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May 1997

**THE ScHARR GUIDE TO EVIDENCE-BASED
PRACTICE**

Andrew Booth

ScHARR
(School of Health and Related Research)
University of Sheffield

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AN INTRODUCTION TO SchARR

SchARR, The School of Health and Related Research, is a large, multidisciplinary research centre located near the centre of Sheffield. It forms the northern arm of the Trent Institute for Health Services Research which also includes centres at Nottingham and Leicester Universities. The staff at the School are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds, embracing epidemiology, health economics, management sciences, medical sociology, medical statistics, nursing research, operational research, primary care, psychology, information science and public health medicine. This broad base of skills, together with the School's close ties with local NHS Trusts and Health Authorities, makes it uniquely placed to conduct applied and methodological Health Services Research to the highest quality.

AIMS OF SchARR

The aims of SchARR are:

- to conduct and promote within the University, Health Services Research (HSR), judged to be excellent both nationally and internationally;
- to deliver the highest standard of teaching in HSR and related subjects;
- to provide research and consultancy services in HSR to clients outside the University, particularly to NHS Trusts and Authorities but also to other public sector bodies and private organisations;
- to be an active and vigorous member of the Trent Institute for Health Services Research.

Professor Ron Akehurst, Director

AUTHORS

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Rationale for this guide

The following short guide attempts to identify some useful sources and resources in support of evidence-based practice. In most cases only materials published from 1990 onwards have been included although earlier references are easily identifiable by consulting more recent items. Exceptions are made to this five-year cut-off date where items are considered to be of particular value. The guide is divided into two main sections: the first is a bibliography of printed sources on all aspects of Evidence-based healthcare whilst the second is a resource guide of organisations, journals, databases and World Wide Web resources available to support the various stages involved in using the evidence.

What is Evidence-based Practice?

Evidence-based *medicine* (EBM) is "the conscientious, explicit, and judicious use of current best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients. The practice of evidence based medicine means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research¹". Evidence-based practice is, by implication, the systematic application of rigorous scientific methods to the evaluation of the effectiveness of health care interventions. This can be broadened to include such considerations as appropriateness, clinical decisionmaking, economic evaluation, health technology assessment, outcomes measurement and risk management.

Although the above definition of Evidence-based Medicine from Professor David Sackett of the Centre for Evidence-based Medicine is the most familiar, many commentators prefer the definition found in a Working Paper from the Health Information Resource Unit, McMaster University, Ontario, Canada. This states that "Evidence-based medicine (EBM) is an approach to health care that promotes the collection, interpretation, and integration of valid, important and applicable patient-reported, clinician-observed, and research-derived evidence. The best available evidence, moderated by patient circumstances and preferences, is applied to improve the quality of clinical judgments"².

¹ Sackett DL, Rosenberg WMC, Muir Gray JA, Haynes RB and Richardson WS. Evidence based medicine: what it is and what it isn't. *British Medical Journal* 1996; 312: 71-72.

² McKibbon KA, Wilczynski N, Hayward RS, Walker-Dilks CJ, Haynes RB. The medical literature as a resource for Evidence Based Care, at <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/medline/mdl-ebc.htm>

Related Definitions

The distinction made by Sackett et al (*Clinical Epidemiology : A basic science for clinical medicine*. 2nd ed. Little, Brown & Company 1991) is as follows:-

REVIEW - "the general term for all attempts to synthesize the results and conclusions of two or more publications on a given topic".

OVERVIEW - "when a review strives to comprehensively identify and track down all the literature on a topic (also called "systematic literature review")".

META-ANALYSIS - "when an overview incorporates a specific statistical strategy for assembling the results of several studies into a single estimate".

The National Library of Medicine definition of **meta-analysis** states:

"A quantitative method of combining the results of independent studies (usually drawn from the published literature) and synthesizing summaries and conclusions which may be used to evaluate therapeutic effectiveness, plan new studies etc., with application chiefly in the areas of research and medicine".

Useful guides to the terminology of research studies are found in:

Haynes RB et al. More informative abstracts revisited. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 1990; 113(1) : 69-76

Goodman C. *Literature Searching and evidence interpretation for assessing health care practices*. Stockholm : SBU (Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care), 1993.

Jones R and Kinmouth AL. *Critical reading for primary care*. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1995.

Last JM. *A Dictionary of epidemiology*, 3rd ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press, 1995.

US Congress, Office of Technology Assessment. *Identifying health technologies that work : searching for the evidence*, OTA-H-608. Appendix D - Glossary. Washington, DC : US Government Printing Office, September 1994.

The journal *Evidence Based Medicine* has started (1996; Volume 1 : Issue 2 onwards) to publish a glossary of terms used in the different types of study. The first two issues are on Therapeutics and further articles cover Diagnosis, Prognosis, Etiology, Quality Improvement and Economics.

The Centre for Evidence-based Medicine in Oxford, UK has produced a glossary of EBM terms on its World Wide Web site at:-

<http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/glossary.html>

A clinical practice guidelines glossary containing many of the terms used by EBM and by clinical epidemiology is found on the World Wide Web at:-

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cpg/toolkit/glossary.htm>

A glossary of EBM terms used by the Journal of Family Practice is available as:-

<http://www.phymac.med.wayne.edu/jfp/glossary.htm>

Andrew Booth (31/03/1997)

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- Donald A. *Evidence-based medicine : a report from McMaster University Medical School and Teaching Hospitals : "Becoming better, faster, happier docs"*. Anglia and Oxford RHA : Oxford, 1994. For further information contact 01865 226833.
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Evidence-based Practice Resource Guide

The diversity of media available to support Evidence Based Practice has necessitated a change in format for this Resource Guide. Instead of splitting resources according to format the guide now lists them in alphabetical order and then provides a key to the types of resource available for each entry. The types listed are as follows:-

Type	Definition
Book	A substantive publication issued on an ad hoc basis
Bulletin	Thematic newsletter covering individual topics
CD-ROM Database	Product supplied on Compact Disk
Computer Assisted Learning	Stand-alone or Internet resource for non-mediated learning
Discussion List	Internet-based discussion forum
Information Service	A formally-organised information provider
Journal	A substantial periodic publication
Newsletter	A brief periodic publication
Online Database	Database available via modem and/or Internet
Online Journal	Journal available via modem and/or Internet
Organisation	A contact point that will answer basic enquiries
Project	A time-limited initiative exploring specific issues.
Software	Products supplied on floppy disk or downloadable via ftp
Training Course Provider	An organisation providing training courses
Training materials	Handouts or other teaching materials for mediated learning
WWW database	A searchable World Wide Web interface
WWW presence	World Wide Web Pages with basic information only
WWW resource list	A set of links to other World Wide Web sites
WWW site	World Wide Web Pages including publications etcetera

Abstracts of Clinical Care Guidelines

A publication of the Joint Commission (JCAHO) that abstracts guidelines with details of sources. Published 10 times a year it costs \$95 per year. The newsletter is not indexed elsewhere but does publish a self-index in its November-December issue. Available from Mosby on 1-800-453-4351. *Type of Resource:- Newsletter*

ACP Journal Club (ISSN: 0003-4819)

ACP Journal Club is a bimonthly journal whose general purpose is to select from the biomedical literature those articles reporting studies and reviews that warrant immediate attention by physicians attempting to keep pace with important advances in internal medicine. These articles are summarized in "value added" abstracts and commented on by clinical experts. The database [see below under *Best Evidence*] 1991-1995 contains almost 900 articles to support the practice of evidence based healthcare. Articles are of two types; editorials on aspects of using the evidence and comprehensive summaries of significant articles from 50 of medicine's most influential journals. Each summary is followed by an expert commentary that places the summary in practice perspective. *Type of resource : WWW site; Journal; Software.*

<http://www.acponline.org/journals/acpjic/jcmenu.htm>

A UK mirror site exists at the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine:-

[http:// http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/hiru/acpjic/default.htm](http://http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/hiru/acpjic/default.htm)

ACP Library on Disk

Compact disk from the American College of Physicians containing *Best Evidence* [see below], ACP approved Clinical Practice Guidelines, Common Diagnostic Tests, Common Screening Tests plus other texts representing over 7,000 pages of clinical information. The database is available for \$229 (non-members) from the Customer Service Center, American College of Physicians, Independence Mall West, Sixth Street at Race, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Tel : (800-523-1546 ext 2600). *Type of resource : CD-ROM Database.*

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

This site includes practice guidelines in three forms; full version, clinician's guide and patients guide. *Type of resource : WWW site, Online Database.*

<http://www.ahcpr.gov/>

Arcus Statistical Package

This downloadable statistics package can be placed on a local machine and then used to calculate odds ratios, relative risk and other clinical measures such as Numbers Needed to Treat. It includes exact confidence intervals for all of these which is very rare. The package also includes calculation of pooled odds ratios using the Mantel-Haenszel or Woolf method. It is made available by Dr Iain Buchan, formerly of the Departments of Medicine and Primary Care, University of Liverpool. Arcus Biomedical for Windows is about to be launched. Details of the beta site can be obtained from Iain Buchan, now at Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge. (E-mail:- ieb21@cam.ac.uk). *Type of resource:- Software.*

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/~ieb/arcus.html>

Aggressive Research Intelligence Facility (ARIF)

"Advancing the use of evidence on the effects of health care in the West Midlands" : ARIF is a specialist unit of three people based at the University of Birmingham, set up to help health care workers access and interpret research evidence in response to particular problems. They are a collaboration between the Department of Public Health & Epidemiology, the Department of General Practice and the Health Services Management Centre at the University and are funded for three years from 1st July 1995 by the Research and Development Department of the NHS Executive, West Midlands (see under R&D Program below). The first objective of ARIF is to provide timely access to, and advice on, existing reviews of research. *Type of resource : Organisation, Training Course Provider, Information Service.*

<http://www.hsrc.org.uk/links/arif/arifhome.htm>

AURACLE

AURACLE is a co-operative research project between the Department of Information Studies at the University of Sheffield and the School of Health and Related Research (SchARR). The aim is to develop a computer-based service capable of increasing the range of evidence-based information queries which can be handled by machine. *Type of resource : Project, WWW presence.*

<http://panizzi.shef.ac.uk/auracle/aurac.html>

Bandolier (ISSN : 1353-9906).

