Battling Bias: How Librarians Can Help Systematic Reviewers

MICC 2024 Zagreb, Croatia 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Michael Fanning





## Programme

- 1. What is bias?
- 2. Why is battling bias important?
- 3. How can librarians help battle bias?
- 4. What resources are available to them?
  - Guides & Handbooks
  - Repositories of systematic reviews
- 5. Positioning the librarians' contribution.

### Definition

	tionary ions from <u>Oxford Languages</u> · <u>Learn more</u>
	bias /ˈbʌɪəs/
noun	
1.	<u>inclination</u> or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be <u>unfair</u> . "there was evidence of <b>bias against</b> foreign applicants"
	Similar: prejudice partiality partisanship favouritism unfairness v
2.	<b>STATISTICS</b> a systematic <u>distortion</u> of a statistical result due to a factor not allowed for in its <u>derivation</u> .
verb	
1.	cause to feel or show inclination or prejudice for or against someone or something. "the search results are biased by the specific queries used"
	Similar: prejudice influence colour sway weight predispose distort v
2.	<b>STATISTICS</b> <u>distort</u> (a statistical result); introduce bias into (a method of sampling, measurement, analysis, etc.).

https://www.google.com/search / Search: define bias

### Definition

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https://www.google.com/search / Search: define bias

## **Examples:** Generative

International Women's D Al Bias In the Spotlight On International Women's Dav By Alex Woodie

#### Generative AI bias may be far worse than we thought. Here's what it'll take to fix it

Opinion By Allisa James published May 8, 2024

Al has a serious bias issue

euronews.nex TECH NEWS MONE' WORK MOBILITY SERIES



Google's CEO admits Gemini Al model's responses showed 'bias' and says company is working to fix it

#### UNESCO finds 'pervasive' gender bias in generative AI tools

Mar 07, 2024 + 3 mine

Tackling Bias, Inequality, Lack of Privacy – New WHO Guidelines on AI Ethics and Governance are Released

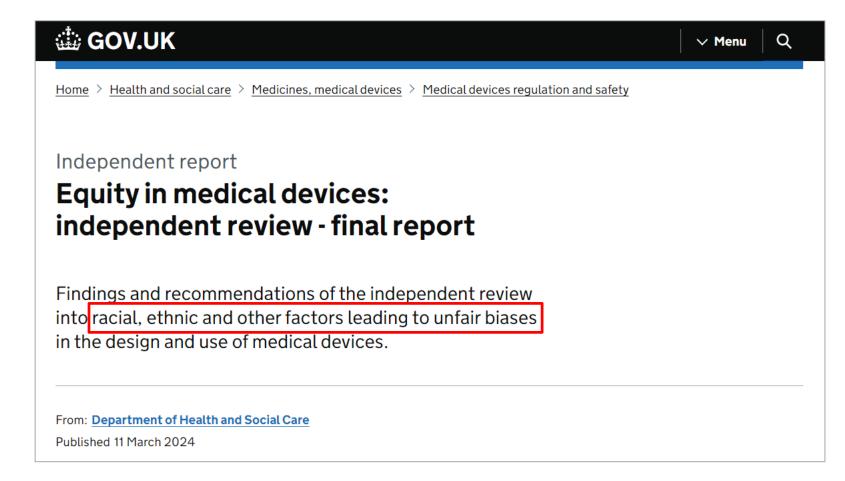
Digital Health 19/01/2024 · Zuzanna Stawiska

4 biases that leave under-represented groups out of GenAI-assisted journalism

by Luba Kassova .

