Upcoming Event

HTAi 2019 Information Retrieval Group Pre-Conference Workshop.
Advancing information retrieval for the new decade: automation tools, CSRs, search efficiencies and DTA studies.
Cologne, Germany. Sunday, June 16, 2019 from 08:30 to 16:30.

Covering four distinct areas, this workshop will 1) introduce a range of automation tools for searching and screening of citations, mapping and describing research studies, conducting evidence surveillance and achieving living systematic reviews; 2) explore the reasons for using clinical study reports (CSRs), the basic structure and content of a CSR and an overview of which sources can be searched to identify CSRs; 3) share exploratory research on whether to search both MEDLINE (via OvidSP) and PubMed in HTA and delve into the reasoning behind why we might search both databases; and 4) share challenges encountered and lessons learned in diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) studies.

You can register your attendance for the workshops via the meeting registration page here: http://htai2019.org/register/. It is also possible to register for the workshops without attending the conference itself: simply select the ‘Attending Pre-Conference Workshops Only’ option on the Registration Information & Fees page. If you are not a member of HTAi and would like to attend the workshop please contact thomas.macmillan@kcl.ac.uk for further information.

Publications of Interest


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6148622/


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6247690/


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6013125/

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6300230/


https://www.bmj.com/content/362/bmj.k3218.long

Further information: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-78966-8_7


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<td>Symonds ME, Budge H.</td>
<td>Comprehensive literature search for animal studies may have saved STRIDER trial.</td>
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<td>Design and implementation of a tool for conversion of search strategies</td>
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Abstract:

New Book of Interest


- Foreword – Carol Lefebvre
- Introduction: where are we now? – Paul Levay and Jenny Craven
- Innovative approaches to systematic reviewing – Andrew Booth
- Searching for broad-based topics – Claire Stansfield
- Choosing the right databases and search techniques – Alison Bethal and Morwenna Rogers
- Gathering evidence from grey literature and unpublished data – Shannon Kugley and Richard Epstein
- Social media as a source of evidence – Su Golder
- Text mining for information specialists – Julie Glanville
- Using linked data for evidence synthesis – Andy Mitchell and Chris Mavergames
- Evidence surveillance to keep up to date with new research – James Thomas, Anna Noel-Storr and Steve McDonald
- Training the next generation of information specialists – Michelle Maden and Gil Young
- Collaborative working to improve searching – Siw Waffenschmidt and Elke Hausner
- Communication for information specialists – Margaret Sampson
- The information specialist as an expert searcher – Alison Brettle
- Conclusion: where do we go from here? – Paul Levay and Jenny Craven

Publication Spotlight

A comment by Dr. Siw Waffenschmidt on:

“Fake” or “predatory” journals containing articles of a questionable academic standard represent a serious problem for producers of systematic reviews. Information specialists should be aware of this problem, check whether it affects their organization, and inform researchers. A recent analysis by Amanda Ross-White et al. from the Canadian Bracken Health Sciences Library (published in January 2019 in the Journal of the Medical Library Association) addresses this topic. The authors investigated the degree to which articles published in predatory journals are cited in systematic reviews and found that nearly 160 systematic reviews (largely published in reputable journals) were affected. They also recommend options for checking the validity of publications. Our organization, the German Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) is currently discussing measures in addition to our standard quality assurance steps to ensure that predatory publications do not jeopardize the validity of our evidence syntheses. In this regard, the article by Ross-White et al. provides valuable advice.

Websites of Interest

ECRI Institute Guidelines Trust
https://guidelines.ecri.org/

From the ECRI news release: “ECRI Institute, an independent, nonprofit patient safety organization, has launched the ECRI Guidelines Trust™, a portal to expertly vetted, evidence-based guideline briefs and scorecards. The healthcare community has free access to the website, which will grow over time as more trustworthy clinical guidelines become available...The ECRI Guidelines Trust features new summaries of evidence-based guidelines from participating guideline developers, medical specialty societies, and other healthcare organizations. All Guideline Briefs include ECRI’s new TRUST
Scorecard, which evaluates the rigor and transparency of a guideline to see how it stacks up against the Institute of Medicine standards for trustworthiness. ECRI evaluations are unbiased, fact-based, and free from industry influence. The next phase of the ECRI Guidelines Trust, coming in 2019, will feature advanced search capabilities, an enhanced user interface, and support for guideline implementation and decision-making. Registration is required, but the site is free to search.