Bandolier is a newsletter produced monthly by the Anglia and Oxford NHS Region in the UK. It contains bullet points of evidence-based medicine, hence its title. The printed version is available free within the NHS and for a subscription of £30 per year (UK) and £60 overseas. *Address:- Ann Southwell, R&D Manager (West), Anglia & Oxford Region, Tel : +44 (0) 1865 226743 Fax : +44 (0) 1865 226775).*

A cumulative volume *Bandolier : the first 20 issues*, by Andrew Moore, Henry McQuay and Muir Gray was published at the end of 1995 (ISBN : 1 899137 35 1). Details from:- *Bandolier*, Pain Relief Unit, Churchill Hospital, OXFORD, Fax : +44 (0)1865 226978.

Access to *Bandolier* on the Internet is free of charge, but it may run several months behind the printed version. *Type of resource : WWW site; WWW resource list; Newsletter; Book.*

<http://www.jr2.ox.ac.uk:80/Bandolier/>

Best Evidence

Best Evidence on CD-ROM offers : Access to all articles from ACP Journal Club (January 1991 - December 1996); Evidence-Based Medicine (November 1995-December 1996); Updated annually with full text searching. It also contains editorials about critical appraisal and clinical application of evidence and a reference glossary of statistical terms. BMA Members £33, Personal Rate £50, Institutional Rate £73. Joint rate for *Evidence-based Medicine* and *Best-Evidence* CD-Rom - 10% off CD-Rom [BMA Members £67.70, Personal Rate £99.00, Institutional Rate £151.70]. The database is also available on disk or CDROM for \$98 from the Customer Service Center, American College of Physicians, Independence Mall West, Sixth Street at Race, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Tel : (800-523-1546 ext 2600) and also from the Canadian Medical Association. *Type of resource : CDROM Database, Software*

CAMS - Critical Appraisal for Medical Students

CAMS is a student-led group dedicated to provide exciting opportunities to develop the skills of applying papers to patients. For more details or to apply for membership, contact the founding members : Mark Loveland BSc Mark.Loveland@stud.man.ac.uk ; Robert Phillips BA robert.phillips@somerville.ox.ac.uk; Nicholas GN Shenker MA BM BCh 106304.1360@compuserve.com. *Type of resource : World Wide Web Presence*

<http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/cams.html>

CAT-Maker

Software developed at the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine in Oxford to produce critically appraised topics (CATs) summarising the evidence for clinicians. The software can be obtained from Douglas Badenoch at the Centre for EBM. *Type of resource:- Software.*

For further details see : <http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/catbank.html>

CCEPP Newsletter : The Cochrane Collaboration on Effective Professional Practice

This Newsletter is produced by the Effective Professional Practice Group and is administered by Emma Harvey, Research Fellow/Administrator, Department of Health Sciences and Clinical Evaluation, University of York, Heslington, YORK, YO1 5DD. Tel : 01904 434577, E-mail : ccepp@york.ac.uk (Volume 1, Number 1; May 1995) . **From Monday 5th May 1997 the CCEPP editorial base will be moving from York to the Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen, Medical School, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB9 2ZD.** *Type of resource : Newsletter; WWW site.* It is currently found on the Internet at :

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/COCHRANE/newslett/>

ccinet

CCINET is an Internet discussion list, operated by the Cochrane Collaboration Informatics Project (CCIP) on behalf of the Cochrane Collaboration Informatics Working Group. It is established to facilitate communication between members of the informatics group of the CC.

Type of Resource : Discussion list. To join this list send the command:

sub CCINET firstname lastname

as the only text of an e-mail message to:

listproc@fhs.mcmaster.ca

ccinfo

CCINFO is an Internet discussion list, operated by the Cochrane Collaboration Informatics Project (CCIP) on behalf of the Cochrane Collaboration (CC). The list is established to facilitate communication between members of the Cochrane Collaboration and rapid dissemination of : News about the Cochrane Collaboration, Announcements of new or altered information services, Announcements of Conferences, Colloquia and Meetings, Minutes of open CC meetings, Proceedings of CC Colloquia, Support for users of CC information services and listings of publications, conferences and services. *Type of Resource : Discussion list.* To join this list send the command: **sub CCINFO** firstname lastname

as the only text of an e-mail message to:

listproc@fhs.mcmaster.ca

CenterWatch Clinical Trials Listing Service

CenterWatch is a publishing company and this service provides an international listing of ongoing clinical research trials, by therapeutic area and geographic region. Headings include the clinical trials listing, profiles of the centers conducting clinical research, background information on clinical research and additional resources. There is also an email patient notification service available. *Type of resource:- WWW site*

<http://www.CenterWatch.com/>

Centre for Evidence Based Child Health

The newly opened Centre for Evidence-Based Child Health is part of a national network of centres for evidence-based health care. The overall aim of the Centre is to increase the provision of effective and efficient child health care through an educational programme for health professionals. Introductory seminars, short courses, MSc modules, workshops for groups in the workplace and training secondments are being offered to paediatricians, nurses, general practitioners, healthcare purchasers and others involved in child health.

Type of resource : Organisation, Training course provider, WWW page

Address:- Dr Ruth Gilbert, 30 Guildford Street, LONDON, WC1N 1EH, Tel : +44 (0)171 242 9789, Fax : +44 (0)171 831 2823

<http://www.ich.bpmf.ac.uk/ebm/ebm.htm>

Centre for Evidence-Based Dentistry

Address:- Institute of Health Sciences, Anglia and Oxford RHA, Old Road, Headington, OXFORD, OX3 7LF. Tel : +44 (0) 1865 226968. *Type of Resource : Organisation, WWW presence.* The Centre is contactable via the World Wide Web at:-

<http://www.bhaoral.demon.co.uk>

Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine

The World Wide Web page of the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, established in Oxford as the first of several centres around the country whose aim broadly is to promote evidence-based health care and provide support and resources to anyone who wants to make use of them. *Address:- Centre for Evidence-based Medicine, Level 5, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington, OXFORD, OX3 9DU, Tel : +44 (0) 1865 221321.* *Type of Resource : Organisation, Training Course Provider, WWW site, WWW resource list.* The Centre has a World Wide web site at:

<http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk>

cebm-members

This mailbase discussion list functions as a discussion forum for members of the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine. The Centre exists to promote Evidence-Based Medicine by developing educational programmes and by providing support for other Centres in the UK. This is a closed list. To apply to join send an e-mail to the list owner Douglas Badenoch at the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine (CEBM). (See the CEBM's WWW pages (above) or check the Mailbase discussion list archives for further details). *Type of resource:- Discussion list*

Centre for Evidence Based Pathology

This site, developing at the University of Nottingham, is currently a gateway to resources on EBM. However it is likely to develop into a valuable resource in its own right. *Address:- c/o Dr David Jenkins, University of Nottingham Medical School, Histopathology Department, University Hospital, NOTTINGHAM, NG7 2UH. Tel +44 (0) 115 970 9171. Fax : +44 (0) 115 970 4852. Type of resource:- Organisation, WWW presence, WWW resource list.*

<http://www.ccc.nottingham.ac.uk/~mpzjlowe/evpath.html>

Centre for Health Economics

The Centre for Health Economics (CHE) was established in 1983 and conducts research in six major areas : outcome measurement (quality of life measurement and the estimation of quality adjusted life years(QALYs), economic evaluation of alternative technologies (technology assessment), primary care, community care, and the determinants of health (other than health care). *Address:- University of York, Heslington, YORK, YO1 5DD. Type of resource : WWW site, WWW resource list.* The Centre has a World Wide Web site at :

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/welcome.htm>

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

The NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) is commissioned by the NHS Research and Development Division to produce and disseminate reviews concerning the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of healthcare interventions. The aim is to identify and review the results of good quality health research and to disseminate actively the findings to key decision makers in the NHS and to consumers of health care services. The reviews cover the effectiveness of care for particular conditions; the effectiveness of health technologies; evidence on efficient methods of organising and delivering particular types of health care. The CRD databases are accessible over the internet and via dialup access. The first is a database of structured abstracts of good quality systematic reviews (DARE) which comment on the methodological features of published reviews and summarise the author's conclusions and any implications for health practice. The abstracts represent the end product of a detailed sifting and quality appraisal process. There is also be an economic evaluations database (NEED). The telnet address is nhscrd.york.ac.uk (the user ID and Password are both crduser). *Address:- Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York, Heslington, YORK, YO1 5DD. Type of resource:- Organisation, Online Database, Information Service, Training Course Provider, WWW site*

The Centre has a World Wide Web site at:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/welcome.htm>

Clinical Effectiveness in Nursing (ISSN : 1361-9004)

This journal, to be published by Churchill Livingstone, aims to provide data on the impact of nurses' activities on clinical outcomes in all specialties. *Address:- Churchill Livingstone, 1-3 Baxter's Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh, DEH1 0BA, UK. Fax : +44 (0) 131 558 1278. Type of resource:- Journal.*

Clinical Epidemiology Newsletter

Formerly (Volumes 1-15, 1981-1995) an occasional publication from the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University this newsletter has changed its title to the *Evidence-Based Healthcare Newsletter* (Volume 16, 1996) to reflect a growth from critical appraisal to a wider scope. It includes items on the various aspects of teaching and practicing evidence based healthcare. *Type of resource:- Newsletter; WWW site.* To receive copies contact Doreen Dixon, CE&B, HSC-2C10, MUMC, 1200 Main Street West, HAMILTON, Ontario L83 3Z5. e-mail : dixond@fhs.csu.mcmaster.ca

(Available on McMaster Health Information Research Unit Gopher:- gopher://hiru.csu.mcmaster.ca).