Feb 26, 2024 in Diversity and Inclusion

### **Examples: Medical Devices**

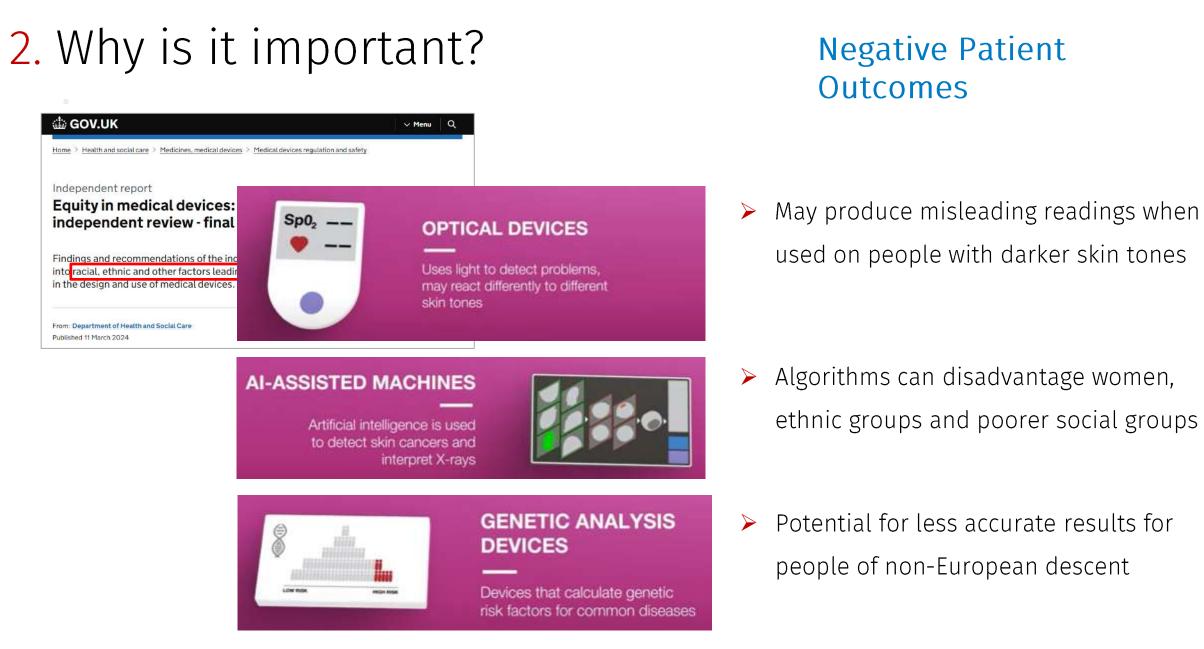


https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equity-in-medical-devices-independent-review-final-report

### Definition: Statistical View

Dictionary Definitions from Oxford Languages · Learn more	
bias /'bAIPS/	
noun	
<ol> <li><u>inclination</u> or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way consident unfair.</li> <li>"there was evidence of bias against foreign applicants"</li> </ol>	dered to be
Similar: prejudice partiality partisanship favouritism unfairness v	1
<ol> <li>STATISTICS a systematic <u>distortion</u> of a statistical result due to a factor not allowed for in its <u>deriv</u></li> </ol>	vation.
verb	
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Similar: prejudice influence colour sway weight predispose of	distort 🗸
<ol> <li>STATISTICS <u>distort</u> (a statistical result); introduce bias into (a method of sampling, measurement, etc.).</li> </ol>	, analysis,

https://www.google.com/search / Search: define bias



3. How can librarians help battle bias? Be There: 3 x 'S'

- $\checkmark$  <u>Spread knowledge and awareness</u>
- $\checkmark$  <u>Show and flag tools and resources</u>
- ✓ <u>Support and critique SR methods(\*)</u>

# Guides & Handbooks

Cochrane

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews



JBI EBP Database



## KSR Evidence Database

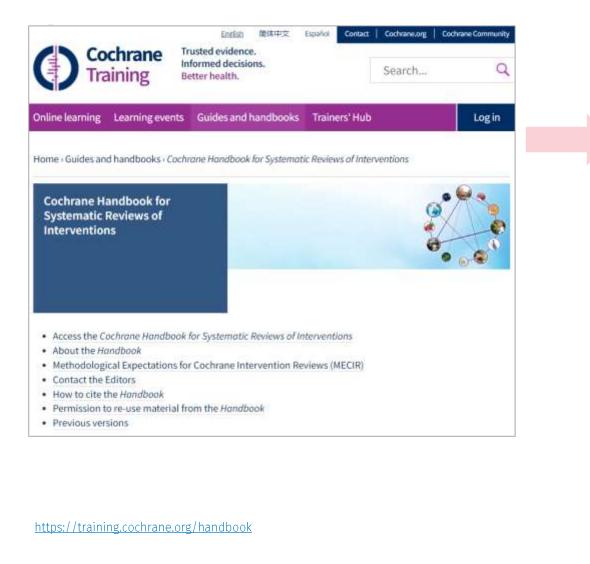
Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions

