

Summary

EVALUATION

RQ1 — Has an IR approach to evaluation been performed for this task and is it sufficient?

How to perform IR evaluation within the context of systematic review search.

IMPROVING QUERIES

RQ2 — How to measure and improve the effectiveness of Boolean queries in the context of systematic reviews?

How an information specialist formulates a query to retrieve medical study citations.

IMPROVING RETRIEVAL

RQ3 — How can retrieval be improved in order to reduce the workload in the screening phase?

How an IR system uses the queries to search studies.

IMPLEMENTING RANKING

RQ4 — How can ranking be applied to assist reviewers prioritise citations in the screening phase?

How to rank studies from most relevant to least.

Significance

- The motivation for this research is to decrease the workload required of reviews contributing to systematic reviews in the early searching and screening phases
- Workload reduction has three benefits:
 1. **Reduction in time and cost** of systematic reviews
 2. More timely publishing of systematic reviews (leading to **more confident and timely clinical decisions**)
 3. **Updating a review** becomes more convenient