EBHC International Library

1. Background
2. Idea
3. Project
4. The Problem
5. Open Questions
6. Survey

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1. Background

• There is an impressive number of web sites and search engines about EBP, EBHC, Clinical Governance, but most of them:

- collect links to other resources *and/or*
- did not provide systematically reviews on published literature
- have variable quality
- does not describe the methods for searching, appraising and selecting resources

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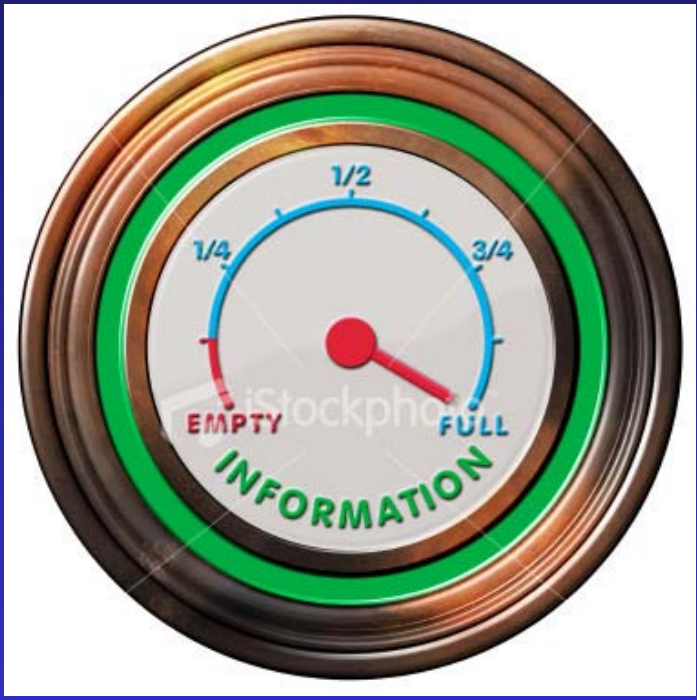
1. Background

- The methodological literature about “Evidence-based Knowledge” is growing.
- The MeSH thesaurus is not adequate to index this literature: both sensitivity and specificity are low
- A dedicated database is lacking



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EBHC International Library

1. Background
2. **Idea**

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2. Idea

- Initially, the idea was related to restyling and expanding **GIMBE**'s web site
- Then… it developed

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2. Idea

- **November 2005**

Preliminary meeting at last EBHC Conference

- **February, 10th 2006**

Meeting in Bologna (Amanda Burls, Nino Cartabellotta, Paul Glasziou, Julie Hadley Khalid Khan)

- **March - December 2006**

Project development

- **January - June 2007**

Library development and testing of α-version

- **End of 2007**

Release of β-version (?)

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1. Background
2. Idea
3. **Project**

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3. Project

3.1. Aims

3.2. Areas

3.3. Objects

3.4. Search strategies

3.5. Journals coverage

3.6. Thesaurus

3.7. Technological features

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3.1. Aims

- To develop a web-based library of published (and not published) methodological sources in several areas EBP-related.
- To create a methodological thesaurus

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3.2. Areas

1. Basic and Integrative Sciences
2. Evidence-Based Practice
3. EBHC and Clinical Governance
4. Methodology of Research
5. Health Professional Education

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3.3. Objects

Bibliographic sources

- Books & Monographs
- Theme Issues
- Journals
- Newsletters
- Series of articles
- Articles

Web sources

- Organization
- Projects
- Databases
- Journal Clubs, CAT banks
- Tutorials and Courses
- EBP Curricula
- Glossaries
- Directories
- Software
- Clinical Calculators
- Mailing List

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3.3.1. Types of articles

- **Primary research**
- **Systematic reviews**
- **Narrative**: reviews, editorials, comments, viewpoints, essays, others

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3.4. Search Strategies

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3.4. Search Strategies

- We developed more than 200 specific MEDLINE search strategies:
  - not validated with “hand searching”
  - archived in “My NCBI”, the tools of PubMed that automatically update and e-mail search results

- All search strategies include following limits:
  - AND english [la]
  - NOT letter [pt] NOT news [pt]

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3.4. Search Strategies

SOME EXAMPLES

Outcomes reporting bias

outcome* [ti] AND report* [ti] AND bias [ti] OR (reported [ti] AND outcome* [ti]) OR (selective [ti] AND report* [ti]) OR (positive [ti] AND outcome* [ti] AND bias [ti]) AND clinical trials [mh]

Class effects

(class[ti] AND effect* [ti] AND trial* [tw]) OR (drug* [ti] AND class [ti])

Subgroup Analyses

clinical trials [mh] AND (subgroup* [ti] OR posthoc [ti] OR "post hoc" [ti])

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3.4. Search Strategies

- We are developing free-text searching strategies for Google.

