Review Articles in a Nutshell

Definition:

This type of article does not contain original research. By reading the abstract, identifying whether it is a review or not should be simple, since this type of article will not contain a methods, results, or conclusion section.

When is It Appropriate to Use Review Articles?

- The simplest answer is never for papers and assignments in your courses! These articles contain biased information or might even be a critique on research previously completed. **No original research is done in a review article.**
- If you want to see what research is available and get others opinions on it, then a review article is a perfect option.

Articles – containing reviews – that might be pertinent

- Some Clinical Trials or Randomized Controlled Trials will contain Systematic Reviews in them. Systematic Reviews are a way of searching for articles using agreed upon terms and methods to minimize bias. Depending on the focus of the Trial, the Systematic Review included within it might make the Trial more useful for you.
- Systematic reviews are not equivalent to a Review Article in anyway. Some review articles may mention the ways in which a systematic review was conducted, but do not be fooled. Authors of Review articles do not **a)** conduct a systematic review or **b)** offer any new information on the subject matter mentioned in the article.

When Searching, How do I Avoid Review Articles?

- **Stop reading** an article if it is does not include an introduction, methods, results, and conclusion section.
- Databases, such as PubMed, have the option to sort articles by type. Any option for articles selected, will immediately narrow the search to only that type of article. Select any other article type excluding the Review Article option.

Questions? Confused? Need Additional Clarification?

Feel free to contact the Cyber Librarian (cyberlibrarian@atsu.edu or 660-626-2340) or Library Staff (libaz@atsu.edu or 480-219-6090) to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.