



# The Bergen Statement on Evidence-Based Research

on behalf of the EBRNetwork

Hans Lund

Denmark & Norway

# PREAMBLE



As

- researchers
- funders
- regulators
- publishers
- educators
- information specialists
- etc

we too often fail to use

earlier research when preparing to initiate, fund or publish the results of new studies

**Not doing it, is unethical, unscientific, and wasteful.**

# PRINCIPLES

No. 1

No new studies without  
a prior systematic  
review of existing  
evidence

No. 2

Efficient production,  
updating and  
dissemination of  
systematic reviews

# No. 1 No new studies...



This goal involves:

1. Researchers
2. Funding agencies
3. Regulators / ethic committees
4. Editors / reviewers
5. Educators

# No. 1 No new studies...



## Researchers ...

- Skills and tasks when preparing a SR
- Skills and tasks to "pass it on"

No. 1  
No new studies  
without a prior  
systematic review  
of existing evidence

	<b>Adequate skills to</b>	<b>Tasks</b>
1.1. Scope	Prioritise research question(s) in relation to the totality of earlier and on-going research.	Replicate earlier research when necessary but avoid unnecessary duplication of research.
1.2. Search	Search for relevant systematic reviews, and relevant completed and on-going primary research.	List sources searched: databases, journals, books, reference lists, research registers etc., and search terms used, in the Methods section (including the time-frame of the search).
1.3. Study selection	Select the relevant studies against pre-defined inclusion/exclusion criteria.	List criteria used to include or exclude, with no restrictions (publication date, language or others) in the Methods section.
1.4. Critical appraisal	Assess the risk of bias (internal validity) of identified studies and the overall quality of the evidence.	Report the results of the risk of bias (study limitations) assessment in the Results section.
1.5. Evidence synthesis	Synthesise earlier research as a basis for the new study's conclusion.	Combine the new study's results with earlier research results using quantitative or qualitative synthesis methods.
1.6. 'Pass it on'	Supervise PhD students in using and preparing systematic reviews	Encourage and supervise PhD students to prepare and use systematic reviews in their PhD projects.

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# No. 1 No new studies...



Funding agencies - Regulators / ethic committees - Editors / reviewers ...

Responsible for evaluating whether

- researchers have used systematic reviews of prior research to identify and support for the **research question**.
- the proposed **designs of new studies** are adequately supported by systematic reviews of prior research.

# No. 1 No new studies...



Educators ...

Responsible for teaching

- the importance of an **unbiased approach to knowledge synthesis** (i.e., systematic review).
- how to seek or prepare and **use systematic reviews when planning and interpreting** research activities.



# No. 2 Efficient production ...



This goal involves

1. Researchers
2. Information specialists / librarians
3. Information technologists / programmers
4. Funding agencies

# No. 2 Efficient production ...



Researchers ...

Responsible for participating in research and developmental activities to:

- Improve the production and updating of systematic reviews
- Develop automation of the preparation of systematic reviews.

# No. 2 Efficient production ...



Information specialists / librarians ...

Responsible for

- developing methods to increase the **quality and the promptness** of literature searches.
- participating in **teaching researchers** how to perform high quality literature searches.
- participating in research and developmental activities to **improve the production and updating of systematic reviews** & develop **automation** of the preparation of systematic reviews.

# No. 2 Efficient production ...



Information technologists ...

Responsible for participating in research and developmental activities to:

- Improve the production and updating of systematic reviews
- Develop automation of the preparation of systematic reviews.

# No. 2 Efficient production ...



Funding agencies ...

Encourage to support development and researching aiming at:

- Improve the production and updating of systematic reviews
- Develop automation of the preparation of systematic reviews.



Thank you for your  
attention



The Evidence-Based Research Network