CASE STUDY: Search filters in the CINAHL and JBI databases Cabrini Health

Refers to: NSQHS Standards 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10

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Introduction

Cabrini Health Library was concerned that clinical staff sometimes had difficulty locating relevant journal articles about the topics covered in the NSQHS standards. The Library staff developed and implemented tailored search filters in two key databases, as an option staff could use to guide their searches. The filters cover the areas of patient safety, falls, wound care, medication management, hand hygiene and patient experience. Some are designed to work in the CINAHL database, others apply in the Joanna Briggs Institute evidence-based practice resource. All the search filters were listed on the Cabrini Health Library's "Quality, Safety & Patient Experience" guide page, which also highlighted other resources relevant to the NSQHS Standards.

Method

CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature)

In order to add search filters/limiters in CINAHL, the Cabrini Health Library utilised the listed Special Interest Categories already contained within the CINAHL database and embedded these permanent weblinks to individual categories as search filters. The categories they chose were patient safety, falls, wound care and medication management.

These categories are available in the CINAHL advanced search page as "special interest" limits. The Special Interest Category field contains a specific category of special interest used to describe the content of an article. Each category includes:

- Articles from specific journals (Excel list viewable online)
- Articles from other journals in the database that are not on the Excel list, but are about the subject area of the category

The links are durable permalinks and new articles are displayed as items are indexed into the database. The links to the Cabrini Health Library's four search filters sit within their LibGuide; one click launches the chosen search. From here further searching can occur to narrow results.

The Ovid company, hosting the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) resource, offers a landing page to help guide people searching the database. From this page there are the options of limiting searching to "subject nodes" and "expert searches". Again Cabrini Health Library utilised some of these options to embed quick links to these search filters within their LibGuide. Within JBI a subject node/expert search includes either a subject area, or slices of the database including only those records related to the subject area across all relevant segments. However not all NSQHS Standard options were available within JBI so Cabrini Health Library worked with Ovid's technical support team to create some additional search filters to support their organisation's needs. Together Cabrini Health Library and Ovid developed additional filters which focused on evidence based practice in two additional areas (falls and patient experience). Cabrini Health Library now links out to five search filters within the JBI database in the areas of hand hygiene, medication errors, wound care, falls and patient experience.

Cabrini Health Library found Ovid excellent to work with and the additional work was done free of charge. The links to Cabrini's five search filters sit within their LibGuide; one click launches the chosen search. From the results screen, further searching can refine or change the yield of citations.

Discussion

In addition to the Ovid partner work, the Health Library also collaborated with Cabrini's Risk, Clinical Governance and Patient Experience teams, who saw potential in the project. These experts were very supportive of the Library developing the search filters, as well as the Quality, Safety & Patient Experience LibGuide. There was no upfront cost to add the search filters, though naturally the work required librarian time and expertise. The LibGuide platform can count the number of "hits" on the website, unfortunately use of the search filters themselves is not measured. However from across the organisation there has been anecdotal evidence of usage through positive feedback.

Future development

There is scope to develop more search filters with Ovid in the JBI platform and across other Ovid resources. There is also potential to discuss with EBSCO (the CINAHL hosting company) whether more Special Interest Group categories which are relevant to the NSQHS Standards can be added within CINAHL.

Future refinements could include developing improved usage statistics for the search filters, including the search filters as widgets in other products offered by EBSCO or Ovid, and redesigning

the filter implementation so that remote users have a smooth authentication process when using these tools offsite.

Conclusion

Overall Cabrini Health Library is pleased with the search filters and their implementation. There was support internally and from external vendors, the cost to implement was free (although included staff time), librarians' skills were utilised and a tailored product was delivered to address the organisation's needs.

This case study also highlights the importance of librarians sharing knowledge. The search filters idea/innovation was initially mentioned on a health libraries' discussion list. Without seeing the e-list message and the generous sharing of information the Cabrini Health Library might not have learned about the Special Interest Groups in CINAHL, which is what sparked the idea to begin with.