# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Getting Started on Your Literature Review</td>
<td>Introduction, Systematic reviews versus systematic approaches, Chapters overview, Working your way through this book, Examples of review challenges and how this book can help, Getting started</td>
<td>1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taking a Systematic Approach to Your Literature Review</td>
<td>Introduction, Why is the literature review so important?, Where does a literature review fit within the context of research?, What types of research question are suitable for literature review?, Why review the literature?, A brief history of research synthesis, What is the place of theory in literature review?, The traditional narrative review, the systematic review and 'systematic approaches', Why be systematic?, Introducing the SALSA framework, Systematic approaches, Summary</td>
<td>9, 11, 12, 13, 13, 14, 17, 17, 19, 23, 27, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Choosing Your Review Methods</td>
<td>Introduction, Acknowledging your review constraints, Some review choice scenarios, Summary</td>
<td>36, 37, 43, 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Planning and Conducting Your Literature Review</td>
<td>Introduction, Project management, Updates to existing reviews, Conversion of reviews to a different format</td>
<td>55, 57, 58, 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Defining Your Scope

Introduction
Why is defining the scope important?
Defining your scope with an audience in mind
Frameworks for defining the scope
Complex interventions
Further defining your scope
Defining the scope: challenges and pitfalls
The review protocol
Summary

6 Searching the Literature

Introduction
Stages in the literature searching process
Stage 1: Scoping search
Stage 2: Conduct the search
Stage 3: Bibliographic searching
Stage 4: Verification
Stage 5: Documenting your search
Types of literature reviews
Translating your search question
Summary

7 Assessing the Evidence Base

Introduction
Assessing the relevance of studies to your research question
Steps in the selection process
Using reference management software for study selection
Assessing your included studies – first steps
Study designs – is there a hierarchy of evidence?
Quality assessment: validity, reliability and applicability
Doing quality assessment
Existing reviews in your subject area
Using checklists
Quality assessment of qualitative research
Applying quality assessment
Issues and challenges in quality assessment
Summary

8 Synthesising and Analysing Quantitative Studies

Introduction
Synthesis-analysis, analysis-synthesis?
Overview of approaches to synthesis
Extracting quantitative data for your review 173
Planning your synthesis strategy 179
Approaches to synthesis 181
Analysis of quantitative research 195
Identifying gaps 197
Revisiting the review question 199
Discussing the limitations of the evidence 199
The risk of bias tool 200
Publication bias 202
Selective outcome reporting bias 205
Summary 207

9 Synthesising and Analysing Qualitative Studies 215
Introduction 215
Synthesis-analysis: an iterative process 216
Overview of approaches to qualitative synthesis 216
Extracting qualitative data for your review 218
A generic approach to qualitative evidence synthesis 222
Planning your synthesis strategy 224
Getting started in qualitative synthesis 226
Progressing to more advanced forms of synthesis 229
Identifying the disconfirming case 234
Methods of qualitative synthesis 235
Integrating quantitative and qualitative data 237
Analysing what you find 239
Matching the analysis to the review purpose 250
Discussing the limitations of the evidence 252
Methods for integrating qualitative and quantitative data 254
Using analysis to examine an integrated synthesis 261
Summary 262

10 Writing, Presenting and Disseminating Your Review 272
Introduction 272
Identifying recommendations for action 273
Highlighting recommendations for future research 273
Considering your audience 274
What is required 279
A sample review structure 282
Standards for the reporting of reviews 286
Use of tables and figures 289
Use of appendices and other supporting features 290
Accurate referencing 290
Other types of review 293
Summary 295

Glossary 301
Index 318