Using healthcare databases effectively to support your work

This course provides the skills required to plan and carry out an effective search for published research evidence using healthcare databases (eg medline, CINAHL)

Aimed at:
- Newcomers to the search process
- Staff who have done some searching but feel they would like to refresh their skills
- It will also be helpful to anyone planning a comprehensive literature search

Duration: 2.5 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:
- Access the healthcare databases using their personal NHS Athens account
- Devise a focussed research question
- Plan a search using an appropriate method e.g. PICO
- Differentiate between the various healthcare databases and select the most appropriate database
- Recognise 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 in a healthcare database using these two methods
- Use the full functionality of the database eg scope notes, Boolean operators, limits
- View abstracts and access full-text articles
- Print/email/save the records selected
- 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

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