Practical Screen Worksheet for Theoretical Importance

**My topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Practical Screen Criterion** | **Theoretical Importance** | **Which criteria are applicable for my own literature review?** |
| **Journal rankings** | Restrictions not usually justifiable on theoretical grounds |  |
| **Subject databases** | Should at least include all relevant content research fields, but should be as broad as is practical |  |
| **Peer-reviewed vs. grey literature** | Restrictions might be counterproductive for TLRs and TCRs; might be justifiable for TTRs as an implicit quality screen; however, susceptible to publication bias |  |
| **Conference articles** | Restrictions justifiable when journal publications are terminal publications; even then, recently published conference articles should be included |  |
| **Practitioner publications** | Inclusion could be valuable for TLRs and TCRs; usually inappropriate for TTRs |  |
| **Content** | Search keywords: Topics and concepts must match research questions (to be defined later when search procedure is finalized) |  |
| **Empirical versus conceptual studies** | TLRs and TCRs should include conceptual studies; TTRs are restricted to empirical studies |  |
| **Study setting** | Restrictions of settings depend on boundary conditions of theory |  |
| **Participants or subjects** | Restrictions of types of participants depend on boundary conditions of theory |  |
| **Program, intervention or means of data collection** | Nature or means of application of interventions or data collection may affect theory |  |
| **Research design** | Restrictions rarely justified on theoretical grounds |  |
| **Quantitative versus qualitative studies** | Depends on chosen synthesis approach |  |
| **Dates** | Restrictions rarely justified on theoretical grounds; however, end dates of literature search should be noted |  |
| **Publication language** | English studies are required; other languages also encouraged |  |
| **Source of financial support** | Potential bias of studies should be noted |  |
| **Authors** | Restrictions rarely justified on theoretical grounds |  |