



IRG eNewsletter

February 2012



Events

Understanding Searching Techniques to Inform HTA, Systematic Reviews and Guideline Development
University of York, 9th May 2012
http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/yhec/web/training/training_events.php?RecordID=15

Publications of Interest

Margaret Sampson, Jessie McGowan. Inquisitio validus Index Medicus: A simple method of validating MEDLINE systematic review searches. *Research Synthesis Methods* 2011 Jun;2(2):103–109.
Abstract: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jrsm.40/abstract>

Salimah Z. Shariff, Jessica M. Sontrop, R. Brian Haynes, Arthur V. Iansavichus, K. Ann McKibbin, Nancy L. Wilczynski, Matthew A. Weir, Mark R. Speechley, Amardeep Thind, and Amit X. Garg. Impact of PubMed search filters on the retrieval of evidence by physicians. *CMAJ* cmaj.101661; published ahead of print January 16, 2012, doi:10.1503/cmaj.101661.
Abstract: <http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2012/01/16/cmaj.101661>

Website of Interest

CEA Registry <https://research.tufts-nemc.org/cear4/default.aspx>

From the website: The CEA Registry is a comprehensive database of 2,815 cost-utility analyses on a wide variety of diseases and treatments. The registry has made an impact in several areas:

- Used as a data source for 45 peer-reviewed [publications](#);
- Used or cited in analyses performed by US Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the Institute of Medicine, the Medicare Payment Assessment Commission, academia, and industry;
- Highlighted on the National Library of Medicine's website as an important health economics resource;
- Cited in the popular press, including *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe*; and
- Catalogs information on over 7,300 cost-effectiveness ratios and more than 10,300 utility weights

IRG Research Activities

A new IRG working group on IR Reference Tool has been established

Do you think it is time-consuming and demanding to keep up-to-date on the latest developments in the field of information retrieval for HTA? A recently established IRG working group aims at developing a website, IR Reference Tool, describing and mapping on the state of current research evidence. This up-to-date tool will be developed as part of the HTAi Vortal. The group hopes to involve several IRG members in this work. More information and call for volunteers will be sent out shortly to the mailing list.

If you have any questions about this group, please contact Sari Ormstad (sor@nokc.no).

Filter Use and Performance in Bibliographic Databases

The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) has funded research to investigate methodological search filters used with large bibliographic databases such as MEDLINE. The objective is to understand how librarians and others choose search filters and what information about filter performance and formats would help inform choices. The project uses reviews, interviews and questionnaires to inform the development of guidance on collecting and reporting search filter performance data and a pilot website of filter performance information.

The research team are: Julie Glanville, Carol Lefebvre, Sophie Beale, Charles Boachie, Steven Duffy, Cynthia Fraser, Jenny Harbour, Rachael McCool and Lynne Smith

IRG Member Profile

Our newest members are Agneta Brolund and Hanna Olofsson. Agneta and Hanna have been working at the Swedish Council of Health Technology Assessment (SBU) since August 2011. Agneta has previously worked as a subject university librarian (mainly in the areas of social sciences and social work) and she has also worked as an information specialist in the area of public health. Hanna has been working with information retrieval for systematic reviews or guidelines in medicine/social work for other Swedish governmental agencies since 2005, and states that she is interested in everything that has to do with methods for literature searching and developing new ways to improve the information specialists' part in projects Welcome Agneta and Hanna!

The IRG eNewsletter is put together by the current Chair (Catherine Voutier, AU) and Chair-Elect (David Kaunelis, CA). Have any events, news, or interesting papers or websites you want to share? Just email catherine.voutier@mh.org.au or DavidK@cadth.ca