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3.5. Journals Coverage

- We identified several journals, grouped in 7 categories

Category	N° of journals
Core Medical Journals	12
Core non-Medical Journals	42
Secondary Publications	4
Specialty Journals	To be defined
General Practice Journals	15
Other Medical Journals	12
Other Journals	???

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3.5. Journals

Core non-Medical Journals (10 categories)

- Basic Science
- Bioethics
- Decision Making
- Epidemiology, Public Health
- Health Service Research
- Medical Education
- Medical Informatics, Information Science
- Clinical Epidemiology, Research Methodology
- Quality of Health Care
- Tecnology Assessment

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3.4. Search Strategies

- For every category of journals we developed a specific MEDLINE search strategy to limit or expand the “coverage” of methodological searches

e.g. Core Clinical Journals

AND (N Engl J Med [jour] OR Lancet [jour] OR JAMA [jour] OR Ann Intern Med [jour] OR BMJ [jour] OR Arch Intern Med [jour] OR CMAJ [jour] OR Am J Med [jour] OR Med J Aust [jour] OR J Gen Intern Med [jour] OR BMC Med [jour] OR PLoS Med [jour])

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3.4. Search Strategies

- “Level of coverage” of Library areas is labeled in areas of library using rainbow colours bullets.
- The law is “more colours…more coverage”

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3.6. Thesaurus

- We are developing **EBHC Thesaurus®** to index all records included in the Library

Levels	N. of Branches	Status
1st	40	Complete
2nd	300-500 (estimated)	~ 30%
3rd	Some thousands (estimated)	~ 10%
4th	???	Seldom
5th	???	Seldom

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- **4. METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH**
  - **4.1. Clinical Research**
    - **4.1.1. General issues**
      - 4.1.1.1. Funding Issues
      - 4.1.1.2. Confidentiality and Consent
      - 4.1.1.3. Special setting/populations
    - **4.1.2. Problems**
      - 4.1.2.1. Low quality, redundance, disaggregation
      - 4.1.2.2. Commissioning bias
      - 4.1.2.3. Publication bias
        - 4.1.2.3.1. Language bias
      - 4.1.2.4. Conflicts of interest
        - 4.1.2.4.1. Financial
        - 4.1.2.4.2. Not-Financial
        - 4.1.2.4.3. Disclosures
      - 4.1.2.5. Misconduct and fraud
        - 4.1.2.5.1. Fabrication and falsification
        - 4.1.2.5.2. Ghost writing
    - **4.1.3. Ethical issues**
      - 4.1.3.1. Ethics of Research
      - 4.1.3.2. Ethics of Publication
    - **4.1.4. Rules and tools**
      - 4.1.4.1. Ethics Commitees
      - 4.1.4.2. Ethics of research
        - 4.1.4.2.1. Ethical Statements
          - 4.1.4.2.1.1. Helsinki Declaration
          - 4.1.4.2.1.2. Good Clinical Practice
          - 4.1.4.2.1.3. ASSERT
      - 4.1.4.3. Ethics of publication
        - 4.1.4.3.1. Publication bias
          - 4.1.4.3.1.1. Language bias
      - 4.1.4.4. Reporting Statement
        - 4.1.4.4.1. CONSORT Statement
        - 4.1.4.4.2. QUOROM Statement
        - 4.1.4.4.3. MOOSE Statement
        - 4.1.4.4.4. STARD Statement
        - 4.1.4.4.5. STROBE Statement
        - 4.1.4.4.6. TREND Statement
      - 4.1.4.5. Systematic reviews
      - 4.1.4.6. Peer review
      - 4.1.4.7. Registers of trial
      - 4.1.4.8. Fast-track Publication
      - 4.1.4.9. Retractions
      - 4.1.4.10. Disclosures of Interest
  - **4.2. Health Service Research**
  - **4.3. Educational Research**

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3.7. Technological features

- Now: HTML static pages
- In the next future: dynamic database (Microsoft SQL Server)
- Browsing for:
  - Areas
  - Objects
  - Source
  - Professionals
  - Medical specialties
- Searching: basic, advanced

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1. Background
2. Ideas
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4. **The Problem**

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4. The Problem

- The methodological literature is like…

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The Library has 3 growing directions

Bibliographic
Web
Type of articles

Objects

N. of Areas

Level of indexing

Journals coverage

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5. **Open Questions**

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5. Open Questions

Do you find useful the Library for the “EBHC Developers & Teachers”?