PubMed Labs

From the website: “PubMed Labs is a site we are using to experiment with new features/tools that we think could improve the search quality and usability of PubMed. The site allows users to test these new features and provide us with input so that we can make more informed decisions about potential changes to PubMed and better meet user needs.”

2DSEARCH
https://www.2dsearch.com/

From the website: “Finding the right information at the right time is a constant challenge. Sometimes, a few keywords in a search box is good enough. But there are times when a more rigorous, precise approach is needed. Up to now, the traditional solution has been to use ‘advanced search’ or specialist ‘line-by-line’ query builders. However, these require the use of complex Boolean expressions and offer limited support for error checking or optimization. Moreover, each database has its own user interface and query syntax to learn. If only there was a simpler way to search accurately and effectively without worrying about syntax and vendor specifics. Well, now there is. 2dSearch is a radical alternative to conventional ‘advanced search’. Instead of entering Boolean strings into one-dimensional search boxes, queries are formulated by combining objects on a two-dimensional canvas. This eliminates syntax errors, makes the query semantics more transparent, and offers a more effective way to optimize, save and share search strategies.” This resource is freely available at the present time.

IRG Member Activities

IRG Member Interview: Lisa Tjosvold

Lisa is a member of the IRG Executive Committee. She took a moment to answer a few questions from Catherine Voutier.

1. What project are you working on at the moment?
   Currently, I'm working on multiple projects. I’m conducting searches for reviews on Optimizing Stroke Rehabilitation Practice in Alberta and the Evaluation of Vascular Risk Reduction Programs. I’m also just finishing up searches for a rapid review on Genetic Testing in Early Stage Breast Cancer and working on a methods project looking at searching for Real World Evidence for systematic reviews.

2. How did you get to your current job position?
   I've actually come full circle. My first job in health sciences information retrieval was as a Research Librarian with the HTA unit at Alberta Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) way back in 1998. In 1999, I left the position to live in Italy, where I spent a few months conducting searches and designing the website at the Clinical Research Center for Rare Diseases “Aldo and Cele Daccò”, located in the beautiful Villa Camozzi near Bergamo. I returned to Canada, where I worked in library administration for a couple of years. I soon realized that I missed being in the health sciences and found a position as the Trials Search Coordinator for the Cochrane Child Health Field, based at the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta. As the years progressed, I took on a cross-appointment between the University of Alberta Health Sciences Library and the Alliance for Canadian Health Outcomes Research in Diabetes (ACHORD) and from there I moved to the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) in 2013. The funny thing is that several former HTA team members from my time at AHFMR in 1998 are here at IHE, so in some ways, it feels like I never left.

3. What issues do you think are the most pressing in info retrieval at the moment?
   Oh my, where do I begin? I think it’s important that we stay up-to-date on methods and applications/programs for automated searching. We also need to become more data literate as trends towards electronic medical records, automated searching and real world evidence will necessitate this. At IHE and at organizations that publish in a variety of journals, I feel it’s important to keep on top of how to identify predatory publishers and continually educate staff. This is not going to go away.
4. Do you think that information specialists could have a greater role in HTA than just info retrieval?
   Areas where information specialists might contribute really comes down to the strengths and
   preferences of the individual, their time/workload and, of course, depends on the
   organization’s size, staff complement, number of projects, etc. Here at IHE, the information
   specialists are very much involved in scoping out and helping refine the research question at
   the beginning of a project. We’re also involved in the reference management for the duration of
   the HTA. We assist with the bibliography and help cite those difficult references that are never
   found in the examples. We write the methods sections for the search and create tables for our
   search strings. Finally, we are invited to edit and comment on the full report before submission.
   For me, I’m happy with what we are currently doing and don’t think I would have time to do
   more than this. When I do have time, I’m more interested in conducting searching methods
   research and improving and streamlining our existing services.

5. Finally, something that made you laugh at work recently…
   We have a lot of fun here at IHE. My colleague, Dagmara and I laugh almost every day!

If you are a member of the HTAi Information Retrieval interest group and would like to share your
research activities with other IRG members in this newsletter, please contact DavidK@cadth.ca.

The IRG eNewsletter is put together by the following Information Retrieval Group members:
David Kaunelis (Canada); Catherine Voutier (Australia); Dagmara Chojecki (Canada); and Jaana
Isojärvi (Finland). Have any events, news, or interesting papers or websites you want to share?
Just email DavidK@cadth.ca.