

**Abstract - Mapping the Reality**  
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The past decade has witnessed the growth of widespread interest in the development of policy and practice that is better informed by evidence, particularly research evidence. Enthusiasm has, however, been tempered by recognition of the difficulties of devising effective strategies to ensure that evidence is integrated into policy and utilised in practice. There is already a rich but diverse and widely dispersed literature that can be drawn upon to inform such strategies.

This paper offers a guide to this literature by focusing on six main interrelated concerns: (1) the types of knowledge relevant to understanding research utilisation/ evidence based practice (RU/EBP) implementation, (2) the ways in which research knowledge is utilised, (3) models of the process of utilisation, (4) the conceptual frameworks that enable us to understand the process of RU/ EBP implementation, (5) the main ways of intervening to increase evidence uptake and the effectiveness of these, (6) different ways of conceptualising what RU/ EBP means in practice. This map of the terrain is offered not just as a useful organising schema but also as a valuable framework for thinking through the problems and processes of the evidence-into-practice agenda.