Other common types of review/study

Realist Review

Focuses on providing explanations for why interventions may or may not work, in what contexts, how and in what circumstances.

A selection of databases should be searched but as it deals with the inner workings of interventions much more use of grey literature is likely to be needed. Citation and reference tracking should also be performed.

Integrative Review

Sometimes also known as an Umbrella Review, it is a systematic review of systematic reviews. The aim is not to repeat the searches, assess study eligibility, and assess risk of bias from included studies but rather to provide an overall picture of findings.

As the aim is not to find new studies but analysing existing systematic reviews or meta analyses, databases providing access to systematic reviews will suffice.

Conceptual Review

Groups studies according to concepts, or categories, or themes. It identifies the current 'understanding' of a given research topic, discusses how this understanding was reached, and attempts to determine whether a greater understanding can be suggested.

Peer reviewed studies should be the main source of information so databases will be the main tools to retrieve information. The search can be supplemented by performing citation and reference tracking.