Clinical Performance and Quality Healthcare

The official journal of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America is a quarterly publication that features peer-reviewed articles that combine quality improvement strategies with clinical research. Topics include quality of health care, evidence-based medicine, outcomes research, decision analysis, the application of practice guidelines/clinical pathways and the appropriateness of care. *Address* : Clinical Performance and Quality Healthcare, 6900Grove Road, Thorofare New Jersey 08086-9864. *Type of resource* : *Journal*

Clinical Practice Guidelines Infobase

The clinical practice guidelines in this Canadian Medical Association collection were produced or endorsed by a national, provincial or territorial medical or health organization, professional society, government agency or expert panel. This new product is being developed in three stages. During the first stage, CMA is providing access to guidelines previously published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ); the guidelines to which CMAJ does not hold copyright are listed and the full text will be added when the developers have granted permission. Other guidelines will be added as they become available. *Type of resource*:- *WWW site*

<http://www.cma.ca/cpgs/index.html>

Clinical Trial Finder

A moderated list which assists individuals looking for clinical trials. *Type of resource*:- *Discussion List*. To join, send the email message:-
subscribe ctf firstname lastname
 to listserv@garcia.com

Clinical Trials Mail List

An email discussion list which addresses issues related to clinical trials. *Type of resource*:- *Discussion List*. To join, send the email message. **subscribe MedTrial** firstname lastname
 to:- listserv@galen.imw.lublin.pl

Clinical-Trials. Email Discussion Group

This site from PharmInfoNet describes the service available and how to join. Its purpose is to facilitate exchanges between professionals who conduct clinical trials. It addresses the techniques of performing, managing, and analyzing such trials. *Type of resource*:- *Discussion List*

<http://pharminfo.com/conference/clntrl.html>

Cochrane Collaboration

The **Cochrane Collaboration** is a group of "health care providers, consumers and scientists" who "engage in the..... collaborative enterprise of preparing, maintaining and disseminating systematic up-to-date reviews, by specialty, of all relevant randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of health care (and, when they are not available, reviews of the most reliable evidence from other sources)". Members form themselves into collaborative **Health Problem Review Groups** that carry out "exhaustive searches for all relevant trials, scrutinize these for their relevance and quality, assemble and analyze them, draw conclusions about how their net result should be applied in health care, and prepare structured reports for widespread dissemination to health care providers and planners". In addition there are **Methods Review Groups** that look at the application of methodological techniques such as economic analysis and statistical methods to the review process. All these Review Groups are coordinated by a worldwide network of **Cochrane Centres**. Currently there are Centres in Australia, Canada, Denmark (Nordic), France, Italy, Netherlands, South Africa, United States (Baltimore, San Antonio and San Francisco), as well as in the United Kingdom. The Cochrane Collaboration facilitates the creation, review, maintenance and dissemination of systematic overviews of the effects of health care. *Type of resource*:- *Organisation, Training Course Provider, WWW site, WWW resource list*

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/COCHRANE/DEFAULT.HTM>

This is the home page for the Collaboration and provides access to information on all its activities, to the Handbook (see next entry) as well as password-protected access to some of the reviews:

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/COCHRANE/reviews/index.htm>

and links to related sites:

http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/COCHRANE/link_0.htm

Centres

Australasian Cochrane Centre

Flinders Medical Centre, Bedford Park, SA 5042. Tel : +61 8 204 5399, Fax : +61 8 276 3305.

<http://som.flinders.edu.au/fusa/cochrane/>

<http://wwwsom.flinders.edu.au/HTML/departments/cochranecentre/index.html>

Baltimore Cochrane Center

Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, 660 West Redwood Street, Room 133C, BALTIMORE, Maryland, USA 21201-1596. Tel +1 410 706-5295, Fax : +1 410 328-0110

Brazilian Cochrane Centre

Unidade de Meta-analise, Universidade Federal de Sao Paulo, Rua Pedro de Toledo 598 CEP 04039-001-Sao Paulo-SP BRAZIL. Tel : +55 11 570 0469, Fax : +55 11 549 2127

Canadian Cochrane Centre

Health Information Research Unit, Health Sciences Centre, McMaster University, 1200 Main Street West, HAMILTON, Ontario, Canada L8N 3Z5. Tel : +1-905-525-9140 ext 22311, Fax : +1-905-546-0401). The Canadian Cochrane Centre has a World Wide Web presence at <http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/cochrane.htm>

Dutch Cochrane Centre

Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam Meibergdreef 15, J.2-221, Postbus 22700 1100 DE Amsterdam NETHERLANDS. Tel : +31 20 566 5602, Fax : +31 20 691 2683

French Cochrane Centre

Centre Cochrane Francais, BP 3041 (162 avenue Lacassagne), 69394 Lyon CEDEX 03, FRANCE. Tel : +33 72 11 52 50, Fax : +33 78 53 10 30

Italian Cochrane Centre

Laboratory of Clinical Epidemiology, Mario Negri Institute, Via Eritrea 62, 20157 Milano, ITALY. Tel : 39 2 39014 540, Fax : +39 2 33200 231

New England Cochrane Center

Division of Clinical Care Research, New England Medical Center, 750 Washington Street, Box 63, Boston MA 02111, USA. Tel : +1 617 636 7670, Fax : +1 617 636 8023.

Nordic Cochrane Centre

Research & Development Secretariat, Rigshospitalet, 9 Blegdamsvej, DK 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark. Tel : +45-35-45-55-71, Fax : +45-35-45-65-28

San Antonio Cochrane Center

Audie L Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital VA ACOS/AC (11C6), 7400 Merton Minter Boulevard, San Antonio, Texas 78284, USA. Tel : +1 210 617 5190, Fax : 1 210 617 5234

San Francisco Cochrane Centre

Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, 1388 Sutter Street, 11th Floor, SAN FRANCISCO, California, 94109, USA. Tel : +1 415 476 1067, Fax +1 415 476 0705

UK Cochrane Centre

Summertown Pavilion, Middle Way, OXFORD, OX2 7LG, Tel : +44 (0)1865-516300

E-mails for cochrane centres

Australasian:	cochrane@flinders.edu.au
Baltimore:	cochrane@umabnet.ab.umd.edu
Brazilian:	unifesp@epm.br
Canada:	cochrane@fhs.mcmaster.ca
Dutch:	cochrane@amc.uva.nl
French:	ccf@upcl.univ-lyon1.fr
Italian:	cochrane@imimnvx.irfmn.mnegri.it
New England:	cochrane@es.nemc.org
Nordic:	rifopg@inet.uni-c.dk
San Antonio:	cochrane@merece.uthscsa.edu
San Francisco:	sfcc@syrius.com
UK:	general@cochrane.co.uk

Cochrane Collaboration Handbook

The Cochrane Collaboration's handbook is its main working document and currently has six parts. The first section of the Handbook describes the background, aims and organisation of the Collaboration. The second, third and fourth sections are for those considering establishing review groups, field co-ordination or Cochrane centres; the fifth and sixth sections provide practical guidance (and software) for developing and maintaining registers of RCTs and Cochrane Reviews. *Type of resource:- WWW site.* The text is available on the *Cochrane Library* and at:-

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/handbook/default.htm>

Section 1 of the Handbook is also available from a demonstration site at:-

<http://synapse.uah.ualberta.ca/synapse/000n0001.htm>

The complete text is available by ftp from:-

<ftp://cochrane.co.uk> (login anonymous, password <your e-mail address>)

<ftp://hiru.mcmaster.ca> (login cochrane, password archie)

The hypertext version of the Cochrane Handbook is available from the University of York ftp site:-

<ftp://york.ac.uk> (login anonymous, password<your e-mail address>) Files are located in /pub/users/irss31

Cochrane Collaboration on Effective Professional Practice

The Cochrane Collaboration on Effective Professional Practice is a cross-disciplinary group looking at effective interventions for changing the behaviour of health professionals. In addition to *CCEPP News* (newsletter) the group has produced a register of studies available as a read-only database via ftp. For instructions see:-

<ftp://ftp.york.ac.uk/pub/users/irss31/PUB/explain.txt>

The group also makes available its checklist for evaluating potential studies:-

<ftp://ftp.york.ac.uk/pub/users/irss31/PUB/chk127-3.doc>

Type of resource : Software, WWW site. For further information contact:- The Cochrane Collaboration on Effective Professional Practice (CCEPP), Department of Health Sciences and Clinical Evaluation, University of York, Heslington, YORK. YO1 5DD. +44 (0)1904 434505. **From Monday 5th May 1997 the CCEPP editorial base will be moving from York to the Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen, Medical School, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB9 2ZD.**

CCEPP's World Wide Web page is at:-

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/ccepp/>

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

In addition to being part of the Cochrane Library (see below) the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is published by Synapse Publishing Inc on the Internet on a subscription basis. A one year subscription costs \$212.93 (Canadian Dollars) This price includes all updates to the database during the subscription period (currently four per annum). *Type of resource:- WWW database* See the Synapse Publishing Home Page at:-

<http://www.wepublish.com/jmb/default.htm>

Cochrane Library.