SYNTHESIS	
March 2024	
jbi.global	2021 Fairs Series Series



Online & (some) PDF

Online & PDF



#### Version 6.4, 2023

**Senior Editors:** Julian Higgins<sup>1</sup>, James Thomas<sup>2</sup> **Associate Editors:** Jacqueline Chandler<sup>3</sup>, Miranda Cumpston<sup>4,5</sup>, Tianjing Li<sup>6</sup>, Matthew Page<sup>4</sup>, Vivian Welch<sup>7</sup>

#### Part 1: About Cochrane Reviews

- . Introduction
- II. Planning a Cochrane Review
- III. Reporting the review
- IV. Updating the review
- V. Overviews of Reviews

#### Part 2: Core methods

- 1. Starting a review
- 2. Determining the scope and questions
- 3. Inclusion criteria & grouping for synthesis
- 4. Searching & selecting studies
- 5. Collecting data
- 6. Effect measures
- 7. Bias and conflicts of interest
- 8. Risk of bias in randomized trials
- 9. Preparing for synthesis
- 10. Meta-analyses
- 11. Network meta-analyses
- 12. Synthesis using other methods

#### 13. Bias due to missing results

- 14. 'Summary of findings' tables & GRADE
- 15. Interpreting results

#### Part 3: Specific perspectives in reviews

Cochrane

- 16. Equity
- 17. Intervention complexity
- 18. Patient-reported outcomes
- 19. Adverse effects
- 20. Economic evidence
- 21. Qualitative evidence

#### Part 4: Other topics

- 22. Prospective approaches
- 23. Variants on randomized trials
- 24. Including non-randomized studies
- 25. Risk of bias in non-randomized studies
- 26. Individual participant data

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English 酸体中で Briand Contact Cochrane.org Cochrane Community Trusted evidence. Cochrane Informed decisions. Search... raining Better health. Online learn Version 6.4, 2023 Senior Editors: Julian Higgins<sup>1</sup>, James Thomas<sup>2</sup> Home Guid Associate Editors: Jacqueline Chandler<sup>3</sup>, Miranda Cumpston<sup>4,5</sup>, Tianjing Li<sup>6</sup>, Matthew Page<sup>4</sup>, Vivian Welch<sup>7</sup> Cochrar Part 1: About Cochrane Reviews Part 3: Specific perspectives in reviews Systema I. Introduction 16. Equity II. Planning a Cochrane Review Interver 17. Intervention complexity III. Reporting the review 18. Patient-reported outcomes IV. Updating the review 19. Adverse effects V. Overviews of Reviews 20. Economic evidence 21. Oualitative evidence Part 2: Core methods Part 4: Other topics 1. Starting a review Determining the scope and questions 22. Prospective approaches · Access Inclusion criteria & grouping for synthesis 23. Variants on randomized trials About t 4. Searching & selecting studies 24. Including non-randomized studies Method 5. Collecting data 25. Risk of bias in non-randomized studies 6. Effect measures 26. Individual participant data Contac Bias and conflicts of interest How to Risk of bias in randomized trials Permi Preparing for synthesis Previou 10. Meta-analyses 11. Network meta-analyses 12. Synthesis using other methods 13. Bias due to missing results 14. 'Summary of findings' tables & GRADE 15. Interpreting results

https://training.cochrane.org/handbook

#### "7.1 Introduction#section-7-1

Cochrane Reviews seek to minimize bias. We define bias as a **systematic error**, or deviation from the truth, in results. Biases can lead to under-estimation or over-estimation of the true intervention effect and can vary in magnitude: some are small (and trivial compared with the observed effect) and some are substantial (so that an apparent finding may be due entirely to bias)."

