Evidence-Based Practice in PubMed: Are Shared Filters Useful to Health Sciences Academic Users?

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In April 2010, the Université de Montréal’s Health Sciences Library implemented filters in its shared My NCBI account. Most of these filters were designed to highlight evidence-based practice (EBP) resources.

For the month of February 2012, a web-based survey was available to all users accessing PubMed through the library’s Web site and catalog. 135 respondents completed the web-based survey.

Hard copies were also distributed to 4th year Medical Students two weeks after attending an EBP literacy workshop. 86 4th year M.D. students completed the hard copy survey.

EBP filters usage for all respondents

- 38% of all respondents choose UdeM’s configured PubMed over standard PubMed because of the EBP filters.
- 9% of all respondents find the shared filters not to be useful.
- However, 18% of all respondents indicated that they do not understand the relevance of the shared filters.

Top 5 EBP filters:
1. Systematic Reviews
2. Cochrane DSR
3. Practice Guidelines
4. RCT
5. Clinical Evidence

Filter results for the month of February 2012:
- Faculty of Medicine: 29 (18%)
- Faculty of Dentistry: 15 (9%)
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: 7 (4%)
- Faculty of Pharmacy: 10 (6%)
- School of Nursing: 4 (3%)
- Department of Kinesiology: 10 (6%)

Distribution of web-based survey respondents and EBP filters usage

The fact that some respondents did not know whether the filters were relevant to them or not will be addressed through our PubMed workshops and online library guides.

Transformation of shared filters based on suggestions:
- Some were combined
- Some were enhanced or renamed
- Some were added.

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