2025 Virtual Mini-Symposium

May 15th, 2025

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Program at a glance

1:30 - 1:35	Let everyone connect and settle in!
1:35 - 1:40	Welcome remarks - Renée de Gannes-Marshall
1:40 - 1:50	A fork in the road: Machine learning classifier or methodological search filter to identify systematic reviews? - Melissa Severn
1:50 - 2:00	Beyond Automation: Hybrid approach to de-duplication for a systematic review - Victoria Cole & Meg Carley
2:00 - 2:10	Development of a full-text search strategy for CMAJ's scoping review on content about First Nations, Inuit and Métis people and anti-Indigenous racism - Nan Bai & Renée de Gannes-Marshall
2:10 - 2:20	Building Capacity in Knowledge Synthesis: A Community of Practice Approach - Patrick Labelle & Lindsey Sikora
2:20 - 2:30	A Semi-Automated Process to Assist with Clinical Expert Identification - Sharon Bailey, Robin Featherstone, Hannah Loshak & Dave Kaunelis
2:30 - 2:40	Eliciting easier systematic reviews with AI? - Evan Sterling
2:40 - 2:45	Wrap up – Renée de Gannes-Marshall

Presentation abstracts

A fork in the road: Machine learning classifier or methodological search filter to identify systematic reviews?

Melissa Severn, MISt; Alissa Epworth, LIT; Romney Adams, MLIS; Rushdi Shams, PhD; DistillerSR, Ottawa, ON, Canada

Presenter biography:

Melissa Severn is a Customer Success Manager at DistillerSR. She has 20 years of experience as an Information Specialist conducting literature searches for systematic reviews and health technology assessments. Her interests include grey literature searching and the use of artificial intelligence for evidence synthesis. She holds a MISt degree from the University of Toronto.

Abstract:

Systematic reviews (SRs) can be retrieved in several ways. One approach is a search filter designed to retrieve SRs in bibliographic databases such as PubMed. Another utilises machine learning (ML) to sort articles into two mutually exclusive classes in online platforms such as DistillerSR. The objective of this project was to test the performance of a binary ML classifier designed to identify SRs in DistillerSR against search filters designed to retrieve SRs in PubMed.

Beyond Automation: Hybrid approach to de-duplication for a systematic review

Victoria Cole, Research Librarian, University of Ottawa; Meg Carley, Clinical Research Coordinator, Ottawa Health Research Institute

Presenter biographies:

Victoria Cole is a research librarian at the University of Ottawa supporting Nursing and Nutrition students. She collaborates with faculty to ensure curricula that reflect evolving information discovery and evidence-based practice, often through guest lectures that build students' practical research skills. She also contributes her expertise to health sciences knowledge synthesis research teams.

Meg Carley is a Clinical Research Coordinator at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI), Centre for Implementation Research, and Research Assistant at Queen's University, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine. She is currently supporting Dawn Stacey, Senior Scientist at OHRI and Distinguished Professor at the University of Ottawa, Krystina Lewis, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa, and Ian Gilron, Queen's University. She has over 20 years of experience working alongside internationally recognized scientists who are experts in knowledge translation, integrated knowledge translation, patient engagement, guideline adaptation, implementing best practice, continuity of care, decision support for patients, complex populations, and chronic pain. She has co-authored over 55 peer-reviewed publications and first authored one publication which was voted one of the 10 most significant clinical papers published in Anesthesiology in 2021.

Abstract:

This presentation explores de-duplication in a unique systematic review involving four separate searches to address a complex research question. It highlights best practices for identifying and removing duplicates using both automated tools and manual techniques, addressing common challenges and strategies to streamline workflows in multi-search reviews.

Development of a full-text search strategy for CMAJ's scoping review on content about First Nations, Inuit and Métis people and anti-Indigenous racism

Nan Bai, Specialist, Knowledge Management & Renée de Gannes-Marshall, Director, Knowledge Management

Presenter biographies:

Nan Bai is a knowledge management specialist at the Canadian Medical Association (CMA), where she provides database management and research services to facilitate evidence-based decision making and optimal utilization of organizational knowledge in support of the CMA's strategic plan. She is a seasoned health librarian with over 18 years of experience.

Renée de Gannes-Marshall is leading the development and implementation of a new knowledge management and strategic research program at the Canadian Medical Association. She has worked in health libraries for more than 15 years and is the President of the Ottawa Valley Health Library Association.

Abstract:

To support a scoping review on anti-Indigenous racism conducted by CMAJ, librarians developed an extensive search strategy to identify all articles about or related to First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Canada in the published contents of CMAJ from January 1911 to August 2024. In addition to Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed Central was selected for its full archive of CMAJ. We'll share our experience with this unique project where a scoping review involves extensive full-text search.

A Semi-Automated Process to Assist with Clinical Expert Identification

Sharon Bailey, Research Information Specialist, Canada's Drug Agency

Presenter biography:

Sharon Bailey is a Research Information Specialist with Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC). Sharon has over 12 years experience as a health sciences librarian and has worked in academic, hospital, and scholarly publishing settings.

Abstract:

Like many research organizations, Canada's Drug Agency requires external experts, peer reviewers and committee members to inform our work. Identifying candidate experts, however, can be resource intensive. The agency's Research Information Services department used existing tools and practices to develop an efficient, reliable, and transparent approach to identify potential clinical experts.

Eliciting easier systematic reviews with AI?

Evan Sterling, Research Librarian, University of Ottawa; Dean Giustini, Librarian, University of British Columbia

Presenter biographies:

Evan Sterling is a Research Librarian at the University of Ottawa, working mainly with engineering students as well as supporting systematic reviews in health and medicine. He was previously a professional engineer.

Dean Giustini is an academic health sciences librarian at the UBC Biomedical Branch Library where he is responsible for managing staff, projects and developing collections in the branch. He is also affiliated with the VGH Diamond Health Care Centre.

Abstract:

Elicit, an academic LLM-based product, has launched in February a systematic review workflow which can search, screen, extract and summarize on a particular topic. This presentation will outline a research project I am starting to evaluate the quality of this feature.