Cochrane

Definitio

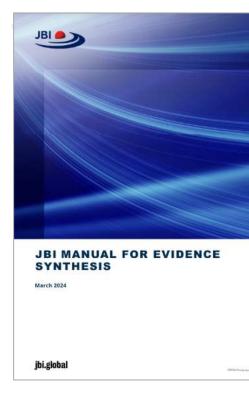
### Cochrane Tools



https://training.cochrane.org/handbook

## Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool (RoB)

- ✓ Released in 2008 with amendments in 2011
- ✓ Based on a single concept: risk of bias
- Domain or component-based approach
- Consideration based on theory and evidence
- Requires judgement and must be transparent
- ✓ Risk of bias assessments are 'low', 'high', 'unclear'
- ✓ Reasons for the assessment need to be given
- $\checkmark\,$  Now superseded by RoB 2, mandatory for RCTs



#### 4. Systematic reviews of effectiveness

C Last updated 27 March, 2024 • 1 min read

Catalin Tufanaru, Zachary Munn, Edoardo Aromataris, Jared Campbell, Lisa Hopp How to cite:

Tufanaru C, Munn Z, Aromataris E, Campbell J, Hopp L. Systematic reviews of effectiveness (2020). Aromataris E, Lockwood C, Porritt K, Pilla B, Jordan Z, editors. *JBI Manual for Evidence Synthesis*. JBI; 2024. Available from: https://synthesismanual.jbi.global. https://doi.org/10.46658/JBIMES-24-03

#### Contents

- + 4.1 Introduction to quantitative evidence and evidence-based practice
- > 4.2 Development of a protocol for a systematic review of effectiveness evidence
- > 4.3 Meta-analysis
- > 4.4 Systematic review of effectiveness
- · 4.5 Chapter References
- · Appendix 4.1: JBI Critical appraisal checklist for randomized controlled trials
- · Appendix 4.2 Discussion of JBI appraisal criteria for randomized controlled trials
- · Appendix 4.3: JBI Critical appraisal Checklist for Quasi-Experimental Studies (non-randomized experimental studies)
- · Appendix 4.4. Discussion of JBI appraisal criteria for Quasi-Experimental Studies (non-randomized experimental stud
- · Systematic Reviews of Effectiveness Resources

The revised JBI critical appraisal tool for the assessment of risk of bias for randomized controlled trials IBI

#### Barker et al 2023

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JBI recently began the process of updating and revising its suite of critical appraisal tools to ensure that these tools remain compatible with recent developments within risk of bias science. Following a rigorous development process led by the JBI Effectiveness Methodology Group, this paper presents the revised critical appraisal tool for the assessment of risk of bias for randomized controlled trials.

#### KSR Evidence About us Help Contact About us Expand all What is KSR Evidence? How do you critically appraise a systematic review? ~ Who developed KSR Evidence? Systematic reviews are critically appraised using criteria based on the **Risk of Bias Assessment Tool ROBIS**. Is KSR Evidence free to use? KSR Evidence uses an adapted version of this tool to enable us to provide the necessary summary information How often is KSR Evidence updated? which will be useful to busy healthcare professionals, researchers, and other end users. The risk of bias tool looks What is the date range? at four domains: How do you identify the records included on KSR Evidence Study eligibility criteria What are the inclusion and exclusion criteria for KSR Evider Identification and selection of studies How do you critically appraise a systematic review? Data collection and study appraisal How many critical appraisals are on KSR Evidence? Synthesis and findings Do you critically appraise all systematic reviews? From these domains KSR Evidence provides an overall summary of the risk of bias and a bottom line. The bottom line will inform users whether or not the review has been conducted in line with accepted methods of undertaking https://ksrevidence.com/#registerpage systematic reviews and if the evidence is reliable.

