Technical Notes: Reference Management and Study Selection

1. Tool Overview

The systematic literature review utilized **Zotero (Version 8.0.2)** for archival management and **Rayyan AI** for the specialized screening and deduplication phases.

2. Multi-Stage Selection Workflow

The selection process was divided into identification, automated filtration, manual screening, and deduplication:

- **Stage 1 & 2 (Identification & Automated Filtration):** An initial **1,946** records were identified. Filters within database interfaces were applied to restrict results to the 2021–2025 window and peer-reviewed journals, resulting in **663** records.
- **Stage 3 (Title Screening & Deduplication):** A manual "title" screening reduced the number to **200** records. At this point, **Rayyan AI** was utilized for deduplication. The "Detect Duplicates" function identified overlapping studies across the five databases, which were then manually verified and merged to ensure a unique set of records for abstract review.
- **Stage 4 (Abstract Screening):** The unique set of records was screened by abstract, narrowing the selection to **98** candidate articles for full-text eligibility assessment.
- **Stage 5 (Full-Text Eligibility):** The full texts of the 98 articles were reviewed against five Quality Assessment (QA) criteria. Papers failing to meet the **3.5/5.0** threshold or those identified as secondary studies (surveys/reviews) were excluded, leaving a final total of **82 primary studies**.

3. Data Integrity and Transparency

Reporting the deduplication at Stage 3 ensures that the final count reflects only unique, high-quality primary studies. By combining Rayyan's automated detection with manual verification, the research team minimized the risk of excluding unique studies while ensuring a clean dataset for the final synthesis.