Section 2.4

Searching for research findings and KT literature

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People involved in KT research and practice need to identify information from several categories:

- Evidence and evidence summaries (e.g., systematic reviews, clinical practice guidelines, health technology assessments [HTAs])

- Evidence to develop knowledge syntheses that form the basis of guidelines

- Successful KT interventions

- Information describing the theoretical bases (e.g. KT models or frameworks) important for designing and evaluating KT

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide:

- A description of where information can be found, and

- Vocabulary to use when searching for resources.

Getting started: how do we find knowledge syntheses? (1)

Systematic reviews (including meta-analyses)
- Medline, CINAHL or smaller databases
- Health-evidence.ca site for reviews in public health (http://www.health-evidence.ca/)
- Cochrane (health) and Campbell (social science) Collaborations (http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/index.html) and (http://www.campbellcollaboration.org)
- Joanna Briggs Institute in Australia (nursing and other disciplines) (http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au)
- UK Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York (includes reviews, economics studies and health technology assessments) (http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/)

Getting started: how do we find knowledge syntheses? (2)

Clinical practice guidelines

- US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (http://www.guideline.gov/)

- Canadian Medical Association (http://www.cma.ca/index.php/ci_id/54316/la_id/1.htm)

- NICE (UK National Institute for Health and Clinical Evidence)

  (http://www.nice.org.uk/)

- Guidelines International Network (GIN)

  (http://www.g-i-n.net/)

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What should we do next: how do we search large databases?

- Examples are Medline (for medicine) or CINAHL (for nursing and allied health professionals)
- Additional sources described in Bzdel Resource Guide*
- Librarians can help with searching or search training
- Online tutorials (e.g., PubMed)
- Searching for KT interventions, theories or frameworks is difficult
- Filters such as PubMed Clinical Queries (RCTs or qualitative studies and health services research)
- KT Clearinghouse web site for other filters (http://ktclearinghouse.ca/)

*Bzdel, Winther and Graham (2004)

Should we search the Internet?

- For technical reports and other non-journal material
- Google or Google Scholar or other search engines (http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=2156221)
- TRIP – Turning Research into Practice Web site allows searching in multiple databases and resource collections from one search window

  (http://www.tripdatabase.com/index.html)

What are some existing collections of KT material? (1)

- Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre KT Library, Dalhousie University (http://www.ahprc.dal.ca/databases/default.asp)
- Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (http://www.chsrf.ca/Home.aspx)
- Centre for Health & Environment Research KT Database, University of British Columbia (http://ktdatabase.carexcanada.ca/)
- Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group, University of Ottawa (http://epoc.cochrane.org/)

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What are some existing collections of KT material? (2)

- Institute of Knowledge Transfer, UK (http://www.ikt.org.uk/index.aspx)

- KT+, McMaster University (http://plus.mcmaster.ca/kt/Default.aspx)

- KU-UC, Laval University (http://kuuc.chair.ulaval.ca/english/index.php)

- US National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research library (http://www.ncddr.org/ktinfocenter/)

- Research Transfer Network of Alberta (RTNA) Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (http://www.ahfmr.ab.ca/rtna/index.php)

What are some existing collections of KT material? (3)

- Research Utilization Support and Help (RUSH) Southeastern Educational Development Laboratory, Austin TX (http://www.researchutilization.org/index.html)

- CIHR KT Clearinghouse, University of Toronto (http://ktclearinghouse.ca/)

- National Coordinating Centre for Methods and Tools. Public Health Agency of Canada (http://www.nccmt.ca/index-eng.html)

- Keenan Research Centre – Research Programs Joint Program in Knowledge Translation – Literature (http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/research/kt.php)

- Program in Policy Decision-Making at McMaster University, Canada (http://www.researchtopolicy.ca/Home)

How do we search the grey literature?

- Information not under the jurisdiction of commercial publishers
- Often published by governments, academic centres and businesses (electronic or paper)
- Difficult to identify and obtain.
- University of British Columbia (how to search for unpublished literature) (http://toby.library.ubc.ca/subjects/subjpage2.cfm?id=877)
- New York Academy of Medicine (http://www.nyam.org/library/pages/grey_literature_report)
- SIGLE (System for Information in Grey Literature in Europe) (http://opensigle.inist.fr/)
- HTAi Vortal for HTAs and economic studies (http://www.htai.org/index.php?id=577)

How can we search for literature about KT?

- Difficult as KT is a new field that interrelates with several existing disciplines
- Evolving and varied vocabulary with multiple terms for the same concept
- Researchers: knowledge translation (CA), research utilization, implementation or diffusion (US, UK)
- Business uses terms related to marketing, advertising and change management
- Engineers talk about technology transfer
- Clinicians deal with adoption of new techniques and evidence-based practice
- Policy makers speak of evidence-informed decisions

Future Research

- Research is required for producing search filters for Medline and CINAHL

- Need more data on proven retrieval methods for Internet-based resources

- Need consensus on definitions and mapping of terms across disciplines

- Develop search engines that can search effectively across many KT resources and sites

Summary

- Searching for existing knowledge is a major foundation of KT
- Producing and summarizing existing evidence from multiple sources to address knowledge or action gaps is an important first step
- KT researchers then need to learn about:
  - methods and tools used in previous KT projects
  - how best to build new programs
  - theoretical constructs of KT
- Searching for evidence is difficult because of vocabulary and its multidisciplinary nature
- Contact librarians and others with experience in searching to help