
Living Systematic Reviews

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Declaration of interests

• Cochrane
  – Lead, Evidence Systems
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  – Senior Research Fellow, Cochrane Australia

• Founder, Covidence

• HIV clinician and clinical researcher
  – Institution receives research and educational funding from public and commercial sources
  – No travel support, speakers fees or advisory boards
something to offer. Next year the *Oxford Database of Perinatal Trials* will be published by Oxford University Press in electronic form. Besides registers of published and unpublished trials and trials in progress or planned, the data base will include a library of trial overviews which will be updated when new data become available.

Oxford Database of Perinatal Trials,
National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford OX2 6HE

Iain Chalmers
Seventy-Five Trials and Eleven Systematic Reviews a Day: How Will We Ever Keep Up?

Hilda Bastian, Paul Glasziou, Iain Chalmers

75 Trials per day
Time from study to systematic review

Time from protocol to SR publication
Survival of systematic review accuracy

Living Systematic Reviews: An Emerging Opportunity to Narrow the Evidence-Practice Gap

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The Bridge from Evidence to Practice

Summary
What is a Living Systematic Review?

A systematic review that is continually updated, incorporating new evidence as it becomes available.

Key elements:
- “Systematic review” (retains core methods)
- “Continually” (frequency?)
- “Updated” (where?)
- “Incorporating new evidence” (how?)
# LSR vs SR: Key differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Work processes</td>
<td>Search strategy maintained and fed continuously into SR workflow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Author team management</td>
<td>Coordinated and continuous effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td></td>
<td>LSR-specific approach to search and study incorporation is pre-specified; Potential statistical adjustments to allow for frequent updating of meta-analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publication</td>
<td>Publication format</td>
<td>Persistent, dynamic, online-only publication</td>
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When should I do an LSR?

- High priority (or emerging) question for policy and practice
- Important uncertainty in the existing evidence
- Emerging evidence (e.g. in trial registers) that is likely to impact on what we currently know

- Network of contributors have capacity and resources to sustain an ongoing SR commitment
The LSR Network

• Informal international network, ‘launched’ Feb 2016
• Over 100 members (researchers, guideline developers, policy makers)
• Aims to:
  o Share experiences and information
  o Further the thinking on LSR concept and methods
  o Develop and evaluate LSR pilot approaches
  o International meetings, symposia and State-of-the-Science webinars
  o To join email anneliese.synnot@monash.edu
Cochrane LSR pilots

- 5+ author groups, each piloting ≥1 Cochrane Review
- LSR methods / model devised by LSR Network
- Support and evaluation provided by Project Transform
- Using machine learning and other enablers
- First Cochrane Reviews transitioning to LSRs on the Cochrane Library approx. mid-2017
LSRs as part of something bigger

Living Systematic Review Network

Living Systematic Review Network interest group leads
Elie Akl, John Hilton, Harriet Maclehose, Steve McDonald, Joerg Meerpohl, Georgia Salanti, Ian Shemilt, Mark Simmonds, Anneliese Synnot, James Thomas, Tari Turner

Living Systematic Review Network members