

UHMLG Spring Forum

Questions for Jane Falconer

From LinaGulhane : did you only apply PRESS or did you end up re-writing searches?

If we felt the search had fatal flaws, we invited the user to a 1-2-1 session. The first year we did this, we had lots of submissions from MSc students and we could not re-write their search, only provide feedback. With staff, we were able to provide some suggestions of alternatives.

From Iona Preston : How long did it take you to evaluate the LSHTM sample of systematic reviews Jane?

We got quicker at it, the first few took a long time. Once we got practiced at it, it probably took 30-45 mins per paper. Our data-extraction form was mainly yes/no/no information type answers so we didn't have to write out lots of notes for each paper we reviewed. We then took an afternoon to discuss our individual scores and agree on any differences.

From Kate Brunskill : As mentioned by someone else earlier, is there any training directed at Supervisors? I've seen Masters dissertations with weak searches get Distinctions. Those students become the next generation of researchers.

We've talked to some of the course directors to improve the marking scheme for SR-type dissertations. However, they are not keen to be too prescriptive as the search strategy is so determined by subject. One of our tutors did a study looking at the spread of grades achieved by students doing a primary study or a SR-type study and found that students doing an SR-type dissertation tended to get lower marks. What wasn't clear was the cause. This discrepancy could have been because the marking scheme was stricter for SR-type dissertations, or it could be because tutors tend to advise the less-able students to do an SR-type project as it is perceived as being easier.

From Helen Morgan : Yes, where were papers published? Requirement for editors to adhere to ICMJE on reporting standards i.e. PRISMA

Papers were published in a random selection of journals. The search for papers was done in the Web of Science so they were all in journals indexed there. Unfortunately journal title is not a marker of quality of research. Studies have shown that PRISMA has had a slight impact on reporting standards in journals, but there's still a big issue. See, for example Page, Matthew J.; Moher, David (2017): Evaluations of the uptake and impact of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) Statement and extensions: a scoping review. Systematic Reviews 6 (1), p.263. DOI: 10.1186/s13643-017-0663-8.

From Tom Roper : On the point about bringing pressure to bear on publishers, this was the subject of a resolution passed, I think nem con, at EAHIL Assembly in 2016. Is it time to join forces with HLG, MLA, AHILA etc to make this happen?

Watch this space! This is something I, as co-chair of the new EAHIL Evidence-Based Information SIG am actively trying to do. So if there is anyone reading from MLA, AHILA etc who is in a position to work with us on this, please get in touch with me.

From Donna Irving : do you give estimates beforehand?

From LinaGulhane : can you estimate how long it would take as some people want this beforehand to assess cost

Yes. We have a pro-forma we use to estimate the length of time we think a search will take. This is based on the tasks the team would like us to do, how complex and lengthy the search will be and the number of databases to search. We also make clear that this is just an estimate as often things take longer/shorter than initially thought. If we think our estimate is too low, we will discuss this with the research group to try to find a resolution.

From LinaGulhane : do you upload the strategies for every resource/database searched on Compass?

No. Sometimes the paper is confidential so details cannot be made open until the manuscript is published. I'm a bit behind with adding searches to Data Compass, so more watch this space for more to be added.

From Regina Kűfner Lein : I like the idea of saving the strategies in you inst. data repository. Do you know if other institutions do the same?

I think our Research Data Manager has discussed this with his peers and mentioned it at RDM conferences etc. I'm afraid I don't know if it's been rolled out anywhere else. Within the wider SR community, there's calls for all SR data to be published, not just the searches. So data extraction and meta-analysis details etc may also be more widely available.

From alisonpaul : Could this network be extended beyond London?

From wichor bramer : yes why would you limit it so much to only the london area. in this time (especially now working from home)

From Regina Kűfner Lein : local groups are still good to have, these are often more informal than large groups for information exchange, especially for librarians which are not so experienced yet.

