Information Retrieval Group (IRG) Business Meeting
12:15-13:45, Sunday 3ʳᵈ of June 2018, Westin Bayshore Hotel (Oak 1 Level 2), Vancouver

Attendees:
Siw Waffenschmidt (SW), Ingrid Harboe (IH), Tom Macmillan (TM), Carol Lefebvre (CL), Dagmara Chojecki (DC), Tara Landry (TL), Andrew Booth (AB), Mark Clowes (MC), David Kaunelis (DK), Barton Satchwill (BS), Luciano Senaha (LS), Marjukka Mäkelä (MM), Leigh-Ann Topfer (LT), Kathleen Harkin (KH), Evelinda Trindade (ET), Wei Fang (WF), Di Xue (DX), Mihye Hm (MH), Matthew Mitchell (MMi)

Apologies:
Lisa Tjosvold, Julie Glanville, Jaana Isojärvi

▪ **Welcome, approval of minutes from Rome, Report from Chair about IRG activities**
The minutes from Rome were agreed.

SW welcomed attendees and introduced the executive team and introduced TM as the new Technical Officer for the IRG.
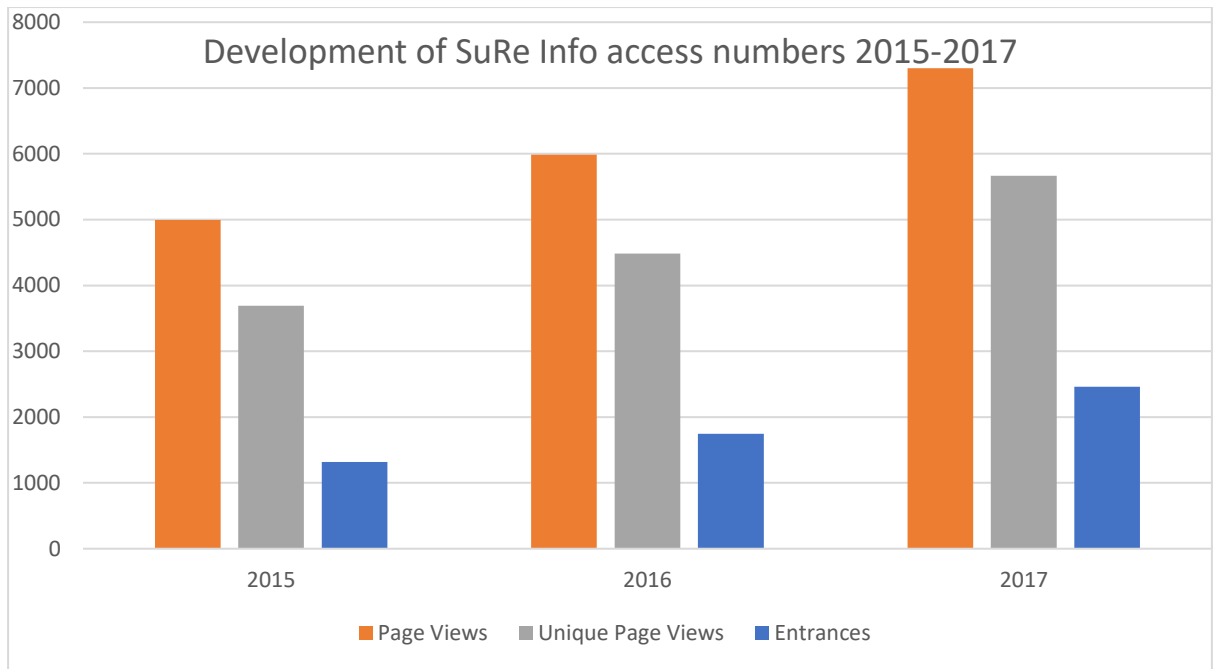SW highlighted Vancouver as a successful conference in terms of Information Retrieval visibility. Although the number of attendees for the pre-conference workshops could have been better (7 attended the introductory workshop and around 20 attended the advanced workshop), we are hopeful that this can be improved for Cologne in 2019, although we may not have an introductory workshop (see below). The advanced workshop was considered a success.

The executive team of the IRG reviewed abstracts for this conference. SW also highlighted that this year there was a specific information retrieval oral presentation session and a panel session. 'Information retrieval' is now available as a tag for abstract submissions, which is an improvement over 'information resources'. It was also noted that the plenary in which John Brassey spoke ("Decision-Oriented Evidence: Uncertainties and Opportunities") was relevant to information retrieval.

▪ **SuRe Info and HTAi Vortal, questions**
SW updated on behalf of Julie Glanville and Jaana Isojärvi who could not attend the meeting. All chapters are published with some in-process. There have been 5 publications by members.
SW reported on feedback from the Health Libraries Group 2017 praising SuRe Info. Usage statistics have improved year on year, but could be even better.

