

## Introducing the New Interface for the CRD Databases

Su Golder and Kate Misso

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York

[spg3@york.ac.uk](mailto:spg3@york.ac.uk)

For over 10 years, the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) has been producing and promoting the use of high quality research based knowledge in health and social care. One means by which CRD promotes the transfer of knowledge is through its three databases;

- DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects)
- NHS EED (NHS Economic Evaluation Database)
- HTA (Health Technology Assessment Database)

### DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects)

Systematic reviews can provide reliable information about what is known and not known about the effects of interventions. Just as with individual studies, systematic reviews can be difficult to identify efficiently, can have methodological flaws and can be difficult to interpret. DARE provides the solution by systematically identifying and quality assessing reviews from around the world. For each review that meets the DARE criteria and is included in the database, abstracts are written that describe the review methods, results and conclusions and provide a critical assessment of the quality of the review.

### NHS EED (NHS Economic Evaluation Database)

As health care resources are finite, access to reliable information about the costs as well as the effects of interventions is essential to making decisions

about competing health care interventions. Like DARE, NHS EED assists decision makers by systematically identifying economic evaluations from around the world.

For each economic evaluation that meets the NHS EED criteria and is included in NHS EED abstracts are written that assess the reliability and generalisability of the study, and present any practical implications for the NHS.

### **HTA (Health Technology Assessment Database)**

Health technology assessment is not only about the evaluation of new drugs or equipment but can be about the evaluation of any intervention, procedure or method of delivering health services. The HTA database brings together details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments from around the world. Unlike DARE and NHS EED, the abstracts in the database are descriptive rather than critical.

The database is produced in collaboration with the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA) Secretariat, based at SBU, Sweden.

### **Search Interface**

The CRD databases are available for FREE on the web ([www.crd.york.ac.uk](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk)) and are searched via a single interface. They offer abstracts of:

- over 4000 quality assessed and critically appraised systematic reviews
- over 6000 quality assessed economic evaluations and details of thousands of other papers about the economic aspects of health care
- over 6000 completed and ongoing health technology assessments
- all Cochrane reviews and protocols

All three databases are updated monthly and contain details of abstracts in the process of being written. These can be 'fast-tracked' on request.

In August 2006 the databases were re-launched with a new interface. This offers many improvements in terms of functionality and ease of use. Enhanced search and navigation options are now available. A single search query box allows basic one line searches with options to restrict to a specific field (e.g. title). More advanced searching is possible via the search history option, where users can combine previously created search sets.

### Basic Search

Within the basic search facility a search on the phrase smoking cessation can be entered as follows;

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

**Search**

☒ All these words

☐ Any of these words

(Searches using AND/OR/NOT combinations override the above)

Search box: "smoking cessation" **search**

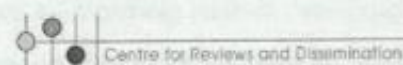
Year published From [ ] - [ ] [restrictions info](#)

10 results per page

### Search History

This search facility allows combinations of terms to be searched such as the search strategy below;





## Search

☒ All these words:

☐ Any of these words

#1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5

Search

(Searches using AND/OR/NOT combinations override the above)

Year published

From

restrictions info

10 results per page

History

Saved searches

## Search history

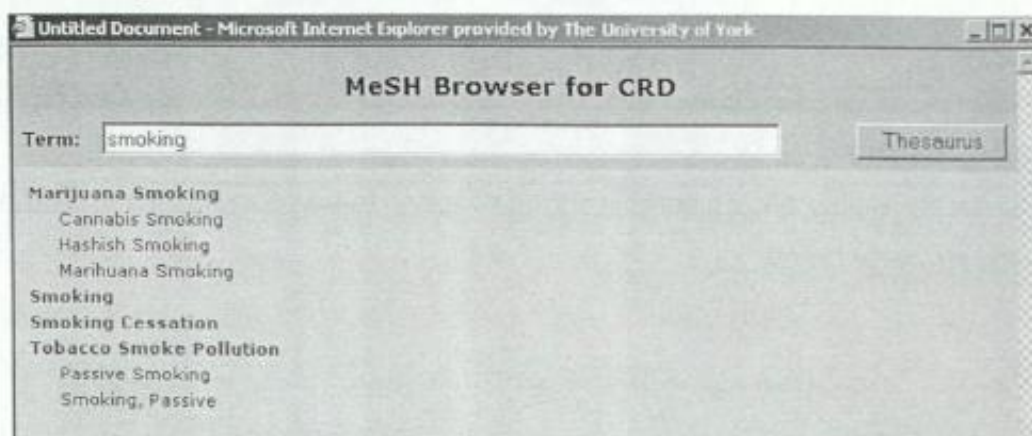
	Search	Matching
# 1	MeSH Smoking EXPLODE 1	185
# 2	MeSH Tobacco EXPLODE 1	11
# 3	MeSH Tobacco Use Disorder EXPLODE 1 2	31
# 4	MeSH Nicotine EXPLODE 1 2	36
# 5	smoking OR antismoking OR anti-smoking OR smoker OR smokers OR tobacco OR nicotine OR cigar* OR snuff OR snus	786
# 6	#1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5	786

[Clear history](#) | [Save history](#) | [Export history](#)

MeSH searching has been made easier through a permuted index, which lists all the MeSH terms you are browsing or alternative entries that contain the word you are browsing.

