Helping
health professionals
FIND
quality information to improve
evidence based practice

LEEDS
LIBRARIES
for HEALTH

Finding & Appraising the Evidence

This course follows the pathway from identifying a research question, through finding information from databases such as Medline and the Cochrane Library, locating and assessing the value of specific articles.

Aimed at: This course is open to staff who wish to devote a full day to information skills training, but is aimed particularly at doctors, and as such has been approved by the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom for CPD credits.

Duration: Full day (7 hours)

Pre-requisites:
- Basic IT skills and the ability to use a mouse

- NHS Athens account (for help, contact your librarian)

Support for CPD Frameworks

This course support KSF dimensions:
> IK2: Information collection and analysis
> IK3: Knowledge and information systems

It will also contribute to other dimensions which require use of or familiarity with EVIDENCE or EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINES, or require identification of NEW AND EMERGING DEVELOPMENTS.

Course content:

By the end of the session participants should be able to:
- Devise a focussed research question
- Plan a search using an appropriate method e.g. PICO
- Understand the content and coverage of different databases, and the structure of the Cochrane Library
- Differentiate between the various databases and select the most appropriate for a search
- Access the selected database, using their personal NHS Athens account as necessary
- Understand the difference between a free-text/word/phrase search and a subject / thesaurus mapped search
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of each search method
- Perform a subject search using both these two methods
- Browse the Cochrane Library by review group, topic or alphabetically by article title
- Use the full functionality of the databases eg scope notes, Boolean operators, limits

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- Identify and understand the different types of record found within a Cochrane Library search
- View abstracts and access full-text articles from both healthcare databases and the Cochrane Library
- Search for single citations using author, title or journal reference
- Print and/or save the results of the search
- Create an Alert
- Save the search and know how to re-run it at a later date
- Recognise the importance and value of critically evaluating evidence
- Understand the value of a focussed research question in the appraisal process
- Differentiate between levels and types of evidence
- Understand the structure and limitations of the published journal article format
- Identify the key elements within a journal article
- Use the CASP appraisal tools to evaluate journal articles