

Project C – Cross-referencing between reviews

C.1 Background

Reviews that are related by topic should cite each other. This makes it easier to move between reviews within The Cochrane Library but will also help to improve the impact factor of Cochrane reviews where the cited reviews are within the relevant publication period window. At the moment, however, Archie does not contain special features to help authors cite other Cochrane reviews and it is difficult to find which reviews cite other reviews in The Cochrane Library.

For Overviews of reviews, accurate referencing between parent and child reviews is of special importance.

C.2 Proposal and discussion

Archie should provide the following facilities:

- A search option for reviews that cite a particular review
- A search option to show the reviews being cited within a review and to find Cochrane reviews that do not cite other reviews
- A wizard that suggests reviews to cite for a particular review and helps insert the correct citations
- A system for notifying authors when other reviews cite their review

We propose an analysis phase before implementing these features, which may identify other facilities that should also be included.

Searching for references across all reviews is a computationally heavy operation, and so many aspects of this project rely on the introduction of the XML indexing functionality in Project 4 (Replacement for parent database).

C.3 Summary of recommendations

Resources should be allocated to provide cross-referencing facilities for Cochrane reviews in Archie.

C.4 Resource implications

Resource implications are approximately 2 FTE weeks on analysis and design, 7 FTE weeks for development, 3 FTE weeks for testing and 1 FTE week for user documentation.

C. 5 Impact statement

Ensuring optimal cross-referencing between Cochrane reviews will increase the usability of The Cochrane Library, improve access to Cochrane reviews, and have a beneficial effect on the impact factor.