Narrative of the development of a systematic search on self-determination theory

Development of the search strategy, queries, compiling and deduplication of results were done by two specialist librarians working in the USN University Library's systematic search service.

Search terms
Controlled terms, synonyms, and related terms for the concepts of 'self-determination theory' and 'work'/'employees' etc. were mapped by the librarians and reviewed by the author. Variations of a preliminary search were carried out in Scopus og PsycInfo before the ultimate strategy was agreed upon.

Due to the many irrelevant uses of the term 'work' in sentences such as "in this work…" or "the previous works in this field…" a choice was made to search the truncated term 'work*' only in the title field of the selected databases. More precise variations such as 'workplace', 'workforce', and 'worker*' were searched in abstract and keyword fields.

Databases
In the initial meeting with the researcher, it was decided that the following databases should be included for search: Business Source Elite (EBSCO), PsycInfo (Ovid), Academic Search Premier (EBSCO), Web of Science Core Collection, Social Science Premium Collection (ProQuest) and Scopus.

In addition, three sources of Scandinavian literature were explored:
1. Oria for Norwegian literature
2. SwePub for Swedish literature
3. NORA for Danish literature

Limits
All languages were included in the search. No time limit was set.

Peer review
The final search strategy was peer reviewed by two other specialist librarian, using the PRESS guidelines.