**KSR** Fvidence

## 4. What resources are available to them? Repositories of SRs



Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews



JBI EBP Database



## KSR Evidence Database

#### <u>Type of Records:</u>

- Bibliographic
- Full-text

#### Number of Records:

• Total: 12,240

#### Type of Records:

- Bibliographic
- Full-text

#### Number of Records:

• Total: 7,842

#### <u>Type of Records:</u>

- Bibliographic
- RoB Assessment

#### Number of Records:

• Total: 287,356

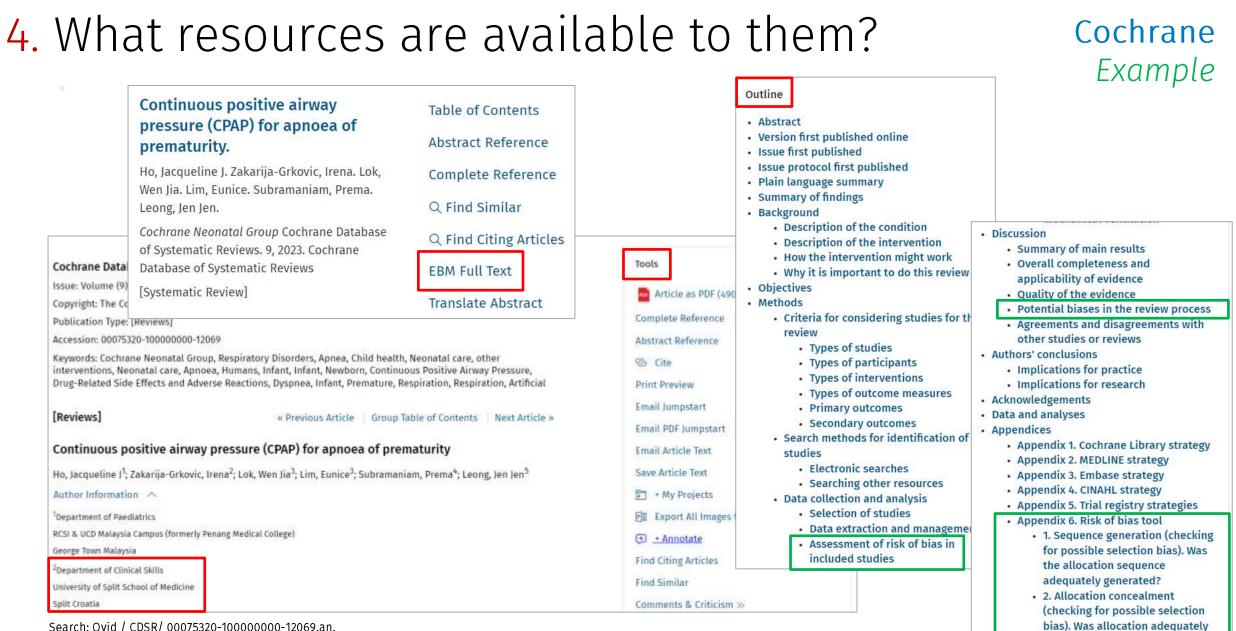


Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews ✓ Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, protocols

Cochrane

- Based on Cochrane methodologies and tools
- Focuses on RCT drug-based interventions
- Regarded as systematic review 'gold standard'

# 🔺	Searches	Results	Туре
1	docz.dz. JBI EBP Database <current 2024="" 22,="" may="" to=""> EB Health - KSR Evidence &lt;2015 to 2024 Week 22&gt;</current>	307438 7842 287356	Advanced
	EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews <2005 to May 29, 2024>	12240	



concealed?

Search: Ovid / CDSR/ 00075320-100000000-12069.an.



