Selected Listing of Upcoming Events

Information Retrieval Meeting (IRM 2022)
Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG)
3-4 March 2022
Cologne, Germany
Call for abstracts started. More information: https://www.iqwig.de/veranstaltungen/information-retrieval-meeting/

Publications of Interest

COVID-19 resources or search techniques
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7778958/

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7778976/

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01733-7

https://ebooks.iospress.nl/doi/10.3233/SHTI210124

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7695541/

https://www.jmir.org/2021/5/e28666

https://www.jmir.org/2021/5/e29507


Rapid searches


Bibliographic databases


[https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)30132-3/fulltext](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)30132-3/fulltext)

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7867864/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7867864/)

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7867864/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7867864/)

[https://medinform.jmir.org/2020/6/e12799/](https://medinform.jmir.org/2020/6/e12799/)

[https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)30116-5/fulltext](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)30116-5/fulltext)

[http://ebooks.iospress.nl/publication/54687](http://ebooks.iospress.nl/publication/54687)

Pieper D, Puljak L. Language restrictions in systematic reviews should not be imposed in the search strategy but in the eligibility criteria if necessary. J Clin Epidemiol. 2021 Apr;132:146-147. 
[https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)31238-5/fulltext](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)31238-5/fulltext)


[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7778943/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7778943/)


**Search filters**

https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/eblip/index.php/EBLIP/article/view/29633


http://jmla.mlanet.org/ojs/jmla/article/view/912

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8056629/


No abstract available.


https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(20)31117-3/fulltext


Other search techniques


Janssens C. Updating systematic reviews and meta-analyses, the easy way. Medium.com. 2021 Feb 11. 
https://cecilejanssens.medium.com/updating-systematic-reviews-and-meta-analyses-the-easy-way-cbb2e23b48b9
Automation and digitalisation


**Study registries**


**Publishing or access to data**

https://portlandpress.com/clinsci/article/134/20/2729/226790/fiddle-a-tool-to-combat-publication-bias-by

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00239-0


http://oj.s.eahil.eu/ojs/index.php/JEAHIL/article/view/401/360

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7727361/

https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Abstract/9000/Should_I_include_studies_from__predatory__journals.99622.aspx


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7385457/

Wieseler B, McGauran N. From publication bias to lost in information: why we need a central public portal for clinical trial data. BMJ Evid Based Med. 2020 Dec 10. Online ahead of print. https://ebm.bmj.com/content/early/2020/12/10/bmjebm-2020-111566.long


Peer review or quality of literature searches


Other topics


No abstract available.


No abstract available.


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8119993/


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7772970/


https://journals.lww.com/jbisrir/Citation/9000/Federated_searches__why_a_one_stop_shop_approach.99642.aspx

**Special Publication of Interest**

**PRISMA-S**


https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7839230/


PRISMA-S has a Twitter account: https://twitter.com/prismasearch.

**Publication Spotlight**

**IRG Special Issue in IJTAHC**

"Special issue: Information Retrieval within HTA" in the June 2021 issue of the International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care, with contributions from members of the HTAi Information Retrieval interest group:


https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462321000349


https://www.cambridge.org/core/core/product/identifier/S0266462320000732/type/journal_article

Websites of Interest

International HTA Database
https://database.inahta.org/
From the website: The international HTA database provides free access to bibliographic information about ongoing and published health technology assessments commissioned or undertaken by HTA organisations internationally. This includes INAHTA members and non-INAHTA members. The database provides a single point of access to information that would otherwise be more difficult and time-consuming to search for on individual agency websites. INAHTA has taken on the responsibility for the production of the HTA database. This was previously done by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD), University of York, England. The database was started by the CRD in 1996 and, in fact, it used the INAHTA Briefs as a seed database for the new international platform. The database was produced by the CRD until March 2018, at which time the addition of records was stopped as INAHTA was in the process of rebuilding the new database platform. In July 2019, the database records were exported from the CRD platform and imported into the new platform that was developed by INAHTA. The rebuild of the new platform is now complete and was launched in June 2020.

ISSG Search Filters Resource
https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/
The website has been newly updated and now includes launchable search filters (e.g., Launch the NLM systematic reviews search in PubMed).

