

1. Search for "network analysis" or "network structure" or "network theory"

Medline

n=1912

CINAHL

n=270

BSP

n=3039

IBSS

n=1315

2. Search for broker* or "boundary span*" or leader* or "structural hole*" or centrality or betweenness or "opinion leader*" or bridg* or maven* or connector* or "tertius iungens," or "go-between"

Medline

n=20415

CINAHL

n=20508

BSP

n=300879

IBSS

n=18504

3. Combine search 1 and 2

Medline

n=50

CINAHL

n=30

BSP

n=206

IBSS

n=164

4. Review of abstracts and titles

Medline

n=22

CINAHL

n=10

BSP

n=34

IBSS

n=37

Snowball

n=91

347 articles excluded: (87 duplicates or incomplete)
260 not focussed on brokerage; not empirical research; non-professional networks: terrorist, internet users, customers, genetic, historical, or children; non-human networks; competitive settings

5. Full text content analysis

19 duplicates removed

77 articles excluded:
17 were not empirical research or did not meet research criteria
44 were not focussed on brokers
15 competitive, non-collaborative networks, or did not use a network approach

Final set:
n=24