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Supplementary searches of PubMed to improve currency of MEDLINE (Ovid) searches for systematic reviews: time taken for a record to move to MEDLINE

Steven Duffy, Kate Misso, Shelley de Kock,
Caro Noake, Janine Ross, Lisa Stirk

steven@systematic-reviews.com

Kleijnen Systematic Reviews (KSR) Ltd., UK

Introduction



- Literature searches for systematic reviews almost always include MEDLINE
- MEDLINE content can be searched via numerous different search interfaces
- MEDLINE via PubMed is free, but has limited search capabilities
- **2%** of PubMed records are not found in MEDLINE, including newly published and ahead of print articles[1]

Background



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We investigated in-house KSR systematic reviews to see if supplementary searches were warranted

Our findings presented elsewhere suggest that they are[2]

- Unique studies for potential inclusion were identified
- Studies included in the final systematic review were identified

Objective



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We wanted to see if our findings could be supported by following a randomly selected set of records from entry onto PubMed to finally being indexed in MEDLINE

Is there a consistently significant time-lag between entry onto PubMed and progress to MEDLINE?

Methods



- We searched PubMed for ahead of print records
pubstatusaheadofprint AND 2014/05/16 [edat]
- Twenty records were then randomly selected
- PubMed record identifier (PMID) was retrieved for each record, and saved to 'My NCBI'
- Progress of records regularly checked for current status

Methods



- Random sample contained some unusual journals, e.g. Journal of Heredity, Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry, Inorganic Chemistry
- Created a second set of more 'prominent' journals from the JAMA, BMJ and Lancet collections
- Continued to follow included studies from our original investigation
- Recorded movement of records through PubMed: supplied by publisher; in-process; PubMed-not-MEDLINE; indexed for MEDLINE

Results



- There was no discernible pattern in the first sample
- Those records that had been indexed for MEDLINE by June 2016 (13 records) took over **3 months** on average to reach in-process, and a **further 8 months** to reach MEDLINE
- Seven records are still not indexed for MEDLINE:
 - 1 record has been removed entirely from PubMed;
 - 2 records are at the 'as supplied by publisher' stage;
 - 2 records are at the in-process stage;
 - 2 records have moved to PubMed-not-MEDLINE.

Results



- The second sample of '*prominent*' journals was no clearer
- 'Ahead of print' articles moved quickly to full publication (less than **2 months** on average), enabling progression to in-process in PubMed
- The average time for a citation to move onto MEDLINE averaged just over **another 2 months**
- **BUT** even in this sample two of the records have yet to be indexed for MEDLINE, and took considerably longer than 2 months to reach the in-process stage

Conclusions



- There was no definitive answer, despite following records for over 2 years
- From our small sample we could discern no pattern: records were removed, some took over a year to move from one stage to the next, others took just a week
- Supplementary searches of PubMed to capture these records are highly recommended.....

....BUT



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- Ovid now receives the 'ahead of print' records (**Epub Ahead of Print** introduced April 2016)
- So we no longer need to conduct supplementary PubMed searches....right?

Ovid MEDLINE Epub Ahead of Print



- Still relatively new. Further investigation warranted
 - How often are records loaded?
 - How are records received?
 - What type of records are being loaded? Publisher supplied, PMC books, PubMed-not-MEDLINE
 - Should we search differently?
 - Are there new fields available?
- Continue to conduct supplementary PubMed searches after all?

Ovid MEDLINE Epub Ahead of Print



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- ❑ Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present 
- ❑ Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present 
- ❑ Ovid MEDLINE(R) Epub Ahead of Print April Week 2 2016 
- ❑ Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to April Week 2 2016 
- ❑ Ovid MEDLINE(R) without Revisions 1996 to April Week 2 2016 
- ❑ Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations April 25, 2016 
- ❑ Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily Update April 25, 2016 

MEDP

Ovid MEDLINE® Epub Ahead of Print

Publisher Data with Weekly Update

References



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2. Stirk L, Duffy S, Misso K, Noake C, Ross J. Supplementary searches of PubMed to improve currency of MEDLINE and MEDLINE In-Process searches via Ovid: evidence from practice. Paper presented at 23rd Cochrane Colloquium; 3-7 Oct 2015; Vienna, Austria. 2015: Rapid Oral session 23.7.