Librarian Peer Reviewer Database
https://sites.google.com/view/mlprdatabase/
From the website: This database connects librarians who have evidence synthesis expertise with journal editors who need peer reviewers with this expertise... Librarians who want to peer review evidence synthesis papers can submit their details to the LPRD. Potential reviewers must have co-authored at least one evidence synthesis paper. Journal editors who want to find librarian peer reviewers can request access to the LPRD. Editors can peruse the database and reach out to the would-be reviewers of their choice... The role of librarians in systematic reviews is recognized in methods standards, including those from the Campbell Collaboration, Cochrane, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.
SearchRefiner
https://sr-accelerator.com/#/help/searchRefiner

From the website: SearchRefiner is a tool to help reduce the number of irrelevant references retrieved by a search strategy for a systematic review (SR). It integrates with PubMed and checks the performance of a search strategy against user defined relevant articles, using the articles PubMed IDs. It enables users to see which terms of their search are low performing, e.g. return lots of results but don't find any (or very few) relevant articles. The tool provides information on the terms’ performance in relation to their contribution to retrieving relevant references... SearchRefiner is one of the suite of tools found in the IEBH SR-Accelerator, designed to speed up steps in the Systematic Review (SR) process. It is freely available for anyone in the world to use. Simply register below with your name and email address. The SRA is a modular design which means the tools can be incorporated into existing SR workflows and combined with other automation tools.

Statistical Reports on MEDLINE®/PubMed® Baseline Data

From the website: Our Annual statistical reports based upon the data elements in the baseline versions of MEDLINE®/PubMed® are available. For each year covered the reports include: total citations containing each element; total occurrences of each element; minimum/average/maximum occurrences of each element in a record; minimum/average/maximum length of a single element occurrence; average record size; and other statistical data describing the content and size of the elements.

IRG Member Activities

Update on SuRe Info

A virtual meeting of the SuRe Info co-authors was held in February 2021. Attendees discussed plans to migrate the current website from the HTAi Vortal to HTAi site. At present, the HTAi site is not complete -- some elements are still in the process of being migrated. In the meantime, SuRe Info remains accessible via the HTAi Vortal at https://sure-info.org/.

Please note that broken links can occur and some content might be missing.

IRG Interview: Amanda Hodgson

Amanda Hodgson is a manager within Research Information Services at the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) and the incoming co-chair of the IRG. She took a moment to answer a few questions from Catherine Voutier.

1. How has Covid changed the way your team functions? What workarounds worked/didn't work?

When the Covid pandemic began, I was on a leave of absence from CADTH, working at the University of Ottawa library. It was incredible to see how librarians worked together during this time to share information and provide research support. Coming back to CADTH in late October 2020, I was struck by the extraordinary efforts of the CADTH information specialist team in customizing search approaches for Covid topics, including grey literature sourcing, sharing Covid-related search strategies, navigating preprints and supporting the CADTH Covid-19 evidence portal. The whole team was working remotely by this time, so there were changes in how we function. I guess you could say that by the time I returned, the workarounds had already been ironed out.

2. What has been your most challenging project so far?

That’s a tough one! I often think of my very first “big” HTA project at CADTH. I was taking over the literature search from an experienced information specialist who was moving on, and the database strategy was hundreds of lines long with a high result count (it was a CADTH record I believe). I can fondly remember my mentor, Becky Skidmore, sitting with me as I searched, line by line, making sure nothing was missed and that the process wouldn’t take too long – we used the Dialog platform in those days and were paying by the minute. Becky also trained me in all things relating to citation management software and citing practices that’s remained with me to this day! I would say that having been a manager since 2010, I’ve been involved in many challenging projects as part of my role. My hope is that I’ve been a good mentor to other information specialists in this regard, as I had the good fortune to have excellent training early in my career.

3. Have you faced barriers in getting authorship status for the work you have contributed to reviews?

I can’t say I’ve faced the specific barriers that you read about amongst librarians working on systematic reviews. One scenario we can encounter being HTA information specialists is work on confidential reviews, which was certainly my experience at CADTH. In many instances at CADTH we’ve presented our reports with corporate authorship as an agency team. All authors are listed by function on the Authorship page, and information
specialists have their own section, along with clinical and economic reviewers, for example. I found my recent experience at the University of Ottawa library (2019-2020) was positive in this regard – they have a clear policy for literature review services and authorship, based on ICJME criteria, is included in this agreement.

4. As the incoming Chair, what would you like the IRG to achieve?
I want the IRG to continue the great work that’s already been achieved, especially promoting the SuReInfo resource. I look forward to learning more about our membership and exploring how more information specialists can join and benefit from the group’s activities. I’m also interested in the other special interest groups within HTAi and exploring overlaps in topics of interest and how that might contribute to the HTAi conference program. It could be premature at this time, but one idea I have is to explore a potential future exchange and hosting program for information specialists from different HTA agencies. But for the moment…I’m just excited to join the Executive Committee and meet everyone!

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.