

Review of Literature

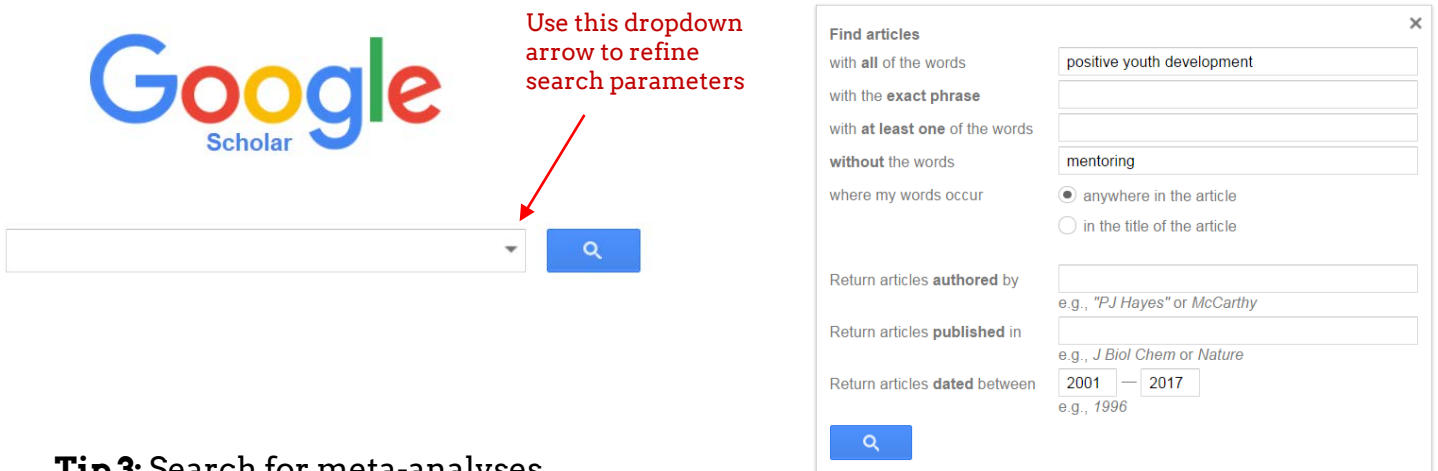
Quick research tips for building a robust root cause analysis

Tip 1: Narrow the focus of your research & refine keywords

Academia can get a bit jargony. First explore articles related to your focus and mission to pinpoint the terms most consistently used by the field. E.g. What you might call “youth-centered programming” is largely termed “Positive Youth Development” in the field. Using this phrase will return better results.

Tip 2: Use Google Scholar

Google Scholar has the most comprehensive repository of open-access sources.



The image shows the Google Scholar search interface. On the left, the Google Scholar logo is visible above a search input field and a search button. A red arrow points to the dropdown arrow on the search input field, with the text "Use this dropdown arrow to refine search parameters". On the right, a search filter overlay is shown with the following options:

- Find articles with all of the words: positive youth development
- with the exact phrase
- with at least one of the words
- without the words: mentoring
- where my words occur: anywhere in the article, in the title of the article
- Return articles authored by: e.g., "PJ Hayes" or McCarthy
- Return articles published in: e.g., J Biol Chem or Nature
- Return articles dated between: 2001 — 2017, e.g., 1996

Tip 3: Search for meta-analyses

A meta-analysis is a rigorous secondary analysis of primary research findings around a specific topic or phenomenon. Once you have narrowed your topic and identified relevant keywords, search for a meta-analysis of the most essential topic and phenomena you are investigating.

Ex.

About 46,200 results (0.13 sec)

[A meta-analysis of outdoor adventure programming with adolescents](#)

D Cason, HLL Gillis - Journal of **Experiential Education**, 1994 - journals.sagepub.com
... Whether the pro- grams are therapeutic, **educational**, or recreational in nature, adolescents ... the populations addressed at annual conferences of the Association for **Experiential Education** (AEE) or ... the improvement or deterioration of the variable studied (eg, adjudicated **youth**). ...
Cited by 386 [Related articles](#) [All 2 versions](#) [Cite](#) [Save](#)

Tip 4: Search for program evaluations related to your mission/problem statement

Tip 5: Check out trusted research institutes, think tanks, and/or foundations that focus on issues related to your mission. They regularly publish or compile external reports on their websites. Some examples:

- Pew Research Center; Urban Institute; Annie E. Casey Foundation (child welfare focus)

Tip 6: Once you find a good article, report, meta-analysis, etc. use their citations to further enhance your root cause analysis.

