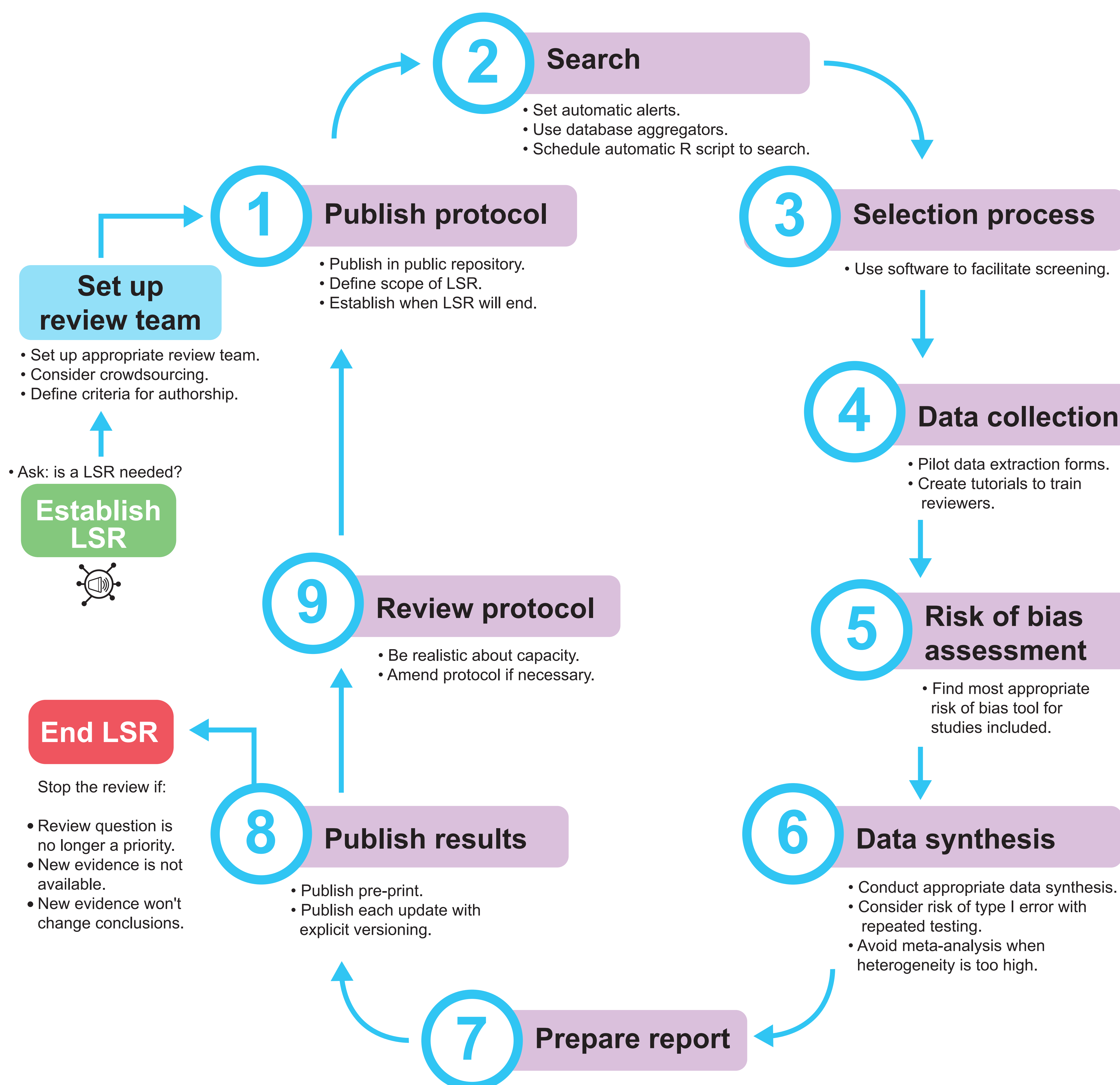


In the life cycle of a living systematic review, knowing when to stop is as important as knowing when to start

Recommendations to keep a living systematic review alive during a pandemic

Background: Living systematic reviews (LSR) gained special attention during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is challenging to quickly review high volumes of rapidly emerging evidence in emergency situations such as a pandemic. We propose a cycle for LSRs based on our experience conducting a LSR on the proportion of asymptomatic people with SARS-CoV-2 (QR code right).

LIFECYCLE OF A LIVING SYSTEMATIC REVIEW



We found 97 LSRs on COVID-19 in Nov. 2022

Questions addressed

Pharmacological interventions (n=46)
 Prevalence of conditions or risk factors (n=30)
 Diagnostic tests (n=10)
 Other (n=11)

Study designs included

Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) (n=28)
 Observational (n=22)
 Both observational and RCTs (n=45)
 Other (n=2)

Publication of LSRs

98% had ≥1 peer-reviewed version

Updates

78% were updated ≥ once in 2020
 32% were updated ≥ once in 2021

Discussion: LSRs are difficult to keep alive. Several studies described as LSRs on COVID-19 did not update after the initial results. We recommend using methods and software to improve efficiency and considering automatization.



Preprint

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Citation: Leonie Heron, Diana Buitrago-Garcia, Aziz Mert Ipekci et al. How to update a living systematic review and keep it alive during a pandemic: a practical guide [<https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2364994/v1>]. Systematic Reviews 2023 (in press, QR code left)

Funding: Swiss National Science Foundation (176233), European Union Horizon 2020 EpiPose project (101003688)



Living systematic review