

Title: Systematic literature searching in multiple medical databases: A stepwise method to perform literature searches in an efficient and effective way.

Date and time: 1. April from 10-16 (lunch at 13-14)

Course description: One of the purposes of library support in searching for scientific publications, especially for Systematic Reviews, is to reduce the risk of missing relevant articles and to find the best balance between sensitivity and specificity. In this course Gerdien de Jonge will teach us the method as used at Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, for identifying relevant search terms and running search strategies in different databases efficiently. Gerdien is an experienced information specialist who has worked for many years with searching for medical publications in multiple databases. Wichor Bramer, Gerdien de Jonge and other colleagues have published the method (1), and Wichor and/or Gerdien held courses at several conferences (e.g. EAHIL, MLA).

Content: Overview of the search method as used at Erasmus MC Rotterdam; order of databases, use of subject headings, free text words, macro for translating search terms between databases, tips and tricks. Adapted to databases we have access to in Norway we will be guided step by step to identify search terms and translating the search strategy between databases (hands-on).

What's in it for me: Participants will get an introduction in the method and use the method in the course on a given research question. If possible you can use a research question from a search for a SR you have guided your researchers. The course is in a computer lab where we can practice. The course leader will give feedback individually on the participants' search strategies either in the course or after.

Preparations before the course: As participant we ask you to send a search strategy as you have performed for a publication or SR to the course leader, two weeks in advance of the course date. Please also read at least the article: A systematic approach to searching, by Bramer et al, 2018.

Level: moderate to experienced literature searchers

Literature:

1. J Med Libr Assoc. 2018 Oct;106(4):531-541. doi: 10.5195/jmla.2018.283. Epub 2018 Oct 1.

A systematic approach to searching: an efficient and complete method to develop literature searches.

Bramer WM¹, de Jonge GB², Rethlefsen ML³, Mast F², Kleijnen J⁴.

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

2. Res Synth Methods. 2018 Dec;9(4):510-520. doi: 10.1002/jrsm.1279. Epub 2017 Nov 28.

Evaluation of a new method for librarian-mediated literature searches for systematic reviews.

Bramer WM, Rethlefsen ML, Mast F, Kleijnen J

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29073718>

3. Syst Rev. 2017 Dec 6;6(1):245. doi: 10.1186/s13643-017-0644-y. Optimal database combinations for literature searches in systematic reviews: a prospective exploratory study.

Bramer WM, Rethlefsen ML, Kleijnen J, Franco OH.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5718002/>