Solving the Cochrane LSR publishing puzzle

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26 October 2016
Cochrane has a long history of publishing updated Cochrane Reviews.

Ways users access Cochrane Reviews has also changed, from floppy disks, to CD-ROMS, to online.

Ways users find Cochrane Reviews has also changed within online publishing environment.
Parts of the puzzle

1. Cochrane Reviews published as unique and updated articles
2. Describing changes for updates: what’s happening and what’s new?
3. What if I need a new protocol to become as LSR?
4. Sharing information about updates with our readers
5. Have we solved the publishing puzzle?
Cochrane Reviews published as unique and updated articles
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

• Each Cochrane Review is an article
• Each Cochrane Review has a unique identifier called a digital object identifier (DOI):

  10.1002/14651858.CD001751.pub3
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

- Each Cochrane Review is an article
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  10.1002/14651858.CD001751.pub3

  Wiley
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

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  10.1002/14651858.CD001751.pub3
  
  ISSN of the Cochrane Library
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

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Cochrane Review ID
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

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  10.1002/14651858.CD001751.pub3

Version number (for versions 2 and up)

Way to distinguish updates!
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

• Each Cochrane Review is an article
• Each Cochrane Review has a unique identifier called a digital object identifier (DOI):
  10.1002/14651858.CD001751.pub3
• New DOI = new citation
Identifying a Cochrane Review and its updates

- New citation = new entry in PubMed (for example)
- Updated reviews are linked in PubMed

Biocompatible hemodialysis membranes for acute renal failure.
Alonso A, Lau J, Jaber BL.
Update of:
PMID: 18254074 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

CrossMark

- Digital logo on html and PDF versions
- One use is to highlight important publication record information
- New for Cochrane Reviews

http://www.crossref.org/crossmark/Publishers.htm
http://blog.crossref.org/2016/01/linking-clinical-trials-enriched-metadata-and-increased-transparency.html
CrossMark

Digital logo on html and PDF versions

One use is to highlight important publication record information.

Another recent use is to link together publications that reference particular clinical trials.

http://www.crossref.org/crossmark/Publishers.htm
http://blog.crossref.org/2016/01/linking-clinical-trials-enriched-metadata-and-increased-transparency.html
Why is this important?

Help readers **find** Cochrane Reviews and **link** updates

Help readers **learn** about updates and other changes to Cochrane Reviews
Describing change for updates
WHAT’S HAPPENING AND WHAT’S NEW?
Is this Cochrane Review a LSR?

How and where

• Title?
• Label or tag? (Currently used for a ‘type’)
• Other?

D-dimer test for excluding the diagnosis of pulmonary embolism

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

Fay Crawford, Alina Andras, Karen Welch, Karen Sheares, David Keeling, Francesca M Chappell
I know it’s a LSR, what else do I need to know?

- **What’s happening** = what is the current activity in relation to the review that will feed into the article

- **What’s new** = new in the article
What’s happening?

Once an article is a LSR, there will be a lot of **activity** around the research.

How do you **update readers** with this information?

Route provided by the ‘**Updating Classification System**’
• Updating Classification System (UCS) guides readers as to whether a Cochrane Review is:
  • up to date
  • likely to be updated in future (update pending)
  • does not need updating at the current time (no update planned)

Garner et al. When and how to update systematic reviews: consensus and checklist. *BMJ* 2016; 354 doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i3507

Cochrane Editorial and Publishing Policy Resource: Updating Classification System for Cochrane Reviews
Decision-making flowchart

**Update status**

- Does the published review still address a current question? Has the review had good access or usage? Review used valid methods & was well conducted?
  - No → No update planned
  - Yes → Are there any new relevant methods? Are there any new studies, or new information?
    - No → Up to date
    - Yes → Will the adoption of new methods change the findings or credibility? Will the new studies/information/data change the findings or credibility?
      - No → Up to date
      - Yes or maybe → Update pending
      - Prepare update

**Rationale for update status**

1. Intervention(s) not in [general] use or been superseded
2. Review superseded
3. Research area no longer active
4. Impact of published version (e.g. via article-level metrics)
5. Other (provide reason)

6. No new studies identified with search
7. All studies incorporated from most recent search
8. Potentially relevant studies ongoing but not yet complete
9. Other (provide reason)

10. Certainty (quality) of evidence high in published review
11. New information identified but unlikely to change review findings
12. Other (provide reason)

13. Authors currently updating
14. Studies awaiting assessment
15. New contributors needed
16. Other (provide reason)
• Single location to report and share the updating status of a review

• This uses a **new publishing pipeline** – publishes in ‘real time’ **alongside** the review, and can be revised as required without republishing the review*

• Separates a **publishing activity** (e.g. one that affects content/DOI) with one that **provides information about the updating status** of a review
Example: Up to date
What’s new? (in the article)

• LSR article will need to be updated (with a new citation)
• How to let readers know what is new?
  • Updated text
  • What’s new section
• New infographic-type approach for the history of the review
• (Also revise “Update status” as appropriate)
What if I need a new protocol to become as LSR?
Starting a LSR may mean changing or updating methods
May involve starting with a new protocol
What approaches are possible?

- New protocol and publish
- New CD number (and DOI), loss of relationship to review
What approaches are possible?

• New protocol and don’t publish
  • Protocol not visible
What approaches are possible?

- Prepare update and include revised protocol within update
- Protocol visible, but not a separate publication
What approach is possible?

- New feature in development: to allow a protocol as part of a review update
- Protocol visible; ensures a continuous publication record with clear links between versions
Sharing information about updates with our readers
What’s happening?

What is the current activity in relation to the review that will feed into the article

What’s new?

New in the article
**What’s happening?**

- Review being updated
- Another ongoing study
- No new trials

**What’s new?**

- New studies incl/excl
- Findings have changed
- New protocol

**What?**

- Brief complementary info
- Other approach?

**How?**

- Article level
- CrossMark?

**Where?**

- Article level
- CrossMark
- PubMed
Have we solved the publishing puzzle?
In summary

• It’s a complex puzzle!
• We are trying out new approaches
• Changing external environment
• Opportunities to explore in this area
Thank you

My thanks to John Hilton, Editor, Cochrane Editorial Unit

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