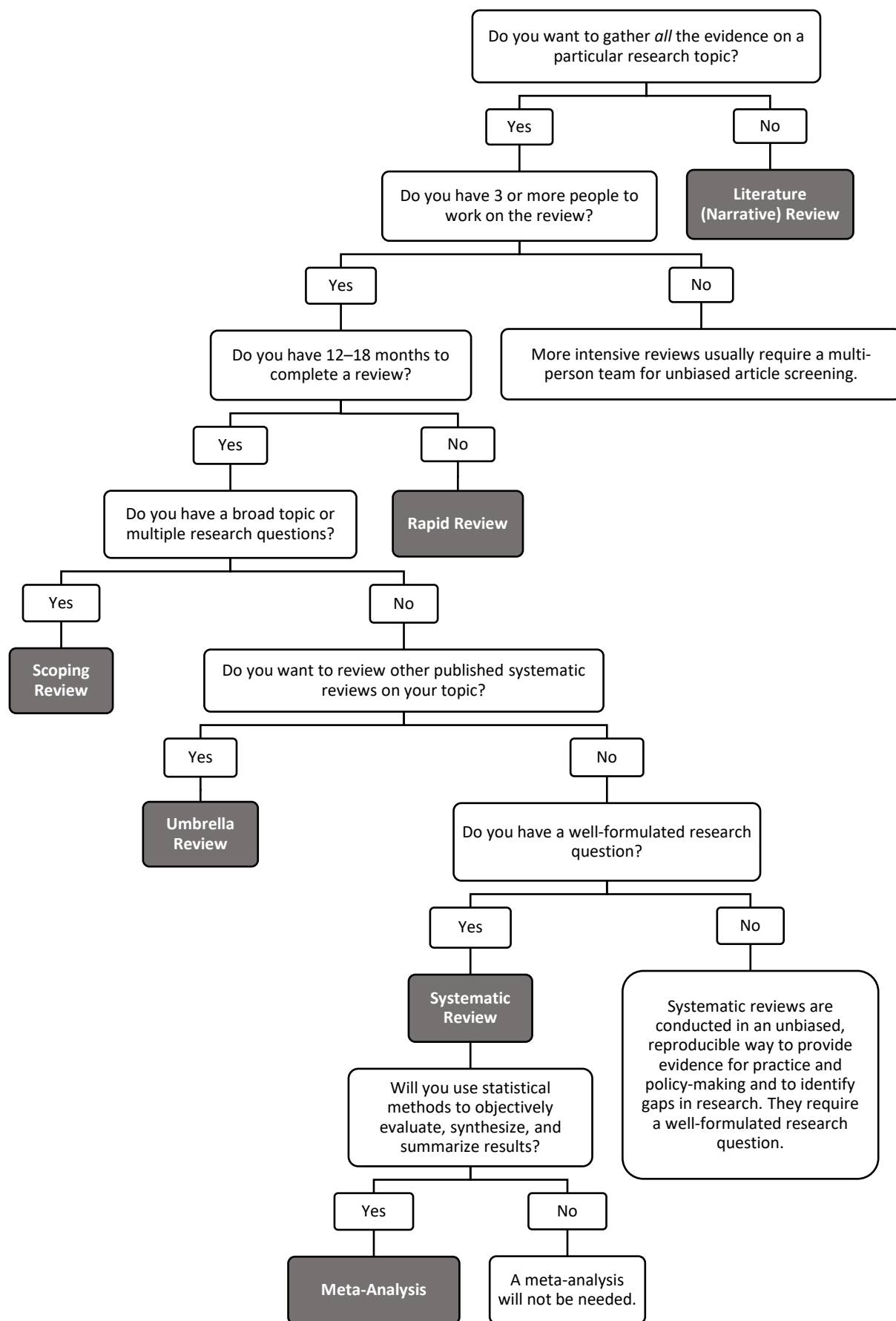


# What Type of Review Is Right for You?



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## Literature (Narrative) Review

*A broad term referring to reviews with a wide scope and non-standardized methodology.*

- Search strategies, comprehensiveness, and time range covered vary and do not follow an established protocol.

## Rapid Review

*Applies systematic review methodology within a time-constrained setting.*

- Employs methodological “shortcuts” (limiting search terms for example) at the risk of introducing bias.
- Useful for addressing issues needing quick decisions.
- See Evidence summaries: the evolution of a rapid review approach for methodological guidance.

## Scoping Review or Systematic Map

*Systematically and transparently collects and categorizes existing evidence on a broad topic or set of research questions.*

- Seeks to identify research gaps and opportunities for evidence synthesis.
- May critically evaluate existing evidence, but does not attempt to synthesize the results in the way a systematic review would.
- May take longer than a systematic review.
- See Scoping studies: towards a methodological framework for methodological guidance.
- See Environmental Evidence Journal Systematic Maps and Guidance on Systematic Maps—CIFOR.

## Umbrella Review

*Reviews other systematic reviews on a topic.*

- Often defines a broader question than is typical of a traditional systematic review.
- Most useful when there are competing interventions to consider.

## Systematic Review

*A methodical and comprehensive literature synthesis focused on a well-formulated research question.*

- Aims to identify and synthesize *all* of the scholarly research on a particular topic, including both published and unpublished studies.
- Conducted in an unbiased, reproducible way to provide evidence for practice and policy-making and to identify gaps in research.
- May involve a meta-analysis.
- Much more time-intensive than traditional literature reviews.

## Meta-Analysis

*A statistical technique for combining the findings from disparate quantitative studies.*

- Uses statistical methods to objectively evaluate, synthesize, and summarize results.
- May be conducted independently or as part of a systematic review.

