

Impact of librarians on reporting of the literature searching component of pediatric systematic reviews

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APPENDIX C

Questionnaire sent to corresponding author of each systematic review article in the data pool

Dear Dr. _____,

We are librarians at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada, conducting a research project on the quality of methodologies reported within systematic reviews in order to determine what impact having a librarian or other information professional involved has on the methodological practice and reporting within systematic reviews. It should only take a few moments of your time to answer the three questions below, and you can simply reply to this email. We would highly appreciate your response as it would be very valuable to our research.

This project has received approval from the Ethics Review Board at Western University and more information can be found at <http://www.edu.uwo.ca/research/ethics.html>. Please take the time to carefully read the attached "Letter of Information" for detailed information that will help you to make an informed decision regarding participation in this research.

Study purpose

Our sample was derived from all systematic reviews in PubMed that were published in the Top 20 paediatrics journals as determined by impact factor from the 2010 science edition of Journal Citation Reports. Your review, titled _____, was captured in our sample, and we would greatly appreciate knowing the answers to the questions below, as they relate to your systematic review. Please note that your response will be aggregated along with other responses. In reporting, the results all necessary steps will be taken to eliminate the possibility of identifying individual responses.

1. Did you utilize the services of a professional librarian or other information professional (please describe) in the conduct of this systematic review?

2. If yes, which of the following best describes the role this person played in this project?

Consultant only

Systematic review team member

Coauthor

Other? (please describe)

3) What was the input of this person? (Choose as many as apply)

Consulted for resource and strategy suggestions

Created search strategy completely

Provided review of search strategy

Compiled resources for searching



Performed hand-searches
Coordinated reference management procedures
Drafting of sections of manuscript
Proofreading and editing of manuscript
Other? (please describe)

We thank you in advance for sharing this information, and if you would like to be informed upon publication of this research, please let us know and we will notify you.