The InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group (ISSG) Search Filter Resource: an essential resource for librarians and information specialists supporting systematic reviews and other evidence syntheses.

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Background
Search filters, to find studies of a specific design, are an essential tool in searches to support systematic reviews. Not all search filters, however, are equally effective. The ISSG Search Filter Resource (ISSG SFR) has been developed to improve awareness of and provide free access to a ‘one-stop-shop’ for critical appraisal of existing methodological search filters.

Method
Searches to identify eligible filters are run monthly in CINAHL, Embase and MEDLINE. Tables of contents and current awareness lists are screened. Search results are scanned by the Editorial Team for eligible records and these need to be agreed by two team members before being added to the ISSG SFR site.

The Search Filter Resource contains

- Adherence filters
- Animal studies
- Clinical examination
- Evidence-based health care
- Gender-specific filters
- Geographic filters
- Health applications (apps)
- HIT metrics
- HIV
- Pharmacoeconomic
- Patient safety filters
- Population group filters
- Quality improvement
- Off-label drug use
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Geography
- etc.
- Bibliographic references to published filters, with links to the PubMed record or open access full-text
- Contact information for developers of unpublished filters and filters in progress
- Independent abstracts and structured critical appraisals for some of the methodological search filters
- Filters for specific study designs:
  - References on the design, development, testing, and use of filters.
  - Filters for specific age groups, ethnic groups, geographic areas including low-middle-income countries generally and Africa specifically
  - Links to collections of non-methodological clinical-topic-specific filters or ‘search blocks’

Publications that review search filter performance


Feedback is welcome, including information about filters not currently listed. The resource is now being developed further with the inclusion of additional value-added information such as links to launch search filters in Ovid databases and PubMed, links to comments and errata, highlighting comparative performance data visually, and guidance on reporting filters.

Keep up to date
The Search Filter Resource is being promoted
- Conference presentations
- Professional email list alerts
- Twitter @ISSG_Filters

Visit
https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource

Please send us your feedback to julie@glanville.info

The InterTASC Information Specialists’ Sub-Group (ISSG) brings together Information Specialists supporting the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). The Search Filter Resource site was managed by Julie Glanville, Carol Lefebvre and until December 2020, Kath Wright (CRD, University of York). We would like to thank all the members of the InterTASC Information Specialists’ Sub-Group (ISSG) who have contributed to the site.