

# Essay describing your research strategies , library tools, resources & services in completion of the project (TXUSTR)

Last updated: 03/03/2016

Maximum 750 words

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### **Provided a 500-750 reflective essay describing your research strategies and your application of library tools, resources and services in completion of the project**

The study “Evaluating impact of surgeon self-evaluation and positive deviance on post-operative adverse events following major thoracic surgery” is a clinical research study that I have been fortunate to undertake during the past year due to the UROP program. I am currently conducting this study under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Seely and with the help of Dr. Jelena Ivanovic. Both these individuals have been key to my success in completing this study, however several other individuals and resources have made the process easier.

This is the first clinical study that I have conducted, so understanding the process of clinical research was the key first step. I made use of the professors we have that teach the Evidence Based Medicine components of the curriculum to get a better sense of apriori planning of a clinical research and the process. Next, I talked to a librarian at Roger Guindon to get the best books to plan for the research. At this point, I also asked for help with the statistical analysis. I was directed to a librarian at the Faculty of Social Sciences, who specializes in data, to contact for understanding best statistical analysis necessary for my study. Ultimately, with the help of all these individuals, I was able to plan for my clinical research.

The next step was developing a literature search to inform me of the background research. This stage is one of the easier steps, since I have an extensive background in systematic reviews. My search method involved building a search strategy based on approximately 5 papers that had the best fit for my background literature reviews. I extracted the appropriate key words and MESH terms from these studies and applied them in searches both in Pubmed and Medline. This gave me a long list of studies, which I screened for based on titles. At the end, I had a few relevant studies based on online searches. However, to expand my search I was in contact with my supervisors who are experts in the field and they directed me to more relevant background studies. I was able to include unpublished data and previous studies that had not been included in my online search strategy.

Conducting the study, I used the technical support at the hospital to gain better understanding of the online patient database. Additionally, Dr. Seely’s team includes many member, including residents and medical students that I involved in the process. [Researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net) is another good resource, where I was connected with a statistician who had helped teach some of the methods when working with the SPSS system. The write up process involved many edits and help from the student resources at UOttawa. I was connected with a student that helped edit some of the content.

Overall, the research process was a steep learning curve. My success in completing this task was through making good use of the resources available. Additionally, I found that talking to individuals in person can be a great way to get ideas to move forward. Ultimately, being creative in your search methods and using ingenuity can lead to a more exciting and fulfilling research process.