Development of SuRe Info access numbers 2015-2017

IRG applied for $10.000 of which we received $5000 for 2017.

HTAi have refused funding for SuRe Info because it is not a standalone project. However, they have advised IRG to apply for more regular funding, although no agreement has been reached. SW and IH are disappointed with the board's decision, although they had a number of reasons. There is a meeting planned for Monday (04/JUN/2018) to discuss this with members of the secretariat. Without funding, there will need to be a different approach on how to proceed.

There was an animated discussion about the funding situation.

SW updated about IRG eNewsletter and thanked DK for his work on it.

SW announced on behalf of Patrice Chalon (who could unfortunately not attend the meeting) that there has been no real update on the Vortal. There was discussion about the future of the Vortal. SW will contact Patrice to discuss this with him.

- **Cochrane updates**
  CL announced there will be a new Cochrane Library website launching in 2018. It is possible to preview the new website already and there is an announcements page available. There will be new content in the form of Cochrane Clinical Answers (a point of care tool) and some content from Epistemonikos.

  The CDSR and CENTRAL will remain. However, DARE (secure on CRD until 2021), Cochrane Methodology Register (archived on Cochrane website), HTA database (INAHTA taking over from CRD – in hiatus currently, no date announced yet), NHSEED (same as DARE), Cochrane Groups will all come off the site; all have not been updated for some time except for the HTA database.

AB suggested the methodology register should be made available elsewhere, such as including the material on SuRe Info, even if only as a Mendeley file.

CL announced that the board will continue its open access policies but has suspended targets to make all publications Open Access immediately on publication.

CL updated on Cochrane Innovations which is the profit making arm of Cochrane. This includes Cochrane Clinical Answers – reviews in a more readable format – which is free to Cochrane Library subscribers. Additionally there is Cochrane Interactive Learning which has 10 hours of self-directed online learning material. This builds on the handbook and MECIR standards. This takes the form of scrolling webpages, videos, quizzes, assessments, and is aimed at anyone doing systematic reviews using Cochrane methodology. Cochrane Interactive Learning is available on subscription to institutions, but the first module is currently free to all. There has been positive feedback from Lund University and Stanford University. Finally some of the functionality and content of Epistemonikos will become available in the new Cochrane Library.

The Cochrane Handbook is due for major revision which will be published online in September 2018; the hardback format will be published some time later. There are changes to standards on addressing retractions/errata which is now mandatory.

CL updated on the Cochrane Crowd project which involves members of the public to train to become a Cochrane Citizen Scientist. The project has already categorised over 2 million abstracts on whether or not they are RCTs with over 99% sensitivity and specificity.

The next Cochrane Colloquium will be held in Edinburgh from the 16th to the 18th of September 2018.

- **EUnetHTA updates**
  SW updated. This group of European HTA agencies is now 10 years old. The information retrieval methods guideline is due for a major update coming up this year. 2017's update included information on searching unpublished company documents as well as further search techniques. The 2018 update will include guidance on how to assess submission files and their searches, and focused and comprehensive searches. Feedback on the new version is welcomed.

  The new SOP demands that all searches for HTAs are to be done by an information specialist (there are SOPs for pharmaceuticals and for OT (other technology). There are future plans to define the requirements for being an information specialist and it is important to initiate conversations around this.

- **Objectives for the upcoming term, Annual dinner,**
  SW asked for ideas to contribute to planning for the next annual meeting in Cologne. It is likely many information specialists from Germany will attend but there may not be a great demand for the introductory workshop. CL added that it is important to address the aforementioned issues around whether or not these pre-conference workshops are open to those not attending the main conference and/or those who are not members of HTAi as this will enable us to promote the workshops earlier. KH proposed targeting medical librarians

who work in information retrieval as well as information specialists; ET echoed this sentiment.

SW concluded that there is a need for an introductory workshop. Regarding topics for next year's workshops CL suggested a practical session on text mining as this was already proposed in previous evaluation forms and not yet covered. DK suggested examining the current evaluation forms to see what else has been suggested. **Action: TM to summarise the evaluation forms**

The annual IRG dinner is to be held in the LIFT Bar Grill View, Sunday at 7.30pm.

- **Any other business and Questions**
  ET asked if there is a plan to increase the visibility of the IRG in South America and to support information retrieval skills outside Europe in general. SW: the IRG is small so it has strong internal links but limited global reach. MM added that this shows an increased need for SuRe Info and online courses. SW: there is potential for online training courses to benefit those outside Europe where traditional training courses are easier to attend. DC added that the HTAi meeting in Tokyo revealed information retrieval concepts are quite new in some parts of the world.

  ET asked about authorship of studies and when searchers should be a named author on a study. CL: Cochrane is developing policy on authorship which will include the role of Information Specialists as searchers. This will be made available on the Cochrane website - authorship should be credited for designing the search strategy.

- **Closing of the meeting**