

## WS03

### “Search filter testing: achievements thus far and next steps for the future”

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**Type of workshop:** Round table with small group discussions and evaluation

**Target group:** Information professionals, clinicians and other healthcare staff involved in literature searching

**Main goal of the workshop:** To improve search filters and get more standardisation of literature searching among different organisations.

Search filters or hedges are important to retrieve the best available evidence in the context of evidence based guidelines. More knowledge of filter characteristics (precision and recall) can be obtained by analyzing, comparing and testing of filters. This knowledge can be used for improvement of filters and/or for choosing an optimal filter for a specific search topic. We will give a short presentation about the work that until now is realized by the SEARCH working group concerning definitions and building of a ‘comparison database’ for the validation of search filters in our ‘filter project’.

This workshop will begin with a group discussion to share knowledge of filter characteristics (precision and recall) and to identify problems related to filter quality.

Examples of search strategies for systematic reviews, RCT’s and observational studies used by several guideline organisations (CBO, SIGN, NICE) will be compared and discussed by participants.

Then we will give an introduction to the future use of the classified references to measure recall and precision of already available search filters in different organizations. Next step for discussion in the workshop will be testing of filters in real life for validation. Validation of filters with a reference set of papers identified by a “specific” search (=for a limited topic in a limited time period) in Medline (methodology described in Sampson 2006, Moerman et al. 2009). Focus is: How to construct a manageable reference set pro topic.

Finally, participants will draft a proposal for a future work programme for filter testing in their own organization and exchange of tested search filters with other organizations.