We are keen for the London Systematic Searchers' Network to be local so that we can create a strong sense of community. We were keen that members would feel comfortable asking questions and sharing expertise amongst a known group. It was felt very strongly that keeping the group local would facilitate the formation of a more informal, supportive, friendly community. I'm happy to discuss the setting up of similar networks in other locations if anyone is keen to follow the London example.

From alisonpaul : Re the SIG what about HLG?

From Tom Roper : Anyone from HLG here? There's talk of an HLG SR SIG too, I think

From alisonpaul : i'm here ffrom HLG Tom :-)

Lynsey Hawker from the Kings Fund is the LSSN HLG rep. She and I have discussed setting up an HLG SR SIG, but she's keen that it doesn't replicate what is being done elsewhere. I suggest you contact Lynsey to discuss further.

From Andrew : How do we join Evidence Based Information SIG?

Join EAHIL first (it's free) <http://eahil.eu/join-eahil/>. Once you have joined, you can join as many of the SIGs as you wish. As the EBI SIG is so new, we don't have a section on the EAHIL website yet. This is in progress and should be up shortly.

From LinaGulhane : are all your searches for non profit making organisations?

We only provided searches for projects with at least one member of London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine staff. We don't have the capacity in the team to extend our services outside the institution.

From Kate Stephenson : Am thinking something like this could be done for UG students. Maybe they could peer review each others strategies. Good learning experience...

From Anna Richards : Asking UG to review each other's searches could be a really good learning tool

We do this for our distance learning MSc students. We run a 6-week literature searching moodle module for students doing a masters dissertation. One of the tasks is for students to create a search plan which includes search questions, terms and sources which is peer-reviewed by their peers. It works really well although students are a bit reluctant to rely on peer-review, they really want librarian review. We try to make it clear to students that we read all the reviews and we intervene if something major is missed or the review is misleading. This rarely happens.

Comments rather than questions

- From PF Anderson : @Jane Falconer There have been so many efforts to create a shared database of search filters. These are scattered all over, with bits and pieces. Like you, I wish there was an easier central
 - From Lisa : @Jane Falconer are you using KnowledgeShare - really good for saving and sharing evidence searches
 - From Jane Falconer : @Lisa, I thought KnowledgeShare was NHS only?
 - From Bernadette Coles : This site is a good starting point <https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home>
 - From Lisa : Would be great @janefalconer if there was something similar for non-NHS searches across health libraries in Higher Ed and also perhaps Royal College libraries
 - From Regina Küfner Lein : I want to mention the <https://sites.google.com/site/eahilblocks/> for search blocks
 - From PF Anderson : @Tom Roper here is one collection of COVID19 search strategies <https://www.mlanet.org/p/cm/ld/fid=1713>
- from wichor bramer : in my experience doing a peer review of a search strat or training other often takes more time than developing the searches myself
 - From PF Anderson : Yes, @Wichor, peer review of someone else's search strategy is so hard. Especially the long complicated ones
- From PF Anderson : I love that idea so much. What a great use of the institutional repository
- From cshannon : I've suggested to several of my groups, esp. those scoping or other non-SR reviews that we use the Univ institutional repository, so it may happen.
 - From PF Anderson : @cshannon It's a fabulous idea. I'm so excited. It's so doable.

- From Valeria Scotti : Very interesting to make a check list to share with all librarians that are involved in these theme.
- From Tom Roper : On the point about bringing pressure to bear on publishers, this was the subject of a resolution passed, I think nem con, at EAHIL Assembly in 2016. Is it time to join forces with HLG, MLA, AHILA etc to make this happen?
- From Lynsey Southern : Library envy!
- From PF Anderson : Important to have collaborative input into the checklist, increases ownership, buy-in, utilization, adoption
- From Ruth Jenkins : Thanks Jane, a great example of turning bad news into good news :)
- From Donna Irving : gorgeous library. can I come for a visit?
- From Sheryl Amesbury : Thanks Jane - you'll have a queue of visitors when this is all over I think!
- From Emma : Really interesting. Thank you
- From Judy Wright : Great talk, thanks Jane