Is there a role for medical librarians in the "brave new world" of systematic review development?

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INTRODUCTION

There has been a steady growth of published medical research in the past 25 years. To make sense of this ever expanding literature, clinicians, researchers and librarians prefer "prefiltered" resources, such as the Cochrane Library, to improve patient care. It is a challenge not only to search, find, deliver and apply the synthesized literature, but also to become its developer.

AIM

To present a process of a Cochrane review elaboration by a multiprofessional team of authors, namely 3 pediatricians, 1 pharmacologist and a librarian acting as a co-reviewer and responsible for search of literature.

METHODS AND RESULTS

Basic steps of producing a systematic review on "Diuretics for nephrotic syndrome" will be described including clinical question definition, approval from the Cochrane Renal Group, collaborative working and fund-raising. A special attention will be given to the librarian input that may be considered a key element to start and complete a successful systematic review. CONCLUSIONS

Systematic reviews play a crucial role in healthcare delivery. Their complexity requires a close collaboration between clinicians and information specialists. Collaborative working contributes to interpersonal relationships and sustained motivation of the library staff to bring about institutional benefits.