



EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS I R E L A N D

Search Techniques for Systematic Reviews, HTAs and Guidelines (In person - 2 Days)

Aim:

This workshop provides an opportunity for those who undertake their own searches for evidence syntheses, and those who work with librarians/information specialists on the study identification, to learn more about the process of searching for studies for evidence syntheses. It addresses many of the key aspects of searching for evidence syntheses, in particular how this differs from searching for routine clinical practice/everyday questions.

Learning Outcomes:

In this course, participants will be enabled to:

- Understand better the role of the librarian/information specialist in identifying studies for evidence syntheses
- Distinguish systematic review from meta-analysis
- Consider alternative frameworks to PICO (for questions beyond clinical effectiveness)
- Use basic search term identification (text mining) software to assist in identifying possible search terms
- Understand the importance of study design filters and the need to critique them
- Explore the various sources of information in The Cochrane Library
- Understand the importance of clinical trials registers and gain some insights into searching them
- Critique their search strategies using an evidence-based peer review checklist (PRESS)
- Understand the importance of documenting and reporting the search process

Date:

23rd & 24th June

Time:

10.00am – 3.00pm

Location:

Online via Zoom

Skill level:

Intermediate

Facilitator:

Ms Carol Lefebvre
Independent Information
Consultant

Places:

**25 places available for
individuals who are
resident in Ireland and
Northern Ireland**

Fee:

**€250 (General)
€150 (Student)**

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Target Audience:

Healthcare professionals, academics, researchers, decision-makers, librarians, information specialists, and Evidence Synthesis Ireland fellows and teaching faculty who would like to learn more about the process of searching for studies for systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses.

Teaching strategies:

The workshop will consist of a mixture of short presentations, small group and plenary discussions, together with practical exercises.

Prerequisites:

- A basic knowledge of searching databases such as MEDLINE/ PubMed;
- An interest in improving their own search skills and/or understanding better how to work more effectively with their librarian/information specialist to identify studies for evidence syntheses.

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Course content/timetable

PROGRAMME - 23rd June 2022	
10.00	Welcome, introductions, housekeeping
10.15	The librarian's role in systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses
10.45	Systematic reviews, meta-analyses and forest plots
11.15	Defining the question – beyond PICO
12.00	Text mining for term selection and ranking search output (incl. exercise)
12.45	LUNCH
13.15	Methodological search filters (incl. exercise)
14.00	Retractions, errata and comments (incl. exercise)
14.45	Wrap up of day 1 and discussion
15.00	Close

PROGRAMME - 24th June 2022	
10.00	Welcome, introductions, housekeeping
10.15	Review of day 1 – further questions and comments
10.45	Cochrane and The Cochrane Library
11.30	Searching trials registers (incl. exercise)
12.30	LUNCH
13.00	Peer review of search strategies (incl. exercise)
14.00	Documenting and reporting the search process
14.30	Wrap up, discussion and evaluation
15.00	Close

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