



■ Blocking measures against offshore online gambling: A scoping review

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BACKGROUND

- Unregulated offshore gambling challenge for national regulators:
 - Consumer protection
 - Prevention of crime
 - Public revenue
 - Website & payment blocking of unregulated gambling websites among the most 'used' strategies (Hörnle et al., 2018)
- Yet, little seems to be known how well these work.



METHOD

Scoping review: 'mapping the field' (Grant & Booth, 2009)

- Databases: Google Scholar, Scopus, Proquest, and Ebscohost
 - Search: gambling AND online AND block*
- **Inclusion**: addressing effectiveness and implementation challenges & original empirical work and case studies; Available UH library services
- **Exclusion**: literature on individual use of blocking programs & discussion/opinion/review papers
 - First 50 hits of each search included

Grant, M. J., & Booth, A. (2009). A typology of reviews: an analysis of 14 review types and associated methodologies. *Health information & libraries journal*, 26(2), 91-108.

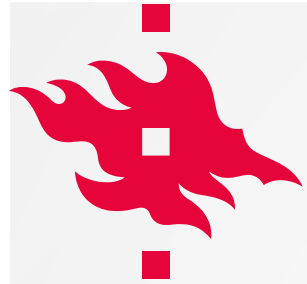
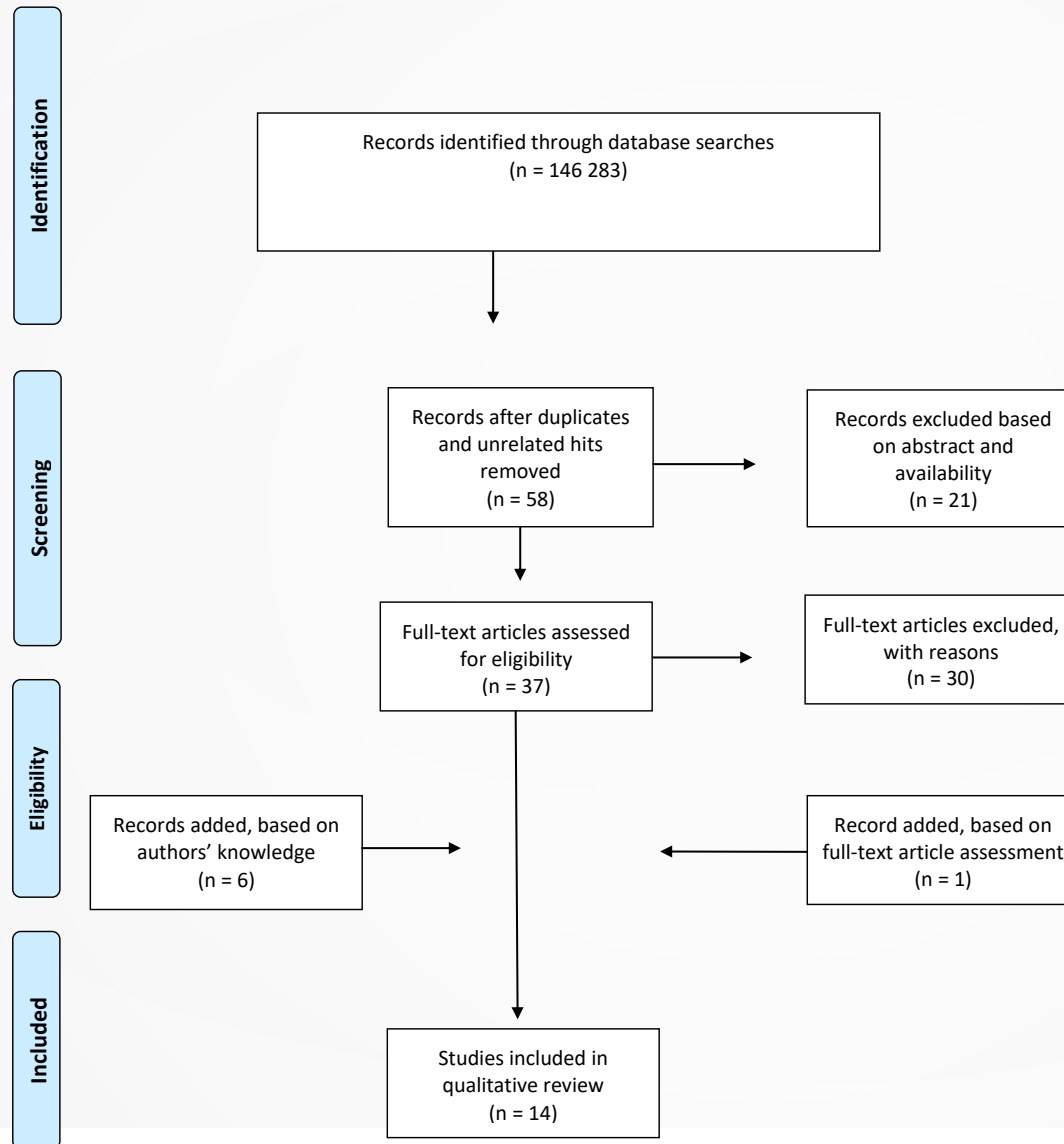


