Module Five

Search Demonstration

Electronic Demonstration of Search

Search Strategy

- Start with meta-analyses and more exclusive search engines (e.g. Campbell Collaboration and EBM Reviews)
- Consider articles or reviews that are "close" to the topic when there are no exact hits

Search Tips

- Move on to less restrictive or more general databases if desired studies are not found

- Boolean Operators

- Truncation

- Keep track of terms

More Search Tips

- Try several different terms
- Art of Trial and Error
- Record the full reference of potentially helpful articles
- Get to know a few databases really well

Using MOLES

- Truncation
- List all terms in the MOLES column
- Keep trying

Other Potentially Helpful Sources of Research Evidence

- Experts in the field
- Google Scholar
- References in other articles

Team Search Plan

- Who will be "searchers" (the whole team, one or two people)?

- How to divide the search (by outcomes, search terms, databases etc.)?

- How many articles would we like to bring in?

Wrap-Up

- For next time: practice searching
- Make a list of any interesting articles, studies, meta-analyses, etc.
- Next time: judging quality