There are many resources available online and through the Barts Health Knowledge and Library Service (KLS) that can help you to critically appraise research. This factsheet will direct you towards freely available resources and help you to make the most of the information available to you.

**Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP)**
https://casp-uk.net/

Professor Sir Jim Muir Grey’s not-for-profit organisation has been providing free, regularly reviewed checklists for appraising research, glossaries, bibliographies, useful links and more for over 25 years.

**Centre for Evidence Based Medicine**
https://www.cebm.net/category/ebm-resources/tools/

Contains useful tools and downloads for the critical appraisal of different types of medical evidence. **Step-by-step appraisal sheets** for Systematic Reviews, Diagnostics, Prognosis, RCTs, and Qualitative Studies are provided in multiple languages. Their downloadable **CATMaker computer-assisted critical appraisal tool** helps you create Critically Appraised Topics (CATs) for the key articles you encounter about Therapy, Diagnosis, Prognosis, Aetiology/Harm and Systematic Reviews of Therapy.

**STROBE Statement**

“STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology” (STROBE) is an international, collaborative initiative of epidemiologists, methodologists, statisticians, researchers and journal editors involved in the conduct and dissemination of observational studies, Their checklists cover conference abstracts and cross-sectional studies, amongst others.

**Scottish Intercollegiate Network**
https://www.sign.ac.uk/checklists-and-notes.html

Scotland’s equivalent to the National Centre for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), SIGN provides checklists and a “considered judgement pro forma” for reporting results of your critical appraisal.
The UK EQUATOR Centre at the University of Oxford is the head office of this international organization. Focusing on national activities aimed at raising awareness and supporting adoption of good research reporting practices, the website links to reporting standards and guidelines that form useful checklists for appraising research.

Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI):
http://joannabriggs.org/research/critical-appraisal-tools.html

The University of Adelaide’s famous research and development centre provides checklists for even editorial/opinion articles amongst the usual tools.

AMSTAR
http://amstar.ca/Amstar_Checklist.php

“A MeaSurement Tool to Assess systematic Reviews” (AMSTAR) this online form calculates a rating based on answers you provide (print version available).

The university’s Evidence Based Practice pages contain simplified versions of the CASP checklists (with useful calculators included) plus “jargon buster” glossaries and links to external useful resources.

Barts Health Library Resources:
Books - including Trisha Greenhalgh’s perennially popular introductory text “How to Read a Paper” (5th edition) – are available for all staff to borrow or read online as ebooks.

Search the library catalogue for “critical appraisal” to find that and more besides:
http://bartshealth.nhslibraries.com/

Introduction to Critical Appraisal workshops
Contact the library to book a 2 hour group session on qualitative or quantitative research.

For more information or for help, please email bartshealth.library@nhs.net or visit our ‘Digital Library’ page on WeShare

Edited May 2019 by Adam Tocock, Clinical Librarian: adam.tocock@nhs.net