

SWAR 10: Comparing training strategies for reviewers learning to use software tools for systematic reviews

Objective of this SWAR

To compare training strategies for people learning to use software tools for systematic reviews

Study area: Training

Sample type: Reviewers

Estimated funding level needed: Very Low

Background

A variety of software tools are now available to help with the systematic review process but a sizable investment can be required for training and support in their use. Furthermore, if users feel uncomfortable or frustrated with the software, they might lag in the task they were working on or abandon the software and complete the task in another way. This SWAR provides a framework for assessing the effects of different types of training and support for learning how to use systematic reviewer software. It could be implemented in the context of rolling out new or updated software tools.

Interventions and comparators

Intervention 1: Written instructions including FAQs only without trainer interaction

Intervention 2: Oral instructions with immediate feedback and screen share

Intervention 3: Screenshot video with choice of feedback time and method (e.g. auditory, written or screen share)

Intervention 4: Written instructions alone (comparator)

Index Type: Full Review

Method for allocating to intervention or comparator

Various

Outcome measures

Primary: Task completion times; number of support interactions

Secondary: Learner self-rated confidence

Analysis plans

Task completion times, number of support interactions and learner preferences for the training session across different interventions would be compared using comparative statistics.

Possible problems in implementing this SWAR

One challenge in implementing this SWAR is that any problems with the software (especially if it is new) could have more impact on the outcomes than the training and support intervention.

Furthermore, if it is implemented for one software tool only, uncertainties will remain about its applicability to other tools. Therefore, the more software developers and those training reviewers implement this SWAR and share their findings, the more useful the collected data will be.

References

Publications or presentations of this SWAR design

Examples of the implementation of this SWAR

People to show as the source of this idea: Amy Price

Contact email address: dr.amyprice@gmail.com

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Revisions made by:

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