## MeSH Browser

Entering the term smoking into the MeSH browser results in the following options being presented;



You can now create a user profile so you can save and reload search histories and edit and export saved histories. To do this you just register using the *logon* option. There are also an increasing number of "ready-made" searches created by CRD on topics of general interest and suggestions for further topics are welcomed. Another advantage of the new interface is that you can now choose whether you wish to receive email alerts or receive RSS feeds whenever new items are added.

The interface also has an enhanced presentation and layout, with clearer presentation of search results, the ability to view results for all three databases in one list or separately, and an improved record display. So why not see for yourself at: [www.crd.york.ac.uk](http://www.crd.york.ac.uk)

## Results Display

The results of searching for smoking cessation in all three databases looks as follows:

The screenshot shows the CRD search results interface. At the top, it says 'Centre for Reviews and Dissemination' and 'UPDATE Software by Update Software'. There are links for 'Help', 'Why log in?', and 'Log in'. The search bar contains 'smoking cessation' and shows '294' results. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'All results (294)', 'DARE (132)', 'NHS EED (124)', and 'HTA (32)'. The results are displayed in a table with columns: 'Select Database', 'Title', 'Year published', 'Author', 'Source', and 'Record type'. The table lists four results from HTA, NHS EED, and HTA.

Select Database	Title	Year published	Author	Source	Record type
<input type="checkbox"/> HTA	Interventions and referral for smoking cessation in primary care and other settings	2006	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	London: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)	Full publication record
<input type="checkbox"/> HTA	Tobacco use: prevention, cessation, and control	2006	Ramsey L, Melvin C, Liu L, McClain E, Margan L, Lohr K	Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Full publication record
<input type="checkbox"/> NHS EED	Cytosine base sustained-release to immediate-release bupropion: patient tolerability and economic impact	2005	Mayo J L, Cahill G M, Lott R S	Pharmaceuticals	Economic evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> NHS EED	Cost effectiveness of a community based research project to help women quit smoking	2005	Sacker Walker R H, Holland R R, Lloyd C M, Patten R, Dore R C	Tobacco Control	Economic evaluation

### Need Help?

In addition to extensive help pages, CRD also provides a database help desk to support searchers. The Help Desk is run by CRD Information Officers, many of whom are involved in producing the DARE, NHS EED and HTA databases. If you have questions about database content, how to search, search histories or exporting references, please contact our Help Desk:

CRD database helpdesk  
(9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Tel: +44 (0)1904 321846

Fax: +44 (0)1904 321041

Email: [crd-info@york.ac.uk](mailto:crd-info@york.ac.uk)

### CRD Enquiry Desk

CRD provides an information and enquiry service to help answer specific questions about the effects of health and social care interventions and the delivery and organisation of care. The service is free to health and social care professionals, researchers, managers and information workers. We provide information on the results of systematic reviews, economic evaluations and health technology assessments. We can also provide advice on systematic review and searching methodology. We do our best to help enquirers but if unable to assist you ourselves, we will try to direct you to other relevant sources of information

### Information Service: literature searches

As well as brief support free of charge to enquirers, the CRD Information Service can offer more substantial, priced information retrieval support for systematic reviews and guidelines projects.



## Training Courses

We also offer training courses in literature searching to support systematic reviews. The next CRD Information course, "*The Information Professional in the Systematic Review Process: an introduction to identifying and managing the evidence*", is planned for November 2006. The course covers search techniques and filters, costing information support for proposals and documenting search strategies. An advanced level course is planned for spring 2007.

For further information on any of our courses, check our Training web page or contact Kate Misso.  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/infosrcourse.htm>  
01904 321081  
[kvm1@york.ac.uk](mailto:kvm1@york.ac.uk)

To discuss your literature search support requirements further please contact us as below.

You can access the Enquiry Service by:

- our online form
- telephone: 01904 321846 (9am-5pm, Mon- Fri)
- fax: 01904 321041
- email: [crd-info@york.ac.uk](mailto:crd-info@york.ac.uk)