

Included

Screening

Identification

Identification of new studies via databases and registers

Records removed before screening: Duplicate records (n = 7)

Records marked as ineligible by automation tools (n = 0)

Records removed for other reasons (Only business, management, environmental studies, business finance, economics and ethics are selected) (n = 100)

Records identified from: Databases (n = 322) Registers (n = 0)

Records screened (n = 215)

Records excluded (n = 3)

Reports sought for retrieval (n = 212)

Reports not retrieved (n = NA)

Reports assessed for eligibility (n = 212)

Reports excluded: knowledge acquisition (n = 12) Papers not related to M&A (n = 8)

Papers where either sustainability or M&A related words are not present in keyword (n = 100)

Papers not related to the theme (n = 51)

New studies included in review (n = 0)

Reports of new included studies (n = 41)