

Search pyramids to find research evidence

A summary of

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2013). Search Pyramids. Hamilton, ON: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. Available from: <http://www.nccmt.ca/eiph/search-eng.html>



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National Collaborating Centre
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Tool, Search

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Tool

Relevance For Public Health

These tools can be used to quickly and efficiently find high quality research evidence for public health to inform program and policy decisions.

Description

Developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools, [search pyramids](#) help users quickly find high quality research evidence on different public health topics. These pre-populated search pyramids link to relevant sources of evidence.

The search pyramids are based on the 6S pyramid of research evidence (DiCenso, Bayley & Haynes, [2009a](#), [2009b](#)).

Pre-appraised resources are assessed for methodological rigour, and in some instances are synthesized (guidelines and systematic reviews). In other instances, the resources are both synthesized and summarized ([Robeson, Dobbins, DeCorby & Tirilis, 2010](#)). Databases, such as [Health Evidence](#), critically appraise systematic reviews to assess the review's quality, and in some cases produce a summary of the review.

Accessing pre-appraised evidence according to the 6S pyramid is a more efficient way of finding research evidence since:

- synthesized evidence encompasses systematic search and quality appraisal of many single studies, so that findings are less likely to be influenced by bias; and
- evidence has been critically appraised to determine its methodological quality.

Features of the search pyramids include:

- sources of research evidence;
- sites that include pre-appraised evidence to ensure high quality evidence is accessed; and
- customizable searches so users can include additional websites and save their settings.

The search pyramids can be used along with an online module, Searching For Evidence in Public Health, that can be accessed from NCCMT's Learning Centre.

Implementing the Tool

Who is Involved?

Anyone looking for public health research evidence can use the search pyramids.

Steps for Using Tool

The seven search pyramids are:

1. General public health evidence
 2. Environmental health
 3. Injury prevention
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These summaries are written by the [NCCMT](#) to condense and to provide an overview of the resources listed in the [Registry of Methods and Tools](#) and to give suggestions for their use in a public health context. For more information on individual methods and tools included in the review, please consult the authors/developers of the original resources.

4. Mental health
5. Health communication and social media
6. Healthy habits (healthy eating, physical activity) for children
7. Healthy habits (healthy eating, physical activity) for adults

Evaluation and Measurement Characteristics

Evaluation

Has not been evaluated

Validity

Not applicable

Reliability

Not applicable

Methodological Rating



Not applicable

Tool Development

Developers

Donna Ciliska
National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools
McMaster University
Website: www.nccmt.ca

Method of Development

An experienced librarian with expertise in evidence-informed practice and public health and McMaster University faculty developed the search pyramids.

Release Date

2013

Contact Person

National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools
McMaster University
1685 Main St W
Hamilton, ON L8S 1G5
Email: nccmt@mcmaster.ca

Resources

Title of Primary Resource	Search Pyramids
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.nccmt.ca/eiph/search-eng.html
Reference	National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (2013). <i>Search Pyramids</i> . Hamilton, ON: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. Available from: http://www.nccmt.ca/eiph/search-eng.html
Type of Material	Online tool
Format	On-line Access
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English, French
Conditions for Use	Copyright © 2013 National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools

Title of Supplementary Resource	An introduction to evidence-based public health and a compendium of critical appraisal tools for public health practice
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.nccmt.ca/publications/8/view-eng.html
Reference	Ciliska, D., Thomas, H. & Buffet, C. (2012). <i>An Introduction to Evidence-Informed Public Health and A Compendium of Critical Appraisal Tools for Public Health Practice (Revised)</i> . Hamilton, ON: National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools
Type of Material	Paper
Format	On-line Access
Cost to Access	None.
Language	English, French
Conditions for Use	Not specified

Title of Supplementary Resource	Accessing pre-appraised evidence: fine-tuning the 5S model into a 6S model
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://ebn.bmj.com/content/12/4/99.2.long
Reference	DiCenso, A., Bayley, L. & Haynes, R. B. (2009a). Accessing pre-appraised evidence: fine-tuning the 5S model into a 6S model. <i>Evidence-Based Nursing</i> , 12: 99-101. doi: 10.1136/ebn.12.4.99-b
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	Journal article purchase
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Not specified

Title of Supplementary Resource	Editorial: Accessing preappraised evidence: fine-tuning the 5S model into a 6S model
File Attachment	None
Web-link	https://plus.mcmaster.ca/ACCESSSS/documentation/Haynes_6S_Editorial.pdf
Reference	DiCenso, A., Bayley, L. & Haynes, R. B (2009b). ACP Journal Club. Editorial: Accessing preappraised evidence: fine-tuning the 5S model into a 6S model. <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i> , 151(6), JC3-2, JC3-3.
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	On-line Access
Cost to Access	Journal article purchase
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Not specified

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Title of Supplementary Resource	Facilitating access to pre-processed research evidence in public health
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/95
Reference	Robeson, P., Dobbins, M., DeCorby, K., & Tirilis, D. (2010). Facilitating access to pre-processed research evidence in public health. <i>BMC Public Health</i> , 10(95). doi: 10.1186/1471-2458-10-95.
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	Not specified
Language	English
Conditions for Use	Not specified

Title of Supplementary Resource	Of studies, syntheses, synopses, summaries, and systems: the "5S" evolution of information services for evidence-based healthcare decisions.
File Attachment	None
Web-link	http://ebn.bmj.com/content/10/1/6.long
Reference	Haynes, B. (2007). Of studies, syntheses, synopses, summaries, and systems: the "5S" evolution of information services for evidence-based healthcare decisions. <i>Evidence-Based Nursing</i> , 10: 6-7. doi: 10.1136/ebn.10.1.6
Type of Material	Journal article
Format	Periodical
Cost to Access	Not specified
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