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Goldschmidt PG (1986). Information synthesis: a practical guide. HSR: Health Services Research 21:215-236.

Key passages

Information Synthesis: A Practical Guide

Peter G. Goldschmidt

Information synthesis is one of the most valuable contributions a scientist can make. This paper offers guidance in preparing information syntheses and a means of assessing their adequacy. Preparing an information synthesis requires four steps: (1) defining the topic and relevant information about that topic, the purpose of the synthesis, and the target audience; (2) systematically gathering this relevant information; (3) assessing the validity of such information; and (4) presenting validated information in a way useful to the target audience. This paper presents guidelines and criteria for each step, and some helpful hints for authors in preparing an information synthesis.