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Mulrow CD, Thacker SB, Pugh J (1988). A proposal for more informative abstracts of review articles. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 1089:613-615.

Key passages

This proposal presents guidelines for preparing informative abstracts of review articles. Six guidelines are proposed:

- 1. The abstract should begin with a precise statement of the primary objective of the review.**
- 2. The data sources for the review should be succinctly summarized.**
- 3. The criteria used to select studies from the data sources and the method by which these criteria were applied should be specified.**
- 4. The guidelines used for abstracting data and assessing data quality should be described.**
- 5. The main results of the review and the methods used to obtain these results should be stated.**
- 6. Conclusions and potential applications of the review's results should be clearly and succinctly stated.**

Application of these guidelines can lead to efficient identification of relevant, scientifically sound review articles, a greater awareness of the vital elements of a good review article, more precise computerized literature searches, and improved peer-review processes.