Strategies for Keeping up with the Literature

Tanya Horsley
No Conflicts to Declare
Thank you
• Discuss & share
• Some will learn...more than others
• Co-teaching
• No magic bullets
• No expert
• Case example “Thorsley-style”
• One size does not fit all
In one hour

- Explore the notion of “keeping up”
- Framed using 3 important stages
- Identify ‘pearls’
- Distribute
What does ‘Keeping up” mean to you?

Think  Pair  Share
Is ‘keeping up’ even possible?

- 23,000 Journals
- 2+ million publications
- Nearly 90 HPE Journals
- Publications increasing
Abstract

Purpose
To determine the characteristics of medical education studies published in general and internal medicine (GIM) and medical education journals, and to analyze the accuracy of their indexing.

Method
The authors identified the five GIM and five medical education journals that published the most articles indexed in MEDLINE as medical education during January 2001 to January 2010. They searched Ovid MEDLINE for evaluative medical education studies published in these journals during this period and classified them as quantitative or qualitative studies according to MEDLINE indexing. They also examined themes and learner levels targeted. Using a random sample of records, they assessed the accuracy of study-type indexing.

Results
Of 4,418 records retrieved, 3,853 (87.2%) were from medical education journals and 565 (12.3%) were from GIM journals. Qualitative studies and program evaluations were more prevalent within medical education journals, whereas GIM journals published a higher proportion of clinical trials and systematic reviews ($\chi^2 = 74.28$, $df = 3$, $P < .001$). Medical education journals had a concentration of studies targeting medical students, whereas GIM journals had a concentration targeting residents; themes were similar. The authors confirmed that 170 (56.7%) of the 300 sampled articles were correctly classified in MEDLINE as evaluative studies.

Conclusions
The majority of the identified evaluative studies were published in medical education journals, confirming the integrity of medical education as a specialty. Findings concerning the study types published in medical education versus GIM journals are important for medical education researchers who seek to publish outside the field's specialty journals.
1) Push / Pull Strategies
2) Prioritizing
3) Organizing / Managing
Search Strategies

- Literature-based search engines
- RSS Feeds
- TOC alerts
- Auto-Alerts

http://rcpsc.medical.org/clip/seminar_series/videos/ufholz_video_e.php

- Web crawlers / mega-crawlers
- Filtered / sifted literature
## Tailor to your ‘generation’ profile

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formative experiences</strong></td>
<td>Second World War</td>
<td>Cold War</td>
<td>End of Cold War</td>
<td>9/11 terrorist attacks</td>
<td>Economic downturn</td>
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<td>Rabioning</td>
<td>Post-War boom</td>
<td>Fall of Berlin Wall</td>
<td>PlayStation</td>
<td>Global warming</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fixed gender roles</td>
<td>&quot;Swinging Sixties&quot;</td>
<td>Reagan / Gorbachev</td>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>Global focus</td>
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<td>Rock ‘n’ Roll</td>
<td>Apollo Moon landings</td>
<td>Thatcher</td>
<td>Invasion of Iraq</td>
<td>Mobile devices</td>
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<td>Nuclear families</td>
<td>Youth culture</td>
<td>Live Aid</td>
<td>Reality TV</td>
<td>Energy crisis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Defined gender roles — particularly for women</td>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>Introduction of first PC</td>
<td>Google Earth</td>
<td>Amp Spring</td>
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<td>Family-oriented</td>
<td>Early mobile technology</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Cloud computing</td>
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<td>Rise of the teenager</td>
<td>Latch-key kids</td>
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<td>rising rates of divorce</td>
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<td><strong>Percentage in U.K. workforce</strong></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>Currently employed in either part-time jobs or new apprenticeships</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aspiration</strong></td>
<td>Home ownership</td>
<td>Job security</td>
<td>Work-life balance</td>
<td>Freedom and flexibility</td>
<td>Security and stability</td>
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<td><strong>Attitude toward technology</strong></td>
<td>Largely disengaged</td>
<td>Early information technology (IT) adaptors</td>
<td>Digital Immigrants</td>
<td>Digital Natives</td>
<td>“Techno-geeks” — entirely dependent on IT; limited grasp of alternatives</td>
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<td><strong>Attitude toward career</strong></td>
<td>Jobs are for life</td>
<td>Organisational — careers are defined by employers</td>
<td>Early &quot;portfolio&quot; careers — loyal to profession, not necessarily to employer</td>
<td>Digital entrepreneurs — work “with” organisations not “for”</td>
<td>Career multi-taskers — will move seamlessly between organisations and “pop-up” businesses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Signature product</strong></td>
<td>Automobile</td>
<td>Television</td>
<td>Personal Computer</td>
<td>Tablet/Smart Phone</td>
<td>Google glass, graphene, nano-computing, 3-D printing, driverless cars</td>
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<td><strong>Communication media</strong></td>
<td>Formal letter</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>E-mail and text message</td>
<td>Text or social media</td>
<td>Hand-held (or integrated into clothing) communication devices</td>
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<td><strong>Communication preference</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Face-to-face ideally, but telephone or email if required</td>
<td>Text messaging or e-mail</td>
<td>Online and mobile (text messaging)</td>
<td>FaceTime</td>
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<td><strong>Preference when making financial decisions</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face meetings</td>
<td>Face-to-face ideally, but increasingly go online</td>
<td>Online — would prefer face-to-face if time permitting</td>
<td>Face-to-face</td>
<td>Solutions will be digitally crowd-sourced</td>
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*Percentages are approximate at the time of publication.
Sorry!

Think  Pair  Share
Pearls

- Literature Search
  - PubChase

- RSS
  - Feedly
  - Flipboard
  - Digg Reader

- Filter Sites
  - National Collaborating Centre for Tools and Methods
  - https://www.tripdatabase.com/
Prioritizing

- Focus Primary Care
- Physicians trained in epidemiology would take an estimated 627.5 hours per month to evaluate these articles.
Prioritize
Scoping Your Scope of Practice

Scanning

Methods
(Experimental, evidence syntheses, reporting)

Associate Director / Educator

Knowledge Translation / Implementation Sciences

Non-Academic (grants, calls for papers, etc.)

Continuing Professional Development
Isn’t this fun?!
Not the norm

[Comic panels showing a search process: someone thinking '??', searching, getting zero results, and then thinking 'I broke google!']

RESEARCH: THAT MOMENT WHEN NOT EVEN GOOGLE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
No Thinking, No Pairing

Think  Pair  Share
Thorsley Approach

- Prioritize
- Screen (garbage in and garbage out)
- Share (important strategy)
- Schedule time
  - Let’s be realistic here!
- Reference database with PDF (categorize according to my ‘scope’ of practice)
- Reflections within notes
- File in RefMan (to read)
Great Tools
A (in)famous man once said...

“They come to me and I say ‘no’”
Key Strategies to Keep Up

- Framework tailored to you
- Define and stick with your scope
- Choose a few tactics
- Set aside time
- Create a peer group
- Manage your records
When in doubt...

KEEP CALM AND SEARCH ON