
Under the direction and guidance of Guest Editor Julia H. Littell, the special issue was dedicated to enhancing the accumulation and dissemination of scholarly knowledge by presenting papers that explore innovative research synthesis methodologies and reports examining the results of systematic reviews, such as those published by the Cochrane Collaboration and the Campbell Collaboration.

The Science and Practice of Research Synthesis illustrates the groundbreaking work of the Cochrane and Campbell Collections and members of the interdisciplinary Society for Research Synthesis Methodology, and their collective efforts toward establishing rigorous standards for systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

This special issue of JSSWR presents an overview of the principles and methods of research synthesis, four reports on systematic reviews, and two papers on novel research synthesis methodologies.

Guest Editor’s Introduction:
The Science and Practice of Research Synthesis

Julia H. Littell

Reports on Systematic Reviews:
Group-Based Parenting Programs for Improving Parenting and Psychosocial Functioning: A Systematic Review
   Cathy Bennett, Jane Barlow, Nick Huband, Nadja Smailagic, Verena Roloff

A Systematic Review of Consumer-Providers’ Effects on Client Outcomes in Statutory Mental Health Services: The Evidence and the Path Beyond
   Veronica Jean Pitt, Dianne Lowe, Megan Prictor, Sarah Hetrick, Rebecca Ryan, Lynda Berends, Sophie Hill

Dropout Prevention and Intervention Programs for Improving School Completion Among School-Aged Children and Youth: A Systematic Review
   Sandra Jo Wilson, Emily Elizabeth Tanner-Smith

Effects of School Dropout Prevention Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents: A Meta-Analytic Review
   Katarzyna T. Steinka-Fry, Sandra Jo Wilson, Emily E. Tanner-Smith

Research Synthesis Methodologies:
The Synthesis of Partial Effect Sizes
   Ariel M. Aloe, Christopher G. Thompson

Network Meta-Analysis for Complex Social Interventions: Problems and Potential
   Eli Grant, Tara Calderbank-Batista