

Nordic Cochrane News

Newsletter for the Nordic Cochrane Centre (NCC)



Issue 10, December 2005

Melbourne 2005, front cover illustration by Jacob Riis, The Nordic Cochrane Centre



License agreement between The Nordic Cochrane Centre and The Cochrane Collaboration on software

The software used by review authors and Cochrane review groups to prepare and maintain Cochrane Reviews and other information for publication in *The Cochrane Library* is developed by The Nordic Cochrane Centre (NCC), and the copyright of the software, known under the collective name The Cochrane Information Management System (IMS), rests with the host institution of the NCC, Rigshospitalet. Rigshospitalet acknowledges that the development of the Cochrane IMS is a result of the requirements of The Cochrane Collaboration and recognizes the important input made by its many members over time. In order to formalise the implicit arrangement, The Cochrane Collaboration and Rigshospitalet recently signed a license agreement that gives The Cochrane Collaboration complete freedom to use the software developed by The

Nordic Cochrane Centre as a result of project work for the Collaboration at no cost. Any income from sales of licences to third-parties will be divided according to the investments made by Rigshospitalet and The Cochrane Collaboration. The software can still be used freely for non-commercial purposes.

Following on from the new license agreement, minor changes have been introduced to the citation for Review Manager, which, in the current version should be cited as: Review Manager (RevMan) [Computer program]. Version 4.2 for Windows. Copenhagen: The Nordic Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2003.

Monica Kjeldstrom

Cochrane Library user statistics

Citizens in Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, and almost all physicians in Finland, have free access to the Internet version of *The Cochrane Library*. This is undoubtedly one of the major reasons that *The Cochrane Library* is often consulted in these countries. During one month, in August 2005, number of different users was 2501 in Norway and 2469 in Denmark. When frequency of use worldwide is ranked according to the size of the population, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden came within the first 11 countries on the list.

Peter C. Gøtzsche

Research activities at The NCC

Our research activities have broadened. Our main focus is still bias in randomised clinical trials and systematic reviews, and in 2005, work has been completed on blinding in clinical trials; allocation concealment as described in protocols and corresponding trial reports; conclusions of meta-analyses in relation to quality of the included trials; constraints on publication rights and ghost authorship in industry-initiated trials; and relation between conflicts of interest and scientific information in meta-analyses and other scientific articles. Other research areas involve systematic reviews of studies of diagnostic tests; studies of inter-observer variation; reporting of observational studies; reliability of P-values; and communication of scientific information to the public.

Five PhD students have been associated with the centre.

Bodil-Als Nielsen defended her thesis "Treatment of hepatic encephalopathy – systematic Cochrane reviews of randomised clinical trials" in May, and Julie Pildal defended her thesis "Protection against bias in randomised clinical trials and meta-analyses" in September. Karsten Juhl Jørgensen focuses on harms and informed consent in relation to mammography screening; Bo Rud investigates the diagnostic accuracy of a clinical decision rule for identifying women with likely osteoporosis; and Kirsten Hansen analyses how theories are constructed within conventional medicine and complementary-alternative medicine.

Asbjørn Hróbjartsson

Summary of findings table for Cochrane Reviews

The Summary of findings (SoF) table has been suggested as a separate element of the Cochrane Review to be located near the abstract. It should include information about each of the main outcomes for the main comparison in the review: the number of patients and trials, the control group risk, the effect size (relative and absolute), and the quality of the evidence for each main outcome.

We invited all Cochrane Review Groups to participate in a pilot study. The review authors were provided with software and instructions for preparing SoF tables, and completed the SoF tables for their reviews. After submission of the table, they were sent a brief questionnaire about their experiences and asked for suggestions for improvements of the SoF tables and the software.

Summary of findings tables based on 21 new or updated Cochrane Reviews were completed and submitted to us. The included reviews were from 18 different review groups. The results are still being evaluated and questionnaire feedback collected but it is clear that the review authors who participated in this pilot test successfully prepared Summary of findings tables from their own reviews. The SoF tables appear likely to improve both the accessibility and the quality of the reviews.

*Gunn Vist
Andy Oxman
Holger Schünemann*

How do health professionals find, use, and experience *The Cochrane Library*?

Objective: To evaluate the usability of *The Cochrane Library* (CL) web site by observing health professionals' behaviour in a structured user test.

Method: 13 Norwegian health professionals carried out several tasks, including finding the site, browsing freely, and finding specific content. Users were observed and video-taped and the observation notes and video recordings were reviewed and compiled.

Results: All participants were familiar with The Cochrane Collaboration and systematic reviews, and were positive to CL. Main challenges when using the site included:

- *Finding CL:* Only two of 13 participants found CL without considerable confusion. Several found www.cochrane.org or Update Software and thought they were CL.
- *Navigation:* Few participants understood the menu or content structure. Alphabetical lists were unhelpful because the user must know the first word of the review title.

- *Searching and search results:* Almost no one found the information they were asked to search for. Problems included identifying search terms and spelling English terms correctly. Participants did not appear to understand the difference in content between the various databases, and did not understand abbreviations such as DARE, HTA, etc.
- *Cochrane-Wiley relation:* Several participants thought that Cochrane was a subgroup of Wiley and were unclear about Wiley's identity, for instance if they were a commercial (pharmaceutical) company.

After the test, participants were still positive to CL, but tended to blame their lack of results on their own inabilities to search properly.

Conclusion: Participants see CL as a relevant source of information but may give up because of usability problems. The lack of clarity regarding our publisher Wiley's identity and their relation to *The Cochrane Library* creates branding problems for both organisations.

Wiley initiated a usability study this summer resulting in similar findings. They are currently planning how to address these issues in a redesign of the web site.

*Sarah Rosenbaum
Claire Glenton
Irene Langengen*

**How to become involved in the
Cochrane Collaboration?
See www.cochrane.dk**

Continental European Cochrane Entities Meeting 2006 in Copenhagen

The Nordic Cochrane Centre is pleased to announce that we host the Continental European Cochrane Entities Meeting on 3-5 May 2006 in Copenhagen. There will be a mix of lectures, discussions and group work, and we will deal with quality issues in systematic reviews, editorial processes, diagnostic tests and software issues. We hope the agenda will attract both scientific and administrative staff. For further information, please sign up at <http://cochrane.de/mailman/listinfo/cecem>.

Jannie Hedegaard

New staff at the NCC



Frihild Askham

Administrator, joined The Nordic Cochrane Centre on 3 January 2005.



Martin S. Christensen

System Developer (student assistant) joined the IMS team at The Nordic Cochrane Centre on 7 November 2005 on a part-time basis.

Workshops and meetings at the NCC in 2006

Date	Event
3-5 May	Continental European Cochrane Entities Meeting (CECEM)
15 May	Protocol workshop
9 October	Protocol workshop
On demand	Individual sessions on writing protocols/reviews and using RevMan (Copenhagen and Oslo)

Details on www.cochrane.dk

Publication dates - Cochrane Library

Issue 1, 2006	25 January 2006
Issue 2, 2006	19 April 2006
Issue 3, 2006	19 July 2006
Issue 4, 2006	18 October 2006
Issue 1, 2007	24 January 2007



**The Nordic Cochrane Centre
wishes you all
A Happy New Year**

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