JBI EBP Database

Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, protocols

JBI

- Based on JBI methodologies and tools
- Focuses on 'point of care' interventions
- Covers a variety of systematic review types

	# 🔺	Searches	<b>Results</b>	Type
		∧ docz.dz.	307438	7
$\checkmark$	1	J <u>BI EBP Database <current 2024="" 22,="" may="" to=""></current></u> EB Health - KSR Evidence <2015 to 2024 Week 22>	7842 287356	Advanced
		EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews <2005 to May 29, 2024>	12240	

### **JBI** Example



Shin, Hwayeon Danielle; Cassidy, Christine; W Campbell, Leslie Anne; Drake, Emily K.; Wong Lauren; Dorey, Rachel; Kang, Hyelee; Curran,

JBI Evidence Synthesis. 20(3):788-846, March 2

[SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS]

AN: JBIES-21-00149

Year of Publication

Abstract 🗸 📴 Art

	JBI Evidence Synthesis
	Issue: Volume 20(3), March
JBI	Copyright: (C) 2022 JBI
EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS	Publication Type: [SYSTEM/ health]
	DOI: 10.11124/JBIES-21-0014
	ISSN: 2689-8381
Wolters Kluwer	Accession: 02174543-202203
	Keywords: Suicide Prevent

Hide Cover

Issue: Volume 20(3), March 2022, p 788-846 Copyright: (C) 2022 JBI Publication Type: [SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS: Emergency and Trauma: mental health] DOI: 10.11124/JBIES-21-00149 ISSN: 2689-8381 Accession: 02174543-202203000-00004 Keywords: Suicide Prevention

#### [SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS: Emergency and Trauma: mental health]

### Interventions to change clinicians' behavior related to suicide prevention care in the emergency department: a scoping review

 Por Article as PDF (1493)
 Shin, Hwayeon Danielle<sup>1,2</sup>; Cassidy, Christine<sup>1,2</sup>; Weeks, Lori E.<sup>1,2</sup>; Campbell, Leslie Anne<sup>1,3</sup>; Drake, Emily

 K.<sup>4</sup>; Wong, Helen<sup>4</sup>; Donnelly, Lauren<sup>1,5</sup>; Dorey, Rachel<sup>1,5</sup>; Kang, Hyelee<sup>1</sup>; Curran, Janet A.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Author Information $\land$

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<sup>2</sup>Aligning Health Needs and Evidence for Transformative Change (AH-NET-C): A JBI Centre of Excellence, Halifax, NS, Canada

<sup>3</sup>Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada

<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Health, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada

Tools	Outline
PDF Article as PDF (1493K	B) • ABSTRACT • Introduction
Complete Reference	Review questions
Abstract Reference	<ul> <li>Inclusion criteria</li> <li>Participants</li> </ul>
ල Cite	Concept     Context
Print Preview	Types of sources
Email Jumpstart	Methods     Search strategy
Email PDF Jumpstart	<ul> <li>Study/source of evidence selection</li> </ul>
Email Article Text	<ul> <li>Assessment of methodological quality</li> <li>Data extraction</li> </ul>
Save Article Text	<ul> <li>Data analysis and presentation</li> </ul>
+ My Projects	<ul> <li>Deviation from original protocol</li> <li>Results</li> </ul>
Export All Images to	• Study/source of evidence inclusion     • Methodological quality
🕀 <u>+ Annotate</u>	Characteristics of included sources
Find Citing Articles	<ul><li>Empirical studies</li><li>Interventions from the Google</li></ul>
About this Journal	search
Translate Abstract	Review findings     Characteristics of interventions
Ovid Expert Searches	and intervention components
JBI Topic Request	(Question 1) <ul> <li>Suicide prevention categories</li> <li>Mapping interventions on the</li> </ul>

- Mapping interventions on the Behaviour Change Wheel
- Author-reported outcome measures (Question 2)
- Discussion

Search: Ovid / JBI EBP Database / JBIES-21-00149..an.



KSR Evidence Database

Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, HTA reports

KSR

**Evidence** 

- Methodologies etc. are those of the sources
- Focuses on risk of bias assessments (ROBIS)
- Comprehensive coverage from 2015 onwards

	# 🔺	Searches	Results	Туре
_		docz.dz. <u>JBI EBP Database <current 2024="" 22,="" may="" to=""></current></u>	307438 7842	
$\leq$	1	EB Health - KSR Evidence <2015 to 2024 Week 22>	287356	Advanced
		EBM Reviews - Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews <2005 to May 29, 2024>	12240	

