

APPENDIX 1 Combination of search terms

MEDLINE (via PubMed)

#	Query	Search details	Results
1	((aged) OR ("the aged")) OR (aging) OR (ageing) OR ("aging population") OR ("ageing population") OR ("older adult") OR ("older adults") OR ("older people") OR (elder*) OR (senior) OR (seniors)	"aged"[MeSH Terms] OR "aged"[All Fields] OR "the aged"[All Fields] OR "aging"[All Fields] OR "ageing"[All Fields] OR "aging population"[All Fields] OR ("aging"[MeSH Terms] OR "aging"[All Fields] OR "ageing"[All Fields]) AND "populaiton"[All Fields] OR "older adult"[All Fields] OR "older adults"[All Fields] OR "older people"[All Fields] OR "elder*"[All Fields] OR ("senior"[All Fields] OR "seniorities"[All Fields] OR "seniority"[All Fields] OR "seniors"[All Fields] OR ("senior"[All Fields] OR "seniorities"[All Fields] OR "seniority"[All Fields] OR "seniors"[All Fields])	6,487,370
2	("realist evaluation") OR ("realist evaluations") OR ("realistic evaluation") OR ("realistic evaluations") OR ("realist case study") OR ("realist case studies") OR ("realist approach") OR ("realist approaches")	"realist evaluation"[All Fields] OR "realist evaluations"[All Fields] OR "realistic evaluation"[All Fields] OR "realistic evaluations"[All Fields] OR "realist case study"[All Fields] OR ("realist"[All Fields] OR "realists"[All Fields]) AND ("case reports"[Publication Type] OR "case studies"[All Fields]) OR "realist approach"[All Fields] OR "realist approaches"[All Fields]	1,356
3	(#1) AND (#2)	("aged"[MeSH Terms] OR "aged"[All Fields] OR "the aged"[All Fields] OR "aging"[All Fields] OR "ageing"[All Fields] OR "aging population"[All Fields] OR ("aging"[MeSH Terms] OR "aging"[All Fields] OR "ageing"[All Fields]) AND "populaiton"[All Fields] OR "older adult"[All Fields] OR "older adults"[All Fields] OR "older people"[All Fields] OR "elder*"[All Fields] OR ("senior"[All Fields] OR "seniorities"[All Fields] OR "seniority"[All Fields] OR "seniors"[All Fields] OR ("senior"[All Fields] OR "seniorities"[All Fields] OR "seniority"[All Fields] OR "seniors"[All Fields])) AND ("realist evaluation"[All Fields] OR "realist evaluations"[All Fields] OR "realistic evaluation"[All Fields] OR "realistic evaluations"[All Fields] OR "realist case study"[All Fields] OR ("realist"[All Fields] OR "realists"[All Fields]) AND ("case reports"[Publication Type] OR "case studies"[All Fields]) OR "realist approach"[All Fields] OR "realist approaches"[All Fields])	253

CINAHL (via EBSCO)

#	Query	results
S1	"the aged" OR aged OR aging OR ageing OR aging population OR ageing population OR "older adult" OR "older adults" OR "older people" OR elder* OR senior OR seniors	1,238,463
S2	"realist evaluation" OR "realist evaluations" OR "realistic evaluation" OR "realistic evaluations" OR "realist approach" OR "realist approaches" OR "realist case study" OR "realist case studies"	755
S3	S1 AND S2	115

PsycINFO (via EBSCO)

#	Query	results
S1	"the aged" OR aged OR aging OR ageing OR "aging population" OR "ageing population" OR "older adult" OR "older adults" OR "older people" OR elder* OR senior OR seniors	812,212
S2	"realist evaluation" OR "realist evaluations" OR "realistic evaluation" OR "realistic evaluations" OR "critical realist evaluation" OR "realist approach" OR "realist approaches" OR "critical realist approach" OR "critical realism" OR "realist case study" NOT "realist review" NOT "realist synthesis"	592
S3	S1 AND S2	61

Web of Science

#	Query	results
#1	ALL=("the age") OR ALL=(aged) OR ALL=(aging) OR ALL=(ageing) OR ALL=("aging population") OR ALL=("ageing population") OR ALL=("older adult") OR ALL=("older adults") OR ALL=("older people") OR ALL=(elder*) OR ALL=(senior) OR ALL=(seniors) OR ALL=("frail elderly")	4,857,054
#2	ALL=("realist evaluation") OR ALL=("realist evaluations") OR ALL=("realistic evaluation") OR ALL=("realistic evaluations") OR ALL=("critical realist evaluation") OR ALL=("realist approach") OR ALL=("realist approaches") OR ALL=("critical realist approach") OR ALL=("realist case study") OR ALL=("critical realism") NOT ALL=("realist review") NOT ALL=("realist synthesis")	2,912
#3	#1 AND #2	267

Cochrane Library

#	Query	results
#1	("the aged") OR (aged) OR (aging) OR (ageing) OR ("aging population") (Word variations have been searched)	888,320
#2	("ageing population") OR ("older adult") OR ("older adults") OR ("older people") OR (elder*) (Word variations have been searched)	84,217
#3	(senior) OR (seniors)	7,012
#4	#1 OR #2 OR 3	903,704
#5	("realist evaluation") OR ("realist evaluations") OR ("realistic evaluation") OR ("realistic evaluations") (Word variations have been searched)	74
#6	("realist approach") OR ("realist approaches") OR ("realist case study") OR ("realist case studies") (Word variations have been searched)	42
#8	#5 NOT #6	113
#9	#4 AND #8	50