19 – Help

I know there is a lot of information in the slides we’ve gone through just now and they’re also a bit bitty in the way they are presented and the narration may not even be as helpful as I’d hoped. Do feel free to get in touch with me at any time and to ask me questions about your systematic review searching or about the library in general if there are any questions you have got, I’m happy to try to answer them, to try to help.

The other thing is, the longer between going through something like this in this format, so getting an idea of what you might want to think about and then actually going and doing it, if there’s a big gap it’s much harder to put it into practice, of course. So if come the time of your systematic review when you’ve got a topic and you’re beginning to have a look and see what your research question might be or how to search on that particular topic, come that time, I’m more than happy to arrange one to one sessions, or small group sessions, if they are useful. Either in person, if that’s allowed [narrated during restricted access time due to Covid19] or online in some way.

So do please get in touch with any questions and don’t feel this is the only kind of help you can get for the searching part of your systematic review. I’m happy to be contacted and we can arrange something. My email address is there on the screen: rowena.stewart@ed.ac.uk

The other links on this slide, the first one is “Introduction to systematic literature searching” booklet that my colleague, Marshall Dozier, whom I mentioned before, has put together. It has a medicine slant but it might be another way of getting an idea of what’s expected of you and what the databases can be helpful with and how to approach them.

The other links here are “Study appraisal checklists” sites, or some of them. Checklists are ways you might choose to assess the quality, or how applicable in practice you might want to make some research, based on how well it does what it says it is trying to do. You can get checklists to decide on the quality of a systematic review for example and therefore, you might want to work backwards with those. If this checklist suggests a systematic review should have these elements and this is how I should appraise them, then these are the things I would need to include in a systematic review.

There are checklists for other pieces of works, for other kinds of publications as well. If you have a piece of work you want to appraise, you want to assess, if it’s a particular kind, if it’s not a systematic review, it’s another kind of methodology, the appraisal tools might be helpful for that.
The following two slides are text heavy. The last one is the reference management software slide that I've mentioned before but the very next slide is about the inter-library loans service which is what The Library makes available to you to be able to read material that we don't have at all. So, if there is an article from a journal we don't have or that we have but not for the year you want, perhaps, the inter-library loan service is what you would use to ask us to get it for you.

Anyone on NHS placement, or anyone who has a connection with the NHS as you will do, will have access to the NHS Knowledge Network that NHS Education for Scotland makes available for its members, in the way we make library resources available (journals, books, databases), so does NHS Education for Scotland make such available for its members. You would have access to that material, so it may be quicker for you to check that the Knowledge Network doesn’t have what you want, rather than make an inter-library loan service request.

You don’t need to have done that [checked NHS Knowledge Network] and you don’t need to know where might have what you want to read, you just need to know that University of Edinburgh Library doesn’t have what you want to make use of the Inter-Library Loan service.

Do have a look at that slide if you think that kind of service is something you want to make use of, perhaps now even, and then have a look at the reference management slide as well.

If you haven't already decided on a tool, reference management software product, you may want to use, then go to the comparison table linked out from the slide. If you've decided on EndNote desktop, there is a link on the slide that takes you through to the Software Services' page which is the route you need to go to get EndNote desktop for yourself [for free].

I hope these slides have been of some use, if not now then later when you have to do systematic review searching in earnest but please go away knowing you can get in touch with me at any time for information on The Library in general and definitely for anything about systematic review searching, database searching, or getting hold of full-text. For example, if there are citations you can’t get hold of and you think you should be able to, I'm happy to have a quick look and see if you are right or not. So do get in touch with any questions and good luck with everything.