### KSR Evidence Example 1

		Unique Identifier:	KSRA268554
		PMID:	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
Radiotherapy to regional nodes in early brea patient data meta-analysis of 14 324 women		Title:	Radiotherapy to regional nodes in early breast cancer: an individual patient data meta- analysis of 14 324 women in 16 trials.
Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG)		Author:	Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG)
Lancet. 402(10416) 1991-2003, 2023.		Source:	Lancet. 402(10416) 1991-2003, 2023.
[Journal Article]		Risk of Bias Assessment:	<b>Overall summary:</b> Low risk of bias in the review Domain four is rated at low risk of bias. The review objective is reflected in the summarised findings of the included studies
<b>Risk of Bias Assessment</b> <b>Overall summary:</b> Low risk of bias in the review Domain four is rated at low risk of bias. The review objective findings of the included studies and the review authors repo			<ul> <li>and the review authors reported a balanced record of the analysed results without emphasising the statistical significance.</li> <li>A. Did the interpretation of findings address all of the concerns identified in Domains 1 to 4? Probably yes</li> <li>B. Was the relevance of identified studies to the reviews research question appropriately considered? Probably yes</li> <li>C. Did the reviewers avoid emphasizing results on the basis of their statistical significance? Probably yes</li> <li>Risk of bias in the review: Low</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>results without emphasising the statistical significance.</li> <li>A. Did the interpretation of findings address all of the conce</li> <li>4? Probably yes</li> <li>B. Was the relevance of identified studies to the reviews results considered? Probably yes</li> <li>C. Did the reviewers avoid emphasizing results on the basis</li> </ul>	earch qui	Bottom Line:	The available evidence suggested that regional node radiotherapy played a significant role in reducing the risk of breast cancer recurrence and mortality. Across multiple trials, it was shown to decrease overall breast cancer recurrence and mortality rates by approximately 10%, with even greater reductions observed in cases of distant recurrence. Moreover, the therapy demonstrated a notable impact on overall mortality, with absolute gains in long-term survival. Importantly, those benefits were observed without adverse effects on non-breast cancer mortality or other health outcomes. Those findings underscored the importance of regional node radiotherapy in improving outcomes for individuals with breast cancer, highlighting its potential as a valuable treatment option in clinical practice.
significance? Probably yes <b>Risk of bias in the review: Low</b>		Details of Review:	Number of studies: 16 Number of participants: 14,324
Abstract ∨ 🖪 Cite 🛐 + My Projects 🖽 + An	notate		Last search date: Not reported Review type: Intervention Objective: To assess the effects of regional lymph node radiotherapy on breast cancer recurrence and mortality in women with early breast cancer. Population: Women with early breast cancer.
Source: Ovid / EB Health – KSR Evidence / KSRA268554.ui.			Interventions: Regional lymph node radiotherapy. Comparator: No regional lymph node radiotherapy. Outcome: Recurrence at any site, breast cancer mortality, non-breast-cancer mortality, and all-cause mortality. Study design: Randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

### KSR Evidence Example 2

#### Searches:

- docz.dz.
- limit 1 to high [Risk of Bias]
- ("search strategy is not reported").af.

