

Looking out for references and using references

Evaluating web resources for referencing

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What I am going to cover



- ⌘1 Define the problem
- ⌘2 How to find the solution
- ⌘3 Applying “paper filters”
- ⌘4 Online journals

The problem



⌘ Millions (and millions) of websites

- ☑ Online versions of print articles
- ☑ Online-only articles
- ☑ Institutional websites
- ☑ Lectures (ppt slides +/- videos)
- ☑ etc, etc

⌘ Variable quality

⌘ Convincing editors

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Finding the solution




- ⌘ Keep an open mind
- ⌘ Don't judge the content by the medium
- ⌘ Not all information on "paper" is good
- ⌘ Apply "paper filters" to online media

What makes up your “paper filter”?

- ⌘ Look and feel
- ⌘ Credibility (peer review + longevity)
- ⌘ From a reputable source
- ⌘ One-off publication or regular?
- ⌘ Etc, etc

Applying the “paper filter” online



- ⌘ Ugly pages
- ⌘ “Orphan” pages
- ⌘ Complicated URL's
- ⌘ Non-institutional pages (look at the URL)
- ⌘ One-off or part of a larger online resource?
- ⌘ **If in doubt, leave it out**

Convincing editors



- ⌘ Be prepared to defend online references
- ⌘ Not all editors are well-informed
- ⌘ Include defence in cover letter?
- ⌘ Be prepared to swap online references

Online journals



⌘ Three types:

- ☑ 1: Online versions of print journals
- ☑ 2: Online-only journals
- ☑ 3: Hybrid journals

1: Online versions of print journals

⌘ Print journals going online

⌘ General timeline:

☑ Online after print

☑ Online and print at the same time

☑ Online first, print after

⌘ No page numbers = hard to reference?

⌘ Look out for the Digital Object Identifier (DOI)

Look out for the DOI!

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BMJ, doi:10.1136/bmj.38226.719803.EB (published 21 September 2004)

PAPERS

Combined use of rapid d-dimer testing and estimation of clinical probability in the diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis: systematic review

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Objective To summarise the evidence supporting the use of rapid d-dimer testing combined with estimation of clinical probability to exclude the diagnosis of deep venous thrombosis among outpatients.

Data sources Medline (June 1993 to December 2003), the Database of Abstracts and Reviews (DARE), and reference lists of studies in English.

Selection of studies We selected 12 studies from among 84 reviewed. The selected studies included more than 5000 patients and used a rapid d-dimer assay and explicit criteria to classify cases as having low, intermediate, or high clinical

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2: Online-only journals



- ⌘ More and more
- ⌘ No print = lower quality?
- ⌘ Rubbish!
- ⌘ No “pages” = no page numbers
- ⌘ New way to cite (as well as DOI):
 - ☒ Article numbers
 - ☒ “Letters” in citation
- ⌘ Do not confuse with meeting abstracts

Article numbers

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What does my patient's coronary artery calcium score mean? Combining information from the coronary artery calcium score with information from conventional risk factors to estimate coronary heart disease risk

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Mild hypothermia after near drowning in twin toddlers

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Keywords: children, mild hypothermia, near drowning, twins

Abstract

Introduction

Internet

3: Hybrid journals



⌘ Some content online, some print

⌘ For instance:

☑ *Science* has *Science magazine*

☑ *Arthritis Research & Therapy* puts research abstracts in print, full text online-only

⌘ Helps to overcome space constraints in paper journals

Things to look for in an online-only journal

- ⌘ Clear instructions for authors
- ⌘ Clear description of the editorial process
- ⌘ Clear description of the citation method
- ⌘ Clear list of the Editorial Board (have you heard of them?)
- ⌘ Everything you would expect of a paper journal (except the paper)

What I have covered



- ⌘1 Defined the problem
- ⌘2 Described how to find the solution
- ⌘3 Applied “paper filters”
- ⌘4 Described online journals

Thank you for listening