A disk/CD-ROM database containing four databases : The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), the York Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE), the Cochrane Controlled Trials Register (CCTR) and the Cochrane Review Methodology Database (CRMD). Version 3 also contains the Cochrane Collaboration Handbook, details of all Cochrane entities and the SchARR Netting the Evidence Guide to EBP sources on the Internet. Available for £95 (personal) or £120 (institutional) plus VAT, updated quarterly, from British Medical Journal Publishing Group, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE (0171 383 6185). The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is also being marketed over the Internet by Synapse Publishing Inc. (See Cochrane Collaboration Newsletter, October 1996 page 1 for further details). *Type of resource:- CDROM Database; Software*

Cochrane Library Training Guide

This training guide produced by Anglia and Oxford Region R&D Directorate is aimed at librarians and other end-users of the Cochrane Library either as a self-training guide, materials for an in-house course or as end-user documentation. The guide includes an introduction on the value of systematic reviews and the work of the Cochrane Collaboration and NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. It also contains a pictorial guide to the databases on the Library with simple exercises to encourage the user to explore its features. It includes model answers and is accompanied by a Powerpoint slide presentation. *Type of resource:- Training materials*

<http://libsun1.jr2.ox.ac.uk/nhserdd/aordd/new.htm>

Cochrane News : The Cochrane Collaboration Newsletter

This Newsletter is produced by the Australasian Cochrane Centre. *Type of resource : Newsletter; WWW site.* Two issues have been published to date and both are available on the World Wide Web at:-

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/news.htm> and

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cochrane/default.htm>

Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Database.

[Note : The original product of the Cochrane Collaboration, this disk/CDROM is no longer available as a separate database. The systematic reviews of interventions in pregnancy and childbirth are now incorporated in the Cochrane Library (see above). The complete text of "A Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth (2nd edition) is available in two volumes from Oxford University Press. Type of resource:- Book; CDROM Database; Software].

Controlled Clinical Trials incorporating Clinical Trials & Metaanalysis (ISSN : 0197-2456)

Controlled Clinical Trials is a source of current information on the design, methods, and operational aspects of controlled clinical trials and follow-up studies. Each monthly issue highlights unusual design features of specific trials or follow-up studies that provide readers with workable solutions to operational, methodological, legal, and ethical problems associated with clinical trials. The journal is published by Elsevier Science and further details are available from:-

<http://www.elsevier.nl:80/inca/publications/store/5/0/5/7/5/8/>

Type of resource : Journal

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP)

CASP is a UK project that aims to help health service decision makers develop skills in the critical appraisal of evidence about effectiveness, in order to promote the delivery of evidence-based health care. At the heart of CASP's work is a cascade of half day workshops that introduce participants to the key skills needed to find and make sense of evidence to support health service decisions. CASP introduces people to the ideas of evidence-based medicine and, through critical appraisal of systematic reviews, to the related ideas of the Cochrane Collaboration. *Address:- Critical Appraisal Skills Programme, Claire Spittlehouse, Institute of Health Sciences, Anglia and Oxford RHA, Old Road, Headington, OXFORD, OX3 7LF, Tel : +44 (0)1865 226968; Fax : +44 (0)1865 226775. Type of resource:- Organisation, Training provider, WWW presence*

<http://fester.his.path.cam.ac.uk/phealth/casphome.htm>

Filocasp

This Idealist-based software package provides details of articles suitable for critical appraisal together with scenarios, checklists, crib sheets and other supportive materials. Contact CASP for further details. *Type of resource:- Software, Training materials.*

Department of Health

The Director of Research and Development is responsible for advising the Secretary of State for Health across the range of his responsibilities and interests in research. These include the National Health Service (NHS) research and development programme, the Department's policy research programme and the health research of the non-departmental public bodies, the Concordat between the health departments and the Medical Research Council (MRC), the relationships with other research councils, the medical charities and industry, and the interface with the health-related R&D of other government departments and the European Community (EC). An information pack, with details of the NHS programme, the Department's policy research programme and wider research issues, is available on request from : Office of the Director of Research and Development, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS. Fax 0171 210 5868 or by downloading the full text of the information pack as a zip file (68k). *Type of resource:- Organisation, WWW site*

<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/rdd1.htm>

Development and Evaluation Committee Reports (DEC Reports)

These reports have been prepared as part of the Development and Evaluation Service funded by the Research and Development Directorate South and West. They are intended to provide rapid, accurate and usable information on health technology effectiveness to purchasers, clinicians, managers and researchers in the South and West. *Type of resource:- WWW site*
<http://cochrane.epi.bris.ac.uk/rd/publicat/dec/intro.htm>

DHSS-Data

The database of the Department of Health (formerly Department of Health and Social Security) contains bibliographic records for articles on the quality of care together with nationally-produced guidelines and policy statements. (Available via Datastar, Knight-Ridder Information, London). *Type of resource:- Online Database*

Disease Management and Health Outcomes

A monthly journal designed as a forum for collating, evaluating and disseminating practical knowledge on the application of components of disease management based on best evidence. The journal incorporates outcomes research into outcomes measurement and management programs and aims to assist in the preliminary communication of programmes. Contact ADIS International offices in Chester (UK), Langhorne PA (US) or Hong Kong. *Type of resource:- Journal, Web presence*

<http://www.adis.com>

EBM Searching Tutorial

For those interested in searching skills in an Evidence Based Medicine environment, this is an interactive tutorial guiding the user through steps in query formulation and searching. *Type of resource:- Computer Assisted Learning*

http://jeffline.tju.edu/CWIS/OAC/informatics/activities/ebm_info.html

Effective Health Care (ISSN: 0965-0288).

Eight bulletins per year available on subscription from : Churchill Livingstone, 102-108 Clerkenwell Road, LONDON, EC1M 5SA. Tel : +44 (0)171 282 8303, Fax : +44 (0)171282 8311. (See articles : by Torgerson, Ryan & Donaldson. Effective Health Care Bulletins : are they efficient? *Quality in Health Care* 1995; 4 : 48-51 and Sheldon, Long, Freemantle & Song. The ideal : enemy of the useful? *Quality in Health Care* 1995; 4 : 52-54. *Type of Resource:- Bulletin*

Effectiveness Matters.

Periodic bulletins published by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. Tel : 01904 433 634, Fax : 01904 433661, E-mail revdis@york.ac.uk. Issue 1; April 1995 entitled Aspirin and Myocardial infarction, Issue 2, September 1995 entitled Helicobacter Pylori and Peptic Ulcer, Volume 2 Issue 1 - October 1996 entitled Influenza Vaccination and Older People. Volume 2 Issue 2 - February 1997 entitled Screening for Prostate Cancer. *Type of resource:- Bulletin*

EQUIP Magazine

EQUIP is an organisation which is responsible for the education of general practitioners and their staff in North Essex. This page gives audits by subject (e.g. asthma, diabetes), newsletters, educational events and other information.

<http://www.equip.ac.uk/>

EMBASE

Produced by Excerpta Medica this database complements MEDLINE with its coverage of European Literature and is particularly strong in pharmacology. Overlap with MEDLINE has been estimated at about 35%. (Available via Datastar, Knight-Ridder Information, London and via BIDS on the Joint Academic Network JANet). *Type of resource:- Online Database*

European Congress of the Internet in Medicine, October 14-17, 1996.

This conference contains several papers of interest to evidence based practitioners, including:-

Badenoch D. CATmaker : Critical Appraisal Tools on the Web

<http://www.mednet.org.uk/mednet/ep4.htm>

Glanville J and Smith I. Evaluating the Options for Developing Databases to Support Research-Based Medicine at the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

<http://www.mednet.org.uk/mednet/am3.htm>

Kelly MA and Oldham J. The Internet and Randomised Controlled Trials

<http://www.mednet.org.uk/mednet/ca16.htm>

Evidence-based Cardiovascular Medicine (ISSN : 1361-2611)

Quarterly journal from Churchill Livingstone that provides summaries of high quality articles alongside related commentaries on all aspects of cardiovascular medicine. The journal is split into two sections; the first presents summaries of key articles whilst the second contains educational articles on aspects of evidence based practice. Contact Churchill Livingstone on +44 (0) 171 282 8303 (Phone) or +44 (0) 171 282 8311 (Fax) or louisea@pearson-pro.com (Email). *Type of resource:- Journal*

Evidence based Health Policy and Management (ISSN : 1363-4038)

Edited by JA Muir-Gray this quarterly journal from Churchill Livingstone that provides summaries of high quality articles alongside related commentaries on all aspects of cardiovascular medicine. The journal is split into two sections; the first presents summaries of key articles whilst the second contains educational articles on aspects of evidence based practice. Contact Churchill Livingstone on +44 (0) 171 282 8303 (Phone) or +44 (0) 171 282 8311 (Fax) or louisea@pearson-pro.com (Email). *Type of resource:- Journal*

evidence-based-health

Evidence based health (EBH) is the application of critical appraisal to problems in health care. This list is for teachers and practitioners in health related fields; to announce meetings and courses; stimulate discussion; air controversies and aid the implementation of EBH. *Type of resource : Discussion list.*

To join this list send the command:

join evidence-based-health firstname lastname
as the only text of an e-mail message to:
mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Evidence based Healthcare Links Pages

A number of sites have set up pages of links to Evidence Based Resources. These are good starting points for listings to update this guide. *Type of resource : WWW resource list.* Examples are:-

Cambridge University Public Health

<http://fester.his.path.cam.ac.uk/phealth/phweb.html>

Centre for Evidence Based Medicine

<http://cebm.jr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/otherebmggen.html>

Evidence Based Medicine : New York Academy of Medicine

<http://library.nyam.org/library/eblinks.html>

Evidence Based Medicine (Norway)

<http://rhpc205.uio.no/ebm.html>

Health Promotion Research Internet Network

<http://www.dsg.ki.se/phm/hprin/main.html>

Introduction to Evidence Based Medicine (Australia) includes Australian mirror of Netting the Evidence guide [see below]

<http://www.health.su.oz.au/resource/ebm1196a.htm>

McMaster University, Canada

<http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/>

Oxford Clinical Information WWW Pages

<http://sable.ox.ac.uk/~cInguide/world.htm>

South and West Health Care Libraries

<http://cochrane.epi.bris.ac.uk/rd/links/ebm.htm>

Evidence Based Journals

In addition to the generic *Evidence Based Medicine* journal published by BMJ Publishing (see below) there is a whole series of titles planned by Churchill Livingstone. For further information contact : Mark Lane, Managing Editor, Healthcare Information and Management, Churchill Livingstone, 102-108 Clerkenwell Road, LONDON EC1M 5SA. Tel : +44 (0)171 282 8304, Fax : +44 (0)171 282 8311. *email : markl@pearson-pro-com* The first two titles are due to appear in 1997:-

Evidence Based Cardiovascular Medicine (ISSN : 1361-2611) Edited by Salim Yusuf

Evidence Based Health Policy and Management (ISSN : 1363-4038) Edited by JA Muir-Gray.

