

Systematic Quantitative Literature Review

Systematic quantitative literature reviewing is a smart and effective method for undertaking literature reviews, particularly for research students and others exploring new disciplines.

It bridges the gap between traditional narrative review methods and meta-analysis. Narrative methods that are common in research theses, rely on the expertise and experience of the author, making them challenging for novices to produce and publish. In contrast, the method we have developed involves systematically searching the literature using online databases and other sources to find all relevant papers that fit specific criteria (systematically identifying the literature), entering information about each paper into a personal database, then compiling tables that summarise the current status of the literature, including identifying research gaps (quantifying the literature). The results are reliable, quantifiable and reproducible. Using this method, it is also possible to determine whether there are suitable datasets for meta-analysis.

The method works well for specific topics, but also for summarising diverse inter-disciplinary research. There are now over 100 papers published using this method making important contributions to a wide diversity of disciplines. The method was recently used to review the Managing and Monitoring Visitors Conference's themselves (Pickering, C.M., Rossi, S.D., Hernando, A. and Barros, A. (2018). Current knowledge and future research directions for the Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. 21: 10-18).

In the workshop, Prof Pickering will outline the method, how it complements other review methods, how to systematically search the literature and how to then quantify it. She will also show examples of papers that have been published using the method highlighting its relevance and applicability to a wide range of disciplines.



Professor Catherine Pickering

Professor Catherine Pickering is an academic in the School of Environment at Griffith University, Australia with > 250 publications, including >120 peer-reviewed papers. In addition to her own research and supervising PhD students, she is working on a range of support materials for PhD students and academics to better develop their research skills. Based on this work, she has received University and national awards for her work. Over 1500 research academics and PhD students in Australia have undertaken the workshops on Systematic Quantitative Literature Reviews. In addition to these workshops, videos on demand and associated support material on the systematic quantitative literature review can be accessed online – see <https://www2.griffith.edu.au/griffith-sciences/school-environment-science/research/systematic-quantitative-literature-review> The videos on this method have now been watched >92,000 collectively. Prof Pickering will be talking about the method, its benefits and limitations for researchers and PhD candidates including how to publish their reviews.