

Appendix A: Toolkit Development Methods

The final CSTE scientific writing toolkit is intended to detail resources and trainings to support scientific writing practices relevant to applied epidemiologists. Resources for the toolkit were identified utilizing common methods described below:

Data Collection Strategies

- **Literature reviews** yielded a condensed pool of evidenced-based literature related to the deliverable of interest. These reviews were conducted using standardized protocols (informed by best practices in the field) utilizing existing databases of peer-reviewed publications, including MEDLINE, PUBMED, Cochrane, and Ovid.
- **Environmental scans** allowed the consulting team to assess the existing and available resources within various contexts. Websites, journals, organization websites, white papers, reports, and other grey literature relative to fields of applied epidemiology were systematically queried for toolkit resources or additional outlets for identifying desired resources.
- **Content analyses** were conducted by the consulting team to determine whether written documents and resources were applicable to the toolkit. The consultants reviewed the content of training material, templates, policies, and journal-specific instructions for authors to identify themes, elements, and criteria specific to the needs of the toolkit.
- **Key informant interviews** were conducted with 15 key informants. Key informant interviews were conducted by a member of the consulting team trained in qualitative methods. The interviewer worked from a semi-structured interview guide that was adapted for the current project. All interviews were conducted via phone and be scheduled for approximately 30 minutes.