Additional titles planned include:-

Evidence Based Gastroenterology (ISSN : 1361-262X)

Evidence Based Infectious Diseases (ISSN : 1364-3088)

Evidence Based Musculoskeletal Medicine (ISSN : 1364-3096)

Evidence Based Neurology (ISSN : 1363-4046)

Evidence Based Obstetrics and Gynecology (ISSN : 1361-259X)

Evidence Based Oncology (ISSN : 1363-4054)

Evidence Based Pain Management (ISSN : 1361-2581)

Evidence Based Pediatrics and Child Health (1363-4062)

Evidence Based Respiratory Medicine (ISSN : 1364-307X)

Evidence Based Surgery (ISSN : 1361-2603)

Evidence Based Medicine

The purpose of *Evidence-Based Medicine* is to alert clinicians to important advances in internal medicine, general and family practice, surgery, psychiatry, paediatrics, and obstetrics and gynaecology by selecting from the biomedical literature those original and review articles whose results are most likely to be both true and useful. These articles are summarised in value-added abstracts and commented on by clinical experts. Published by the BMJ Publishing Group [ISSN : 1357 5376]. Publication : Bimonthly. Subscription Rates : Institutional £54, Personal £38 BMA members £38, BMA student members £16. *Type of resource:- Journal, WWW site*

<http://www.acponline.org/journals/ebm/ebmmenu.htm>

<http://www.bmjpub.com/data/ebm.htm>

Evidence Based Medicine Resource List

This site maintained by Chris Cox at the Library at the University of Hertfordshire has useful references and links to other resources. This is probably the best single compilation page on EBM on the Web. *Type of resource : WWW resource list.*

<http://www.herts.ac.uk/lrc/subjects/health/ebm.htm>

Evidence Based Nursing (ISSN : 1367-6539)

The future appearance of this journal was announced in March 1997. It will begin in September 1997 and a pilot issue is available. For further details contact:- Nursing Standard, Viking House 17-19 Peterborough Rd, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 2AX, UK. Tel (44) 181 423 1066 (0181 423 1066 in the UK), Fax (44) 181 423 3867 (0181 423 3867 in the UK). *Type of resource : Journal*

Evidence Based Purchasing

Evidence-Based Purchasing is a bi-monthly digest of evidence about effective care and is intended to support the commissioning role. It is a selection of material received, commissioned, or found in journals by South and West R&D Directorate. Available from:- Ben Toth, Information & Communications Co-ordinator, Research & Development Directorate, Canynge Hall, Whiteladies Road, BRISTOL, BS8 2PR. Tel : +44 (0) 117 928 7224 (Email : Ben.Toth@bristol.ac.uk). Issues of *Evidence-Based Purchasing* have been added to the Internet. *Type of resource : Newsletter, WWW site*

<http://cochrane.epi.bris.ac.uk/rd/publicat/ebpurch/index.htm>

Evidence Based Topics

A list of EBM topics organised alphabetically by Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) with hypertext links to the relevant WWW page. Amongst the sources covered are Bandolier, some of the EBM journal clubs on the internet, the AHCPR and US and Canadian Preventative Task Force Guidelines. One can follow up a MEDLINE search by looking at the appropriate MeSH heading in this very useful list. *Type of resource : WWW resource list*

http://www.ohsu.edu/bicc-informatics/ebm/ebm_topics.htm

Framework for Appropriate Care Throughout Sheffield

Address:- Rosalind Eve, Project Director - FACTS, University of Sheffield, Regent Court, 30 Regent Street, SHEFFIELD, S1 4DA, Tel : +44 (0) 114 282 5658 Fax : +44 (0) 114 275 5763. E-mail : facts@sheffield.ac.uk. Type of resource : Organisation, WWW presence

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/facts>

Finding the Evidence Workshop

These workshops were developed by the Health Libraries and Information Network (HeLIN) in Anglia and Oxford Region as a follow-on workshop for people who had previously attended a critical appraisal (CASP) workshop. Workshop organiser packs are available from the address given below. *Address:-* The Health Care Libraries Unit, Oxford Radcliffe Hospital, The John Radcliffe, OXFORD OX3 9DU. Tel:- +44 (0) 1865 221951, Fax:- +44 (0) 1865 220040.

gp-uk

GP-UK facilitates discussion on new ideas, research, workshops, seminars, conferences, grants, education, software development etc for the UK General Practice (Family Medicine) community. Non-UK views are also welcome. GP-UK intends to promote collaborative work, problem solving and support. *Type of resource : Discussion list.*

To join this list send the command:

join gp-uk firstname lastname

as the only text of an e-mail message to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Getting Easier Access to Reviews

This Idealist mini reference database for purchasers contains details of reviews identified from MEDLINE, from the academic grey literature and from UK professional bodies. GEARS is an IT database of services of importance to Health Commissions It is produced by the Wessex Institute for Health Research and Development (see below). *Type of resource : Software*

Guide to Clinical Preventive Services

The entire text of the commercially published version of the 1989 report of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services:

<http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/health.scil.gcps/gcps000.html>

This influential publication attempts to systematically assess the effectiveness of numerous screening interventions. *Type of resource : Book, WWW site.* It is also available in print form:- U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. *Guide to Clinical Preventive Services.* Baltimore : Williams and Wilkins; 1996.

Health Economics Research Group (HERG)

HERG aims to undertake high quality, policy relevant research and to contribute to the development of evaluation methodologies. The current research programme has a unifying focus on economic evaluation of health technologies. *Address:-* Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH. Tel : +44 (0) 1895 203331. *Type of resource:- Organisation, WWW site, Training provider*

<http://http3.brunel.ac.uk:8080/depts/herg/home.html>

health-econeval

This list will facilitate economic evaluation of health services and health care interventions; support the Cochrane Collaboration in using economic information in systematic reviews; share experience and information on cost-effectiveness; produce a regular newsletter. All are welcome. *Type of resource : Discussion list.*

To join this list send the command:

join health-econeval firstname lastname

as the only text of an e-mail message to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Health Information Research Unit (HIRU)

The Health Information Research Unit is a useful first stopping place for evidence-based practice. It provides a "Quicklist" which includes Preventive Care Guidelines 1991, Guide to Clinical Preventive Services, Computers for Patient Education, Clinical Informatics Network Home Page (CLINT) and Structured Abstracts of Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Type of resource:- Organisation, Training Course Provider, WWW resource list, WWW site .* The location is:- **<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/fast.htm>**

A special evidence based health care resource has been set up at:

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/ebm/default.htm>

Projects associated with HIRU - McMaster include:-

Clinical Informatics Network (CLINT)

The goal of the Clinical Informatics Network (CLINT) is to enable the teaching and practice of evidence-based care and thereby to facilitate improved patient care and health outcomes. We have developed software systems with innovations in clinician-computer interaction, evidence-based health information resources, and automated collection of data about how users interact with information resources. The CLINT system can be used as a laboratory for health informatics experiments. *Type of resource : Project*

Clinical Practice Enhancement Project (CPEP)

The Clinical Practice Enhancement Project (CPEP) endeavors to ease implementation of clinical practice guidelines through the development, evaluation, and dissemination of clinical information tools, with emphasis on the collection, analysis and application of patient-reported health data. Custom hardware and software for patient-computer interaction and guideline-based clinician reminders are described. *Type of resource : Project*

The Guidelines Appraisal Project (GAP)

The Guidelines Appraisal Project (GAP) helps health services researchers, policy makers, and practitioners appraise, select, summarize and disseminate information about clinical practice guidelines. Its Internet services include results of national surveys, guides for appraising and abstracting guidelines and a growing database of structured abstracts of clinical practice guidelines. *Type of resource : Project*

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/cpg/default.htm>

Heal-Net/RE-LAIS

HEALNet/RELAIS is a multidisciplinary research initiative that partners academia, government, and industry across Canada to improve the health of Canadians, productivity in the workplace, and the efficiency of the health care system to benefit Canada's global economic development. This Networks of Centres of Excellence initiative maintains internet services to facilitate communication among network members and to showcase research and development projects sponsored by Heal-Net. *Type of resource : Project*

Health Information Resource Executive (HIREX)

The Health Information Resource Executive is a software system for Microsoft Windows and for Internet that allows health organizations to build, manage and disseminate inventories of items (people, groups, organizations, projects), their relationships, and their products (conventional or internet publications). *Type of resource : Software*

The Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network (OHCEN)

The mission of the Ontario Health Care Evaluation Network (OHCEN) is to build partnerships among researchers and decision makers, enhance health care research in Ontario, ensure its relevance to health care problems, improve the accessibility of research evidence to decision makers and encourage the application of research evidence to health care decisions for the benefit of the public. Its Internet service introduces the network and features a growing inventory of health service researchers, projects and internet products in Ontario. *Type of resource : Project*

Health-Pro

Listserver specifically for Clinical Practice Guidelines. On **Health-Pro**, discussions of Practice Guidelines take place with input from around the world. A group of frontline working physicians and nurses has started building sets of Foresighted Practice Guidelines for use at the patient encounter. *Type of resource : Discussion list, WWW site.* To join the practice guidelines listserver send an e-mail to:-

listserv@netcom.com

Subject : Practice Guidelines

with, in the body of the text:-

subscribe health-pro

Also see the Practice Guidelines Web site:-

<http://members.aol.com/sigalg3958/mypage.html>

HEALTHSTAR

(Available via Silverplatter. Formerly HEALTHPLAN, from 1996 onwards this CD-ROM also includes the contents of the HSTAR database. [See article by Bronson RJ. Health Services Technology Assessment Research (HSTAR) : an introduction. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly* 1994 Winter; 13 (4) : 35-43]. (Contact National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, US [e-mail; mms@nlm.nih.gov for access or nichs@nlm.nih.gov for content.]). *Type of resource:- Online database, CD-ROM Database*

