CONTENTS

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

	ci vi	
	Skills and resources	62
	Polishing skills in writing and presentation	65
	Stages of the literature review	68
	Problem solving and troubleshooting	74
	Summary	78
5	Defining Your Scope	83
	Introduction	83
	Why is defining the scope important?	84
	Defining your scope with an audience in mind	85
	Frameworks for defining the scope	86
	Complex interventions	88
	Further defining your scope	92
	Defining the scope: challenges and pitfalls	97
	The review protocol	99
	Summary	102
6	Searching the Literature	108
	Introduction	108
	Stages in the literature searching process	110
	Stage 1: Scoping search	111
	Stage 2: Conduct the search	115
	Stage 3: Bibliographic searching	121
	Stage 4: Verification	122
	Stage 5: Documenting your search	123
	Types of literature reviews	125
	Translating your search question	129
	Summary	135
7	Assessing the Evidence Base	141
	Introduction	141
	Assessing the relevance of studies to your research question	142
	Steps in the selection process	143
	Using reference management software for study selection	144
	Assessing your included studies – first steps	145
	Study designs – is there a hierarchy of evidence?	149
	Quality assessment: validity, reliability and applicability	151
	Doing quality assessment	155
	Existing reviews in your subject area	156
	Using checklists	158
	Quality assessment of qualitative research	160
	Applying quality assessment	162
	Issues and challenges in quality assessment	163
	Summary	164
8	Synthesising and Analysing Quantitative Studies	171
	Introduction	171
	Synthesis-analysis, analysis-synthesis?	172
	Overview of approaches to synthesis	172

	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	198
	Discussing the limitations of the evidence	199
	The risk of bias tool	199
	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	293 295
	Summary	293
Glos	sary	301
indov		318