Figure 1: Prisma flow chart





REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kind of study	Number reviewed
Country case studies	7
Legal analyses	3
Effectiveness and implementation analysis	3
Political analysis	1

Article
Dewar, L. (2001). Regulating internet gambling: The net tightens on online casinos and bookmakers. <i>Aslib Proceedings</i> , 53(9), 353-367.
Dhillon, G., Ling, L. S., Nandan, M., & Nathan, J. T. X. (2021). Online Gambling in Malaysia: A Legal Analysis. <i>Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities</i> , 29(1), 207-220.
Fiedler, I. (2020). Frankreich. In: I. Fiedler, F. Steinmetz, L. Ante & M. von Meduna (eds.) <i>Regulierung von Onlineglücksspielen</i> . (pp. 261-329). Springer.
Fiedler, I., Steinmetz, F., & von Meduna, M. (2020b). Deutschland. In: I. Fiedler, F. Steinmetz, L. Ante & M. von Meduna (eds.) <i>Regulierung von Onlineglücksspielen</i> . (pp. 111-230). Springer.
French, M., Tardif, D., Kairouz, S., & Savard, A. C. (2021). A Governmentality of Online Gambling: Quebec's Contested Internet Gambling Website Blocking Provisions. <i>Canadian Journal of Law and Society/La Revue Canadienne Droit et Société</i> , 36(3), 483-504.
Grahmann, K. P. (2008). Betting on Prohibition: The Federal Government's Approach to Internet Gambling. <i>Nw. J. Tech. & Intell. Prop.</i> , 7, 162-184.
Hudelcu, D. (2021). Interference Of The Legitimate Public And Private Interest In Exercising The Competences Of The National Office Of Gambling. <i>Perspectives of Law and Public Administration</i> , 10(1), 79-88.
Schmidt-Kessen, M. J., Hörnle, J., & Littler, A. (2019). Preventing risks from illegal online gambling using effective legal design on landing pages. <i>J. Open Access L.</i> , 7, 1-22.
Steinmetz, F., & Ante, L. (2020). Norwegen. In: I. Fiedler, F. Steinmetz, L. Ante & M. von Meduna (eds.) <i>Regulierung von Onlineglücksspielen</i> . (pp. 450-487). Springer.
Steinmetz, F., Ante, L., von Meduna, M. (2020a). Dänemark. In: I. Fiedler, F. Steinmetz, L. Ante & M. von Meduna (eds.) <i>Regulierung von Onlineglücksspielen</i> . (pp. 74-109). Springer.
Steinmetz, F., von Meduna, M., & Ante, L. (2020b). Spanien. In: I. Fiedler, F. Steinmetz, L. Ante & M. von Meduna (eds.) <i>Regulierung von Onlineglücksspielen</i> . (pp. 490-526). Springer.
Thoma, G., & Fiedler, I. (2020). Italien. In: I. Fiedler, F. Steinmetz, L. Ante & M. von Meduna (eds.) <i>Regulierung von Onlineglücksspielen</i> . (pp. 395-447). Springer.
Ververis, V., Isaakidis, M., Loizidou, C., & Fabian, B. (2017). Internet censorship capabilities in Cyprus: An investigation of online gambling blocklisting. In: <i>International Conference on e-Democracy</i> (pp. 136-149). Springer.
Ververis, V., Kargiotakis, G., Filastò, A., Fabian, B., & Alexandros, A. (2015). Understanding internet censorship policy: The case of greece. In <i>5th USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI 15)</i> . (pp. 1-11.). https://www.usenix.org/system/files/conference/foci15/foci15-paper-ververis-updated-2.pdf (Accessed: 2022-05-17).



RESULTS: IMPLEMENTATION

Technology

- IP-address (overblocking)
 - DNS (cheap)
- URL (deep package inspection)

Realisation

- Internet Service providers ISP ordered or via court decision (website)
 - Specified in legislation?

Blocklist

Update (automated or manual)



RESULTS: FUNCTIONALITY

Never 100%

- Skilled users
- Flexible offshore providers
- Resources & willingness of regulators

Technology

- Effective blocking by ISPs between 22 % - 100%
- Deficient block lists (malformed, duplicates, non-gambling)

Landing pages

- Tools of communication
- Monitoring



RESULTS: RISKS

Privacy/Data protection/censorship

- Dependent on legal evaluation and country
- Dependent on technical implementation

Freedom of trade

- Dependent on legal evaluation and country
- Over-/underblocking (website vs. connection)



RESULTS: ALTERNATIVES

Whitelist

Targeting ecosystem

- Liability of ISPs and payment providers
 - Software providers



CONCLUSIONS

- Paucity of empirical research on practicalities and technology of blocking
- Technical implementation crucial:
 - Effectiveness
 - Citizen rights
- Information
- Asymmetry of expertise
 - Regulator – industry
 - Gambling researcher – IT researchers
 - Ordinary consumer – heavy gambler