Health Technology Assessment Reports

Address: The Programme Manager, National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment, Dawn House, Romsey Road, WINCHESTER, SO22 5DH. The reports of the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme are listed at this site. Full reports can be purchased from the above address and executive summaries are available free of charge. Executive summaries can also be viewed by clicking on the hypertext links. *Type of resource: WWW Presence*

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wi/hta/htapubs.html>

IFMH Inform - IFM Healthcare Newsletter

(Information for the Management of Health Care) (Triennial). Bruce Madge, Head of the Health Care Information Service, The British Library, 25 Southampton Buildings, LONDON, WC2A 1AW. Tel : +44 (0) 171 412 7933 Fax : +44 (0) 171 412 7984. e-mail : bruce.madge@bl.uk. *Type of resource:- Newsletter.*

Institute of Health Sciences (Oxford)

This site states its intention to provide an Evidence-Based Healthcare Toolbox to complement the publication of the book *Evidence-Based Healthcare* (Churchill Livingstone) and thus update its contents. *Type of resource:- Organisation, Training Course Provider, WWW presence, (to become WWW site):-*

<http://info.ox.ac.uk/~ihsinfo/ebh.html>

Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences

The Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario (ICES) is a non-profit research organization dedicated to conducting research that contributes to the effectiveness, quality and efficiency of health care in the province of Ontario. *Type of resource:- Organisation, Information Service, WWW presence.* It produces the newsletter for physicians:-

***informed.* (ISSN : 1201-2475)**

Informed Address:- Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences, G-106, 2075 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M4N 3M5, Canada Tel : (41) 480-6747. *Type of resource:- Bulletin*

<http://www.ices.on.ca/>

Introduction to Evidence Based Medicine

This site provided by the Clinical Audit department at South Buckinghamshire NHS Trust succinctly summarises the main principles of Evidence Based Medicine. *Type of resource : WWW presence.*

<http://www.wghaudit.demon.co.uk/aud6.html>

Journal Club on the Web

This web site is an experiment in implementing an on-line, interactive general medical "journal club" which periodically summarizes and critiques articles from the recent medical literature and collects and posts readers' comments. The articles are primarily in the field of adult internal medicine, and mainly from the NEJM, Annals of Internal Medicine, JAMA and the Lancet. *Type of resource : WWW site*

<http://www.journalclub.org/>

Journal of Clinical Effectiveness (ISSN : 1361-5874)

A quarterly multidisciplinary journal, previously published as *Medical Audit News*, that addresses the linked concepts of evidence based practice, clinical effectiveness, guidelines and clinical audit. Contact Churchill Livingstone on +44 (0) 171 282 8303 (Phone) or +44 (0) 171 282 8311 (Fax) or louisea@pearson-pro.com (Email). *Type of resource:- Journal*

Journal of Clinical Epidemiology (ISSN : 0895-4356)

Published monthly by Elsevier Science, the *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* aims to provide timely, authoritative studies developed from the interplay of clinical medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics and pharmacoepidemiology. Articles are oriented toward methodology, clinical research or both. A special section, *Pharmacoepidemiology Reports*, is dedicated to the rapid publication of articles on the clinical epidemiologic investigation of pharmaceutical agents. *Type of resource:- Journal.* Further details from:-

<http://www.elsevier.nl:80/inca/publications/store/5/2/5/4/7/2/>

Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice (ISSN : 1365-2753)

The *Journal of Evaluation and Clinical Practice*, published by Blackwell Science, aims to promote critical inquiry into clinical practice within Medicine, Nursing and the healthcare professions. All aspects of clinical practice evaluation are of interest to the Journal, particularly those which examine the dimensions of effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency in clinical care. *Type of resource:- Journal*

Further details from:-

<http://www.blacksci.co.uk/products/journals/jecp.htm>

Journal of Family Practice Journal Club Web Page

The JFP Journal Club is a feature of the Journal of Family Practice which each month reviews 7-10 important articles from the primary care literature. The goal is to identify articles which have the potential to change the way you practice, critically appraise them, and make specific recommendations for clinical practice (called POEM's, for Patient Oriented Evidence That Matters). The editors review some 80 clinical journals every month covering the most important findings for family physicians in the medical literature on a timely basis. A valuable feature is the provision for e-mail discussion and debate of the issues around individual articles. *Type of resource : WWW site, Journal*

<http://www.phymac.med.wayne.edu/jfp/jclub.htm>

Journal of Health Services Research and Policy (ISSN : 1355-8196)

This quarterly journal examines health services research and policy, and their inter-relationship, in order to bridge the gap between them and to confront and resolve the various dilemmas faced by practitioners, managers and politicians. Contact Churchill Livingstone on +44 (0) 171 282 8303 (Phone) or +44 (0) 171 282 8311 (Fax) or louisea@pearson-pro.com (Email). *Type of resource:- Journal*

Journal of Quality in Clinical Practice (ISSN : 1320-5455)

The quarterly *Journal of Quality in Clinical Practice* aims to provide a forum to facilitate the work of those with an interest in quality in healthcare primarily addressing the factual reporting of peer review activity within hospitals and healthcare institutions. The Journal informs readers of health policies and examines processes of health care, by publishing original articles, abstracts, news and comments on clinical review meetings, and developments. *Type of resource:- Journal*. Contact Blackwell Science or access the Blackwell Science Web site:-

<http://www.blacksci.co.uk/products/journals/xjqcp.htm>

lis-medical

This list, though primarily intended for medical and health care librarians, has recently proved an important source for identifying evidence based practice materials. A regular feature is a weekly digest from the US-based MEDLIB list where there have been several postings on the Cochrane Collaboration and locations for several resources on effectiveness of healthcare.

Type of resource : Discussion list

To join this list send the command:

join lis-medical firstname lastname

as the only text of an e-mail message to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Literature Searching (using methodological filters)

A number of sites offer assistance in filtering out higher quality articles from databases, such as MEDLINE, based on methodological terms found in either the abstracts or subject indexing. *Type of resource:- WWW site*

Search strategy to identify reviews and meta-analyses in Medline and CINAHL (NHS CRD)

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/search.htm>

Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) and MEDLINE searches (Charing Cross Medical Library)

<http://s1.cxwms.ac.uk/School/Library/ebh.html>

Evidence-based Medicine (EBM) and MEDLINE (OVID) by Reinhard Wentz (North Thames Regional Library and Information Unit)

<http://www.nthames.tpdme.ac.uk/strategi.htm>

Filtering your literature search results (University of Rochester)

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/smd/Medicine/imclerk/filterhandout.html>

Hints for Diagnosis and Therapy Searches on MEDLINE (University of Rochester)

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/smd/Medicine/imclerk/morehints.html>

How to search for clinical practice guidelines (McMaster)

http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/8_lit.htm

Searching for the best evidence in clinical journals (Centre for EBM)

<http://cebmr2.ox.ac.uk/docs/searching.html>

Master's Programme in Evidence-Based Health Care

Oxford University's Centre for Continuing Professional Development offers a part-time Postgraduate Certificate/Postgraduate Diploma/Masters of Science in Evidence-Based Health Care. Information is available from Elaine Welsh or Venetia Hill-Perkins - tel. +44 (0)1865 280347/270310, fax +44 (0)1865 270386, email elaine.welsh@conted.ox.ac.uk or venetia.hill-perkins@conted.ox.ac.uk

MD Digests

This feature of the Physician's Page of the Silverplatter information resource includes clinical questions answered from a recent article of literature and supported by a selective bibliography. *Type of Resource:- WWW site*

<http://php2.silverplatter.com/physicians/digest.htm>

MEDLINE

The primary source of biomedical bibliographic information. Details on harnessing its full potential can be found under the **Literature Searching** section (Available via Datastar, Knight-Ridder Information, London; British Library; U.S. National Library of Medicine; Silverplatter; CD-Plus (Ovid) and various complimentary or subscription-based services on the Internet). *Type of Resource:- CD-ROM Database, Online database, WWW database*

The National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment (NCCHTA)

Address: The Programme Manager, NCCHTA, Dawn House, Romsey Road, WINCHESTER, SO22 5DH. On the 1st June 1996 the National Coordinating Centre for Health Technology Assessment was established to take responsibility for managing, providing support to, developing and promulgating the HTA programme as a whole.