#### Outcomes:

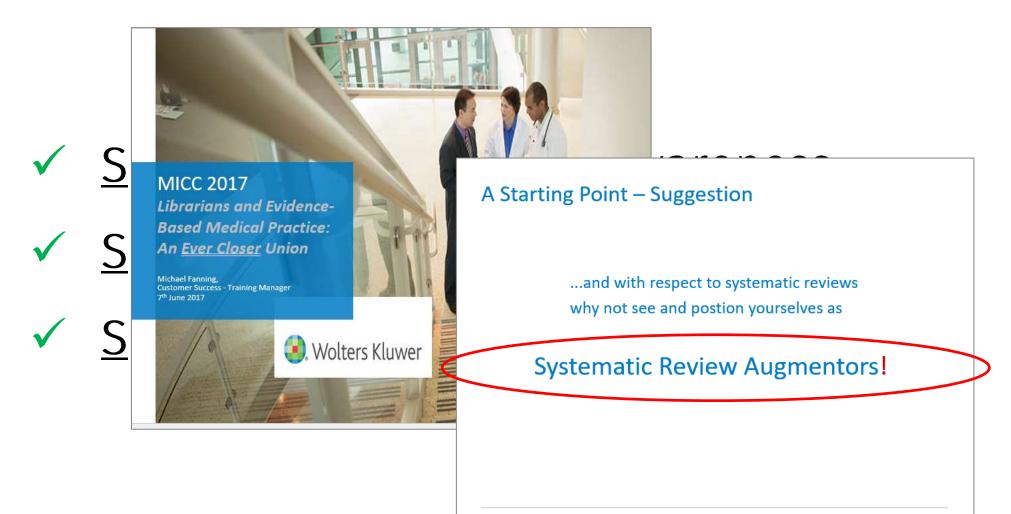
- Of the 287,356 documents in the database KSR Evidence, 31,277 (#2) have a risk of bias assessment: high, low or unclear.
- 2. The risk of bias assessment indicates whether or not a search strategy was provided or reported.
- 3. Of the 12,041 (100%) references that had no search strategy, 89% were assessed as having a high risk of bias.

	# 🔺	Searches	Results
	1	docz.dz.	287356
	2	limit 1 to (high or low or unclear assessment)	31277
~	3	("search strategy is not reported" or "search strategy was not reported" or "search strategy not reported" or "search strategy were not reported" or "search strategies were not reported" or "search strategy was not provided" or "review does not report a search strategy" or "review did not report a search strategy" or "article does not report the employed search strategy").af.	12041
	4	limit 3 to unclear assessment	1098
	5	limit 3 to low	193
~	6	limit 3 to high	10750
	7	4 or 5 or 6	<mark>1</mark> 2041

5. Positioning the librarians' contribution? Be There: 3 x 'S'

- $\checkmark$  <u>Spread knowledge and awareness</u>
- $\checkmark$  <u>Show and flag tools and resources</u>
- ✓ <u>Support and critique SR methods(\*)</u>

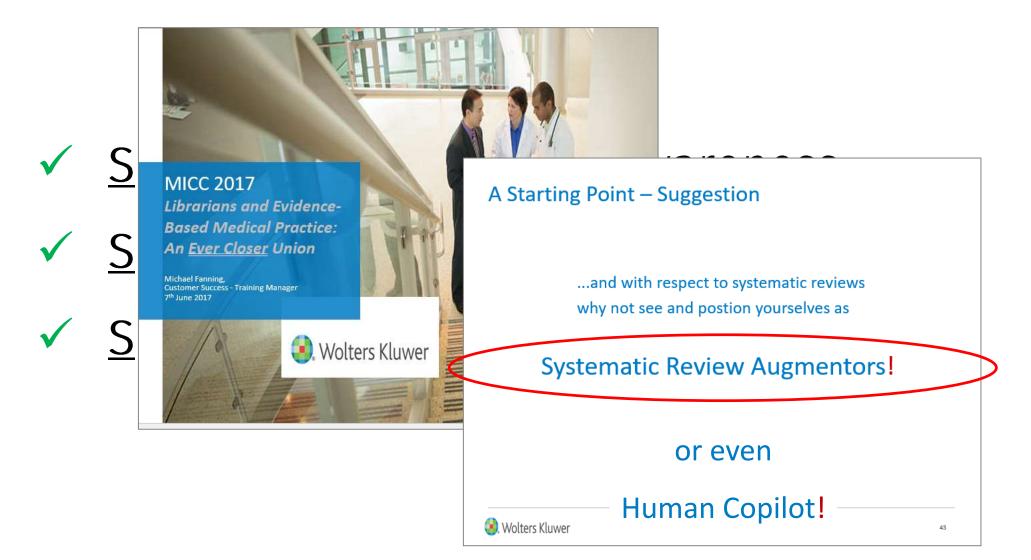
# **3**. Positioning the librarians' contribution! Be There: 3 x 'S'



🕘. Wolters Kluwer

43

# 3. Positioning the librarians' contribution. Embrace AI Concepts



# Thank you for listening!

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