

COCHRANE LIBRARY

A Fact Sheet of the Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences
University of North Dakota



WHAT IS THE COCHRANE LIBRARY?

The Cochrane Library is the Cochrane Collaboration's primary vehicle to assist the practitioner in translating research into practice. ***Participants are volunteers.***

WHAT IS A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW?

A systematic review identifies all possible relevant evidence, both published and unpublished; selects studies using explicit inclusion criteria; synthesizes the results of multiple primary investigations; and interprets the clinical implications of the findings. If the data are statistically combined, the review is called a ***quantitative review*** or ***meta-analysis***.

COCHRANE LIBRARY DATABASES

1. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)

Full-text collection of regularly updated systematic reviews of the effects of health care. Contributors to the Cochrane Collaboration produce and maintain these reviews.

NOTE: these reviews are all INDEXED in PubMed/MEDLINE

The key for the status of the Reviews in the Systematic Reviews

R – A full REVIEW, complete with results and discussion, meta-analysis and an odds-ratio diagram for the review.

P – A Protocol. The outline of reviews in preparation, including the background, rationale and methods

Comment – A full Review that also contains commentary/criticism. Readers can submit comments, which are incorporated into the review together with answers and feedback from the review authors.

New – A new protocol or review that has been published in the most recent quarter.

Update – A review that has been updated in the most recent quarter.

Withdrawn – A review or protocol that has been withdrawn – usually due to lack of activity or update. Reasons for withdrawal are specified in the article.

2. Other Reviews

Structured abstracts of non-Cochrane-compiled systematic reviews. Quality filtering of these reviews includes the same standards and criteria used by Cochrane. ***NOTE: may or may not be found in PubMed/MEDLINE***

3. Clinical Trials

Bibliography of controlled trials included in the world's journals; created as an unbiased source of data for systematic reviews. It includes conference proceedings and other sources not included in PubMed/MEDLINE.

4. Methods Studies

A bibliography of articles and books on scientific research and critical appraisal.

5. Economic Evaluations

Contains 10,000 published economic evaluations of health care interventions from around the world, and is maintained by the National Health Service Centre for Reviews and Dissemination in the UK. A large proportion of these economic evaluations have been quality assessed and include a structured summary that outline the practical implications.

6. Technology Assessments

Assessments look at the medical, social, ethical and economic implications of health technologies (e.g. pharmaceuticals, vaccines, medical and surgical procedures) with a view to **informing policy decisions**. The HTA database contains over 2500 records of completed and ongoing assessment from members of INAHTA- the International Technology Assessment

HOW CAN I ACCESS THE COCHRANE LIBRARY?

Go to the Home Page of the Harley E. French Library at <http://undmedlibrary.org/>

Enter Cochrane in the search box > follow the link

Remote access:

Go to the Homepage of the Harley E. French Library at <http://undmedlibrary.org/>

Login on the page with your medicine e-mail account

Enter Cochrane in the search box > follow the link

Need Assistance:

Please call the Reference Desk at 701-777-3994 if you need assistance.