# TPA Literature Retrieval Summary

**(500 words + 340 words on the form = 840 words max.)**

The aim of the Thesis Preparation Assignment (TPA) is to write a literature review in which you develop a sound argument for a specific area of research that you will go on to study for your thesis. This argument should be based on an appraisal of evidence and clinical need, as well as drawing on relevant theory. In order to identify appropriate literature to include in the TPA you need to build a search strategy which is likely to involve using a variety of different methods. In marking the assignment, we will be looking for evidence of how you went about doing this (this maps directly onto the ‘gathering’ domain).

The checklist below is designed to guide you through the process. None of the methods listed is compulsory. What you must do is provide a clear thread of how you found the literature you used in the review, including key background literature. Use the checklist below to highlight your approach to each strategy, even if that means explaining why it was not selected. Thus, there should be some text adjacent to each method listed (and you can add further methods and change the order of the rows if necessary to provide a more accurate chronological account).

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| **Method** | **Yes/No** | **Please provide some detail on how you used each approach. If not used, please say why not.** |
| Already familiar with some relevant papers. |  |  |
| Papers highlighted by my supervisor during discussions. |  |  |
| NICE guidelines/Other international guidelines |  |  |
| NHS and other government policies (including international). |  |  |
| General scoping searches using relevant terms. State database (eg Google Scholar, OneSearch, TRIP Medline, etc.). |  |  |
| Systematic searches using academic database(s) e.g. PsycInfo, Medline, Scopus. Include extensive search terms/detailed Boolean search strings. |  |  |
| Backwards and forwards citation searches. |  |  |
| Author based searches for similar studies to those for inclusion. |  |  |
| Other literature searched for e.g. doctoral theses, ‘grey’ literature such as research not published in peer-reviewed journals. If using other sources please give reasons e.g. insufficient published research. |  |  |