The NCCHTA represents a collaboration between the Wessex Institute for Health Research and Development at the University of Southampton and the University of York's Centre for Health Economics and Department of Health Sciences and Clinical Evaluation. In addition, the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination also at the University of York provides information support on a contractual basis. *Type of resource: WWW site*

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wi/hta/index.html>

National Institutes for Health (NIH) Consensus Program Information Service

Provides official statements developed by experts participating in NIH's medical technology assessment and transfer program. Recent subjects have included total hip replacement, optimal calcium intake, ovarian cancer, effect of corticosteroids for fetal maturation, helicobacter pylori in peptic ulcer disease and morbidity and mortality of dialysis. *Type of Resource:- WWW site*

Gopher

[gopher://gopher.nih.gov/Health and Clinical Information](gopher://gopher.nih.gov/Health%20and%20Clinical%20Information)

ftp

<ftp://public.nlm.nih.gov/hstat/nihcdcs>

For details of the World Wide Web service see the following entry:-

The National Library of Medicine's Health Services/Technology Assessment Text (HSTAT)

This WWW resource contains the following collections AHCPH Supported Guidelines, AHCPH Technology Assessments and Reviews, ATIS (HIV/AIDS Technical Information), Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Research Studies {see below}, NIH Consensus Development Program, PHS Guide to Clinical Preventive Services (1989) and SAMHSA/CSAT Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP). *Type of resource : WWW database*

<http://text.nlm.nih.gov/ftsr/gateway>

Netting the Evidence -

A SchARR Introduction to Evidence Based Practice on the Internet, the World Wide Web based equivalent of this printed resource list. *Type of resource : WWW resource list*

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/scharr/ir/netting.html>

Nuffield Institute for Health

Address:- 71-75 Clarendon Road, LEEDS, LS2 9LP. Tel : +44 (0) 113 233 6966, Fax : +44 (0) 113 246 0899. *Type of Resource : Organisation, Information Provider, WWW site*

HELMIS

The database of the Nuffield Institute of Health is particularly strong on British quality and management issues. Available on subscription. Contact : Information Resources Centre at the address shown above. *Type of resource:- Online database.*

Office of Health Economics

A drug industry funded organisation that provides information on economic aspects of healthcare. As well as an extensive publications programme and the *OHE News* newsletter the organisation has produced a new specialised data service, in collaboration with the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations, known as HEED (a Health Economic Evaluations Database). This CD-ROM-based database contains information on health economics articles, in particular studies of cost-effectiveness (and other forms of economic evaluation) with objective analysis of key articles. HEED now has more than 6,000 bibliographic references and 2,200 reviewed articles, building up through monthly updates to contain a comprehensive bibliography of all published economic literature. For further information on the OHE-IFPMA database contact : Gerry Crosbie, Project Manager, OHE-IFPMA Database Limited, 12 Whitehall, LONDON SW1A 2DY. *Tel* : +44 (0)171 930 3477 ext. 1474 or *Fax* : +44 (0)171 747 1419.

<http://www.abpi.org.uk/ohe.htm>

Office of Technology Assessment

Although the remit of the U.S. based Office of Technology Assessment is much broader than just healthcare they do produce a number of useful reports; including the report "Identifying Health Technologies that Work". *Type of resource:- Organisation, WWW site.* The full text of their reports is available from this site.

<http://www.wws.princeton.edu:80/~ota/>

Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials

The *Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials* offers peer-reviewed, primary medical research, reviews, meta-analyses, methodological papers, and editorials. Published by Chapman & Hall, it includes information on trials or therapies, procedures, and other interventions relevant to care in all fields of medicine and allied health. *Type of resource:- CD-ROM database, WWW database, WWW presence* : Details of this can be obtained from OCLC Journals (Distributors) at:-

http://www.oclc.org/oclc/promo/ejo_list.htm#cct

or Chapman and Hall (Publishers) at:-

<http://www.thomson.com/chaphall/cct.html>

Pocket Card : How to use an Article about.....

These guides, adapted from pocket cards developed for the Teaching Evidence Based Medicine Workshops, are designed as checklists for evaluating different types of article. They include useful aide-memoires for calculating clinically significant measures together with best single searching strategies for retrieving different types of article. *Type of resource:- WWW site*

Therapy

http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/2_ther_p.htm

Another source for these checklists, also available as cards in the *Evidence Based Medicine* book by David Sackett, is the **Medicine On-Line** site at:-

<http://www.priory.co.uk/journals/med/danny.htm>

Practice Guidelines : mental health

Contains details of guidelines and practice parameters for many of the American professional organisations. Contact:- Marian Benjamin at:- webmaster@mhsources.com. *Type of resource:- WWW site.*

<http://www.mhsources.com>

Prescrire International (ISSN: 1167-7422)

This journal is a bi-monthly English selection of articles from the monthly French-Language journal *La revue Prescrire*. It contains comprehensive evaluations of major new drugs and indications, together with reviews of adverse effects and therapeutic strategies. *Address:-* Prescrire International, BP 459, 75527 Paris CEDEX 11, FRANCE. *Tel* : +33 1 47 00 94 45, *Fax* : +33 1 48 07 87 32. *Type of resource:- Journal*

Primary Care Evidence-Based Medicine Topics.

This is an alphabetical list of MeSH terms of evidence-based medicine topics of interest to primary care physicians. Documents in this list either show some evidence of a systematic review of the literature or critical appraisal of an article or articles. *Type of resource : Internet Resource*

http://www.ohsu.edu/bicc-informatics/ebm/ebm_topics.htm

PRISE : Primary Care Sharing the Evidence

The PRISE project, based in the Institute of Health Sciences in Oxford, is supported by the Anglia and Oxford R&D Directorate and is part of a development programme managed by the Health Care Libraries Unit. It focuses on twelve Primary Health care sites and aims to provide access to good quality information for GPs and other practice-based professionals. The index also includes primary care links, evidence-based medicine and research projects. The University of East Anglia and the North West Anglia Health Authority are collaborating in a complementary project based in Anglia called PRIMA (Primary Care Information Management across Anglia) will be starting soon. *Type of resource : Project, WWW site, WWW resource list*

<http://wwwlib.jr2.ox.ac.uk/prise/prise.html>

Promoting Action on Clinical Effectiveness (PACE)

The PACE initiative arose from GRiPP and FACTS to "create a network of projects to demonstrate the effective implementation of evidence based practice and to identify the factors for success". *Address:-* Project Manager (Mr Michael Dunning), King's Fund Development Centre, 11-13 Cavendish Square, LONDON, W1M 0AN. Tel : +44 (0)171 307 2400, Fax : +44 (0)171 307 2801. *Type of resource:- Project, Newsletter, Bulletin*

public-health

This list provides a discussion forum and information resource for those working in epidemiology and public health. It aims to facilitate information sharing (e.g. workshops, seminars, conferences and new research) and promote links, collaborative working, joint problem-solving and mutual support. *Type of resource : Discussion list*

To join this list send the command:

join public-health firstname lastname

as the only text of an e-mail message to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Public Health Effectiveness Project

Based at McMaster University this project makes available a selection of full-text systematic overviews together with a series of topic files containing high-quality studies in a wide variety of public health topics. *Address:-* Quality of Nursing Worklife Reserach Unit, Faculty of Health Sciences, 2J Reception. 1200 Main Street West, HAMILTON, Ontario, L8N 3Z5. *Type of resource:- Project, WWW site*

<http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/cgi/hirexs.exe?FOLDER=0@pheffect>

Details of the project are found at:-

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/ohcen/groups/hthu/default.htm>

Research & Development (R&D) Strategy pages

Most of these pages deal with the mechanics of the strategy but many practitioners will be interested in research *per se* and will want to keep up to date with the NHS strategy. There are now several home pages. They include a **Department of Health R&D Strategy Home Page**. *Type of resource:- WWW site*

<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/rdd1.htm>

All the Regional Offices have committed to having a Regional home page. So far there are five:-

Anglia and Oxford

<http://wwwlib.jr2.ox.ac.uk/a-ordd/index.htm>

North Thames

<http://www.nthames-health.tpmde.ac.uk/ntr/rd.htm>

South and West

<http://www.epi.bris.ac.uk/rd>

Trent

<http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/nhstrent/trentrd/rd.html>

West Midlands

<http://www.gold.net/users/ei26/index.htm>

RAND Corporation

RAND is a US-based nonprofit institution that aims to improve public policy through research and analysis. RAND aims to carry out high-quality, objective research addressing problems of domestic policy including health care. RAND has been studying health care issues for more than thirty years. Today, RAND conducts one of the largest private, nonprofit programs of health policy research and analysis in the world. They publish numerous reports and other documents in areas of health care technology assessment. The full-text of some of these is available via their World Wide Web pages. *Type of Resource:- WWW site*

<http://www.rand.org/>

RevMan

This database is freely available by ftp from the cochrane.co.uk site. It is used for managing the process of a systematic review and is accompanied by a comprehensive manual. (Other software packages are MODMAN and PARENT - see *Cochrane Collaboration Newsletter* Issue 1 August 1994). *Type of Resource:- Software.*

School of Health And Related Research (SchARR)

This health services research department within the University of Sheffield is involved in finding the evidence (expertise in literature searching); appraising the evidence (critical appraisal training) and producing the evidence (systematic reviews). The Information Resources Section of SchARR produces a bibliography and resource guide entitled "*The SchARR Guide to Evidence Based Practice*". Copies are available for £10.00 (inclusive of Postage & Packing) from SchARR Information Resources at the address below. [Cheques payable to the University of Sheffield]. *Address:- University of Sheffield, Regent Court, 30 Regent Street, SHEFFIELD, S1 4DA. Type of resource : Organisation, Information Service, Training Course Provider, WWW resource list, WWW site*

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/scharr/index.html>

SchARR-Lock's Guide to the Evidence

This is a guide to printed sources of evidence arranged by Medical Subject Heading (MeSH). It focuses on grey literature from UK academic and quasi-governmental sources and aims to complement Michael Zack's list of Evidence-based Topics (See above). *Type of resource : WWW resource list*

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/scharr/ir/scebm.html>

Screening and Diagnostic Tests (Cochrane Collaboration)

The Cochrane Collaboration Methods Working Group on Screening and Diagnostic Tests has placed its recommendations on how to search for, appraise and pool results of studies of diagnostic accuracy on the Web. The document includes a methodological bibliography. *Type of Resource : WWW site.*

<http://wwwsom.fmc.flinders.edu.au/COCHRANE/cochrane/sadtdoc1.htm>

System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe (SIGLE)

The System for Information on Grey Literature in Europe file is a bibliographic database covering European nonconventional (called grey) literature in the fields of pure and applied sciences and technology. Since 1984, economics, social sciences and humanities also are covered. *SIGLE* provides access to grey literature such as research reports, discussion and policy documents, working and conference papers, theses, some official publications, publications provided by local authorities or industry and others. (Available via *BLAISE*, British Library, Boston Spa, West Yorkshire and via Silverplatter). *Type of Resource: CD-ROM Database, Online Database*

