block grant*" n2 education OR AB "block grant*" n2 education	68
S22	TI (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 curriculum OR AB (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 curriculum	211
S23	TI (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 pedagog* OR AB (decentral* OR devolv* OR governance) n2 pedagog*	15
S24	TI "contract teachers" OR AB "contract teachers"	15



An example of PRISMA “mega map on child welfare in low and middle income countries”

- Search strategy is included in protocol
- Get specialist advice!
Include an information specialist in your team

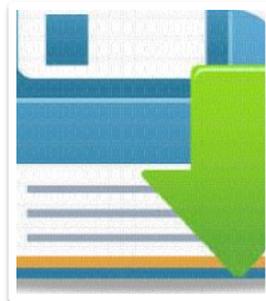


Select appropriate
database to
search



Each database
is different-
CHECK GUIDES!

**Check Campbell's
Information
retrieval guide!!**



Keep saving
and perfecting
your search

The search strategy should be designed to identify the maximum number of studies relevant to the research question:

- The search strategy should be systematic, transparent and reproducible.
- Database specific controlled vocabulary terms and all relevant text words should be included in the search strategy

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