Or… do we have to create a “marketing department”?

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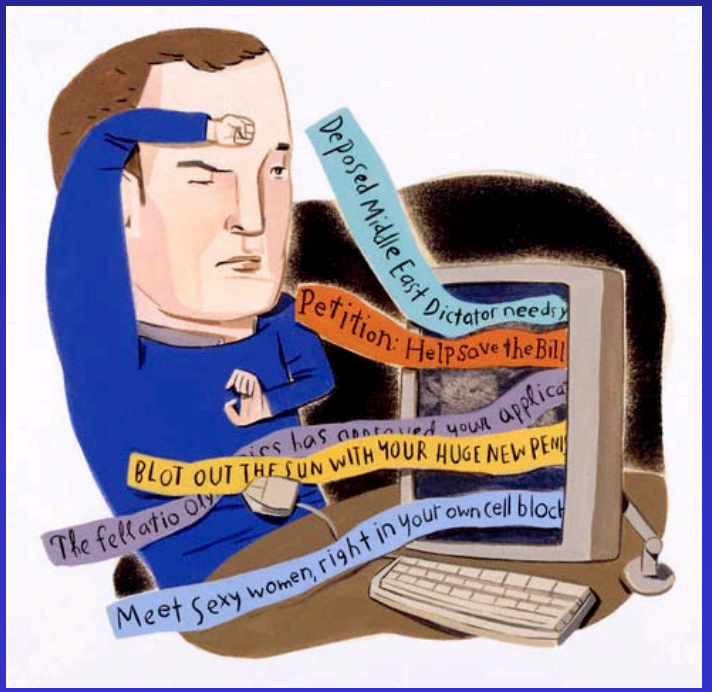
5. Open Questions

Has the EBHC International Library

- Too many areas?
- Too many branches in the thesaurus?
- Too many objects?
- Too many journals to cover?



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5. Open Questions

Is it useful to rate the articles for?

- Relevance
- Quality
- Users' level

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6. **Survey**

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6. Survey

- Usefulness scores (from 1 to 4)
- Single / multiple answers
- General comments and suggestions
- Three annexes
  1. Areas
  2. Lists of journals
  3. A full branch of Thesaurus

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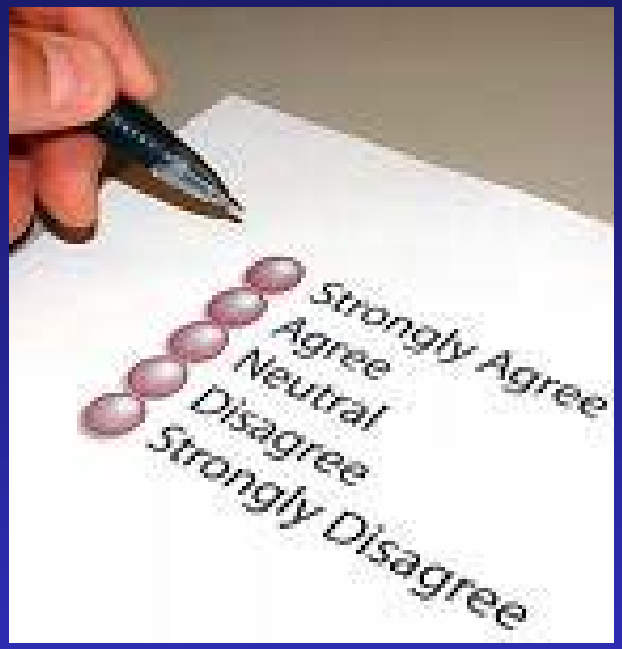
6. Survey



- Write your name (optional)
- Give us 15-20’ of your time
- Give back your form within tomorrow morning, at the conference desk
- We will show the results on Saturday, at the end of Conference

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We hope that your help will solve our…

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Hamletic dilemmas…

- Are we dreamers?
- Is it only a good idea?
- Or…we might be able to offer the Library to the “EBHC Developers & Teachers”, all over the world?

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