South and West R&D Briefing Papers

The Briefing Papers Series commissioned by the R&D directorate offers brief but authoritative discussions on the effectiveness of health interventions. *Type of Resource : WWW site*

<http://cochrane.epi.bris.ac.uk/rd/publicat/briefing/index.htm>

Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (SBU)

SBU's task is to evaluate methods used within health care and to look critically at their costs, their risks and their benefits. SBU assesses the medical, ethical, social and economic impact of new and established medical procedures. *Type of resource : Organisation, WWW presence*

<http://www.sbu.se/home.html>

Systematic Literature Reviewing

This site at the University of Leeds aims to provide basic information about conducting systematic literature reviews, drawing on the publications of the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and the Cochrane Collaboration. Although the site is particularly focused on aspects specific to medical imaging the materials provided are generic and include a useful interactive quiz to test basic knowledge of the systematic review process. *Type of resource:- WWW site Computer Assisted Learning*

<http://agora.leeds.ac.uk/comir/people/eberry/sysrev/sysrev.htm>

Systematic Reviews Training Unit (SRTU)

The Systematic Reviews Training Unit (SRTU), funded for three years from North and South Thames Regional Research and Development Programmes, is a joint initiative of the Institute of Child Health, the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and University College London. The Unit is supported by a Collaborative Reviews Group, whose members are drawn from a variety of disciplines including child health, care of the elderly, cardiovascular disease, primary care, genito-urinary medicine and public health medicine. Staff of the Unit work closely with members of the Collaborative Reviews Group, providing training and developing systematic review methodology. The main aims of the Unit are to train health professionals in the conduct of systematic reviews to enable trainees to:

- develop the skills required to formulate answerable questions about the effectiveness of health care practice and policy and conduct systematic reviews of research evidence to address these questions;
- acquire an understanding of methods for effective dissemination and promotion of the implementation of review findings.

Type of resource : Organisation, Training Course Provider, WWW presence

<http://www.ich.bpmf.ac.uk/ebm/srtu.htm>

Teaching Critical Appraisal Skills (Educational Clearing House)

This resource lists publications, journal articles and privately produced material to assist in the teaching of critical appraisal. *Type of resource:-WWW presence*

<http://www.pitt.edu/~leff/apdim/ch/critapp.htm>

Trent Institute for Health Services Research (TIHSR)

The Trent Institute for Health Services Research is a collaborative venture between the Universities of Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield with support from NHS Executive Trent. The Institute provides advice and support on research, consultancy, training and educational support as well as disseminating the results of research to influence the provision of health care. *Address:- Trent Institute for Health Services Research (Core Unit), Regent Court, 30 Regent Court, Sheffield S1 4DA. Tel : 0114 222 5446.*

Type of resource : Organisation, Training Course Provider, WWW presence

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/~scharr/tihsr/tihsr.html>

Trent Working Group on Acute Purchasing

SchARR (see above), which houses the Sheffield Unit of the Trent Institute for Health Services Research, facilitates a Trent Working Group on Acute Purchasing. A list of interventions for consideration is recommended by the purchasing authorities in Trent and approved by the Purchasing Authorities Chief Executives and the Trent Development and Evaluation Committee. After literature searching, health economics and operational research input a seminar, led by a public health consultant, is convened for consideration of the research evidence. The guidance emanating from the seminars is reflected in a series of Guidance Notes. Topics covered to date include:- Tertiary Cardiology, DNase in Cystic Fibrosis, Beta Interferon in Multiple Sclerosis and Cochlear Implants.

Type of resource:- Project

ProSPECT-or Newsletter

This irregular bulletin alerts purchasers to recent items of evidence in topic areas chosen by the Working Group on Acute Purchasing. Available from the Information Resources Section at SchARR, Regent Court, 30 Regent Street, SHEFFIELD S1 4DA.

Type of resource:- Newsletter

UK Clearing House on Health Outcomes

The UK Clearing House on Health Outcomes was established in the Autumn of 1992. It is based within the Nuffield Institute for Health, at the University of Leeds. The Clearing House aims : to develop and promote approaches to health outcomes assessment within routine health care practice; to encourage a shift from process to outcome measures and the use of patient centred and clinically relevant outcomes criteria; to support the use of process information and existing data sources where it is not yet feasible to measure outcomes directly; to raise awareness about key issues in health outcome measurement; to promote the role of health outcomes within decision making in health care commissioning and provision.

Type of resource:- Type of resource:- Project; Newsletter; Information Service, WWW database. The home page is:-

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/nuffield/infoservices/UKCH/home.html>

They have two databases available on the WWW;

Outcomes Activities Database

This contains a wide range of outcomes related projects and forms the basis for networking people working in similar areas or using similar measures:-

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/nuffield/infoservices/UKCH/oad.html>

Outcomes Database Of Structured Abstracts

This provides information on the literature covering the development of outcome measures and the measurement of outcomes in various topic areas:-

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/nuffield/infoservices/UKCH/osad.html/>

The Clearing House also produces a newsletter available on subscription:-

Outcomes Briefing

Outcomes Briefing is a bi-annual publication - it covers a range of general issues relating to the measurement of outcomes. Each issue follows a general theme, with additional conference/workshop reports, invited contributions and current awareness literature.

Address:- UK Clearing House on Health Outcomes, Nuffield Institute for Health, University of Leeds, 71-75 Clarendon Road, LEEDS, LS2 9PL.

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/nuffield/infoservices/UKCH/publi.html>

UK Primary Care - Evidence Based Medicine

Brief site aimed at the commissioning practice, complete with definitions and links to other UK resources. *Type of resource : WWW presence.* Found at:-

<http://www.compulink.co.uk/~hold/ebm.htm>

UK Workshops on Teaching Evidence-Based Practice

A number of organisations run workshops on Teaching Evidence Based Practice. To date there have been UK Workshops in Oxford (1st, 1995), London (2nd, 1996), Oxford (3rd, 1996), London (4th, 1997) with a fifth planned for Oxford in June 1997. Other courses have been organised in Evidence Based Child Health (1996 & 1997) and Evidence Based Psychiatry (April 1997). The Centre for Evidence Based Medicine site and the evidence-based-health discussion list are good sources for details of forthcoming courses.

Users' Guides to the Health Care Literature

The Evidence Based Medicine Working Group, a group of clinicians at McMaster and colleagues across North America, have created a set of guides, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). The Users' Guide series aim to assist clinicians to keep up to date in their clinical discipline and to find the best way to manage a particular clinical problem. The User's Guides put much emphasis on integrative studies, including systematic overviews, practice guidelines, decision analysis, and economic analysis. They introduce strategies for efficiently searching the medical literature. *Type of resources:- WWW site.* Full-text of the Guides is available at:-

<http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/default.htm>

A comprehensive alphabetical bibliography of references used in the compilation of the User's Guides to the Medical Literature can be found at:

<http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/ref.htm>

A complete list of the published guides, together with their full bibliographic references is available at:-

<http://cochrane.epi.bris.ac.uk/rd/links/schebm.htm>

Users' Maps for.....

These pages list, for different sources of evidence, the main questions that should be used in critically appraising articles. *Type of resource:- WWW site.* Examples include:-

an Overview

http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/6_map.htm

a Decision Analysis

http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/7_map.htm

a Clinical Practice Guideline

http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid/8_map.htm

Warren Magnussen Grant Clinical Center (National Institutes of Health)

Amongst a host of information, this NIH centre has a list of current clinical research studies. There are over 1000 ongoing clinical trials listed and they show the study title, a summary, the sponsoring institute and the patient characteristics needed for enrollment. *Type of resource : WWW database*

<http://www.cc.nih.gov/>

Welsh Health Gain Investment Protocol Enhancement Project

This project, commissioned by the Welsh Office, aims to enhance twelve policy documents (Protocols for Investment in Health Gain) originally produced by the Welsh Health Planning Forum in the early 1990s by systematically seeking and appraising the best available evidence in each area. Areas covered by the original documents include:- cancers, cardiovascular diseases, healthy environments, healthy living, injuries, maternal and early child health, mental handicap (learning disabilities), mental health, oral health, pain discomfort and palliative care, physical disability and discomfort and respiratory diseases. *Address:-* Protocol Enhancement Project, Sir Herbert Duthie Library, University of Wales College of Medicine, CARDIFF. *Type of resource:-* Project

Wessex Institute for Health Research and Development

Address:- the activities of the Institute are located at three sites : Dawn House, Sleepers Hill, Winchester (Health Technology Assessment); Highcroft, Romsey Road, Winchester (Health Promotion); South Academic Block, Southampton General Hospital (Nutrition, Primary Care, Public Health Research) *Type of resource:- Organisation; Information Service; Software*
<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~wil>

Workshops on How to Teach Evidence Based Medicine

McMaster University Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics have assembled sets of readings dealing with evidence-based medicine and critical appraisal issues in therapy, diagnosis, prognosis, harm, overviews and economic analysis. Some materials, complete with checklists and cribsheets are available on the Internet, and may be downloaded to support Critical Appraisal skills programmes locally. *Type of resource:- WWW site; Training Course Provider; Training materials*

<http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/workshop/>

If you have any suggestions for inclusion in future editions of this guide or any other amendments please send them to:-

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Other papers published in this series by the School of Health and Related Research are listed below:-

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| 96/2 | An Economic Evaluation of Nabumetone/Relifex compared with Ibuprofen and a Weighted NSAID Combination (1996) by RL Akehurst, M Backhouse, P Emery, I Haslock, J Kirsch, CJ McCabe, DL Scott, M Whitfield and AD Woolf. | £10.00 |
| 97/1 | Clinical Placements for Student Nurses and Midwives : An Evaluation of Costs and Practices (1997) by M Lloyd-Jones and RL Akehurst | £10.00 |

Copies of these documents are available from:-

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