Searching and LSRs

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As with any SR, the search for evidence forms a critical component. What happens here has a knock-on effect for the whole review.
Searching: current approach/es

Bespoke, multi-source searches for each individual review
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Broader searches to create comprehensive specialized register
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Broader searches to create comprehensive specialized register

Around 90% or review groups follow approach 1
Searching: current approach/es

PICOTS

Population  Intervention  Comparator  Outcome  Time  Study design
Searching: current approach/es

Most searches aim to maximise sensitivity by focusing on Population and Intervention and Study design
Searching: current approach/es

For registers, searches will mainly focus on Population and Study design
Searching: current approach/es

Breadth: What to search
Searching: current approach/es

Breadth: What to search

Depth: How to search

For both approaches, it’s about breadth and depth: *What to search*, and *How to search it*

**MECIR** offers guidance on minimum acceptable
The first search you do for a review generally involves the most work: Designing searches, running them, downloading, de-duping and reporting.
Searching: updating

At each update, more evidence might be found, or it might not. **Despite that, the search effort is the same**

The life time of a clinically relevant question

Tasks at update: check search, revise if needed, run it, download, de-dupe, report
Searching: LSRs

With LSRs searches will be run more frequently.
The frequency will be pre-determined.

The life time of a clinically relevant question

**LSRs aim at the outset to achieve a high degree of currency by continuous monitoring of the evidence**

*Pilot guidance 0.3*
Searching: 3 main challenges

1. Argh, Ovid’s changed, again (databases change)
2. Reporting
3. Effort vs value

These are not new challenges
Searching: databases change

Re-running a search isn’t just a matter of pressing a button

Re-run the search
Searching: reporting

Reporting changes to searches, or search process, even if no new data is identified
Searching: effort vs value

Same effort in re-running a search even when nothing new is identified time and time again
The Centralised Search Service will play an important role in helping reduce wasted human effort.

Won’t rule out the need for searching these sources altogether.
Searching: CSS

- CINAHL: Takes effort (time and skill) to search for very little yield
- CT.gov: Important source of ongoing and unpublished trials
Searching: crowd and machine

The Crowd and the Machine (as part of Project Transform), work closely with CSS to help create a number of ‘centralised’ searches
**Searching: summary**

- The move towards being able to produce living evidence is exciting

- Searching for LSRs will not mean compromising on the quality of searching

- But there will be challenges

- Enablers such as CSS, Crowd and Machine will play a significant role in effective study identification

- The pilots will be critical is helping to explore the challenges and the role of enablers