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Why is it difficult to implement methods consistently in Cochrane?

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Disclaimer

- Some of my best friends are methodologists (even Cochrane methodologists)
- No point in trying to appear intellectual when you are talking after John Ioannidis, you are bound to fail.



Dangerous minds ...



- [Lex Luthor](#) is one of the most dangerously intelligent men on the planet - a super-villain, a brilliant scientist, a billionaire industrialist

From: the Lex Luthor disambiguation page

http://dc.wikia.com/wiki/Lex_Luthor



Dangerous minds of Cochrane methodologists



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Mild mannered





Mild mannered ... review authors





The Cochrane problem...

- Many Lex Luthors



- **Review** authors are really mild mannered human beings...



... who wear underwear under their clothes!



Best laid plans of mice and mad dangerously intelligent men

(A stereotypical view)

- Cochrane methods:
 - developed in rather ad hoc way
 - may not address key concerns of review authors or CRGs
 - introduced when (not quite) ready
 - review authors and review groups blamed for failures in implementation





Methodological innovation requires behaviour change by review authors & CRGs

- Build stronger motivation (in review authors and CRG)
 - Why is this relevant for my review?
 - Give me the skills to do the new behaviour
 - Help me feel confident that I can do the new behaviour
 - Create social norms (will it help me get Lois Lane?)
- Translating motivation into action
 - Planned processes
 - Social support
- Supporting physical and psychological environment
 - Editorial processes and support
 - Editorial resources
 - Tools



Key challenges (1)

- Methodological innovation that meets needs of review authors and CRGs
- Methodological innovation appropriate for range of issues in Cochrane reviews
- Planned and phased process
- Communicated for mild mannered human beings
- Globally co-ordinated training for CRGs and review authors
- Support tools (eg embedded in Revman)



Key challenges (2)

PRINTS principle for methodological development

- P - Pragmatic
- R - Robust
- I - Intelligible
- N - Necessary
- T - Timely
- S - Supported



Key challenge (3)

- Methodological innovations add to burden for updating
- Need to develop policies about when and how updates should implement methodological innovation
- Need to develop supports for implementing methodological innovations



Mild mannered human beings around the world will thank you, Lex and Lexess

