

Acknowledging Academic Librarians' Contributions in Research Publications

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Research goals

- Development of best practices for co-authorship vs. acknowledgement of librarians' contributions
- Explore librarian supervisors' attitudes toward acknowledgements
- Explore whether or not acknowledgements can be made more searchable.

Co-authorship or Acknowledgement?

Example 1

- Singh JA, Noorbaloochi S, Singh G.
Golimumab for rheumatoid arthritis.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
2010, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD008341.
DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008341.

Search methods

An **expert librarian** searched six databases for any clinical trials of golimumab in RA, including the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), OVID MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, Science Citation Index (Web of Science) and Current Controlled Trials databases. (Abstract)

Acknowledgements

We thank Louise Falzon for performing the electronic search, Tamara Rader for helping with the plain language summary and Lara Maxwell for providing editorial comments. (p. 21)

Example 2

- Horsley T, O'Neill J, McGowan J, Perrier L, Kane G, Campbell C. Interventions to improve question formulation in professional practice and self-directed learning. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2010, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD007335.

DOI: [10.1002/14651858.CD007335.pub2](https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD007335.pub2).

Contribution of Authors

- Conception of review: T. Horsley
- Protocol development: T. Horsley, J. McGowan, J. O'Neill, C. Campbell, G. Kane
- **Development and execution of searches: L. Perrier**
- Article retrieval and bibliographic database support: J. O'Neill
- Relevance screening: T. Horsley, J. O'Neill
- Risk-of-bias assessment: T. Horsley, J. O'Neill
- Data extraction: T. Horsley, J. O'Neill
- Data synthesis and interpretation: T. Horsley
- Drafting of the review: T. Horsley
- **Critical revision of review: C. Campbell, J. O'Neill, J. McGowan, L. Perrier, G. Kane**
- **Final approval of review: T. Horsley, J. O'Neill, J. McGowan, L. Perrier, G. Kane**

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Are Perrier's and Falzon's contributions the same?

- Communication with research team about authorship is critical to receiving appropriate credit
- A framework for librarians could help facilitate that communication

Who is an Author?

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

SOURCE: International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICJME)

<http://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

Non-Author Contributions

- acquisition of funding
- general supervision of a research group
- general administrative support
- writing assistance, technical editing, language editing, and proofreading
- served as scientific advisors
- critically reviewed the study proposal
- collected data
- provided and cared for study patients

Librarian Non-Authorial Contributions

- Spending time helping a researcher locate hard-to-find publications (eg: government publications, data, statistics)
- Teaching a researcher how to do detailed searching or how to extract data from a data source
- Minimally revising and re-executing a search constructed by someone else.

Next Steps

- Conduct survey of librarians on subject
 - across disciplines and environments
- Use results to build preliminary framework

Potential Survey Questions

- What should be included in the authorship/acknowledgement framework?
- Are librarians told when they are acknowledged?
- Are librarians asked to coauthor?

Potential Survey Questions

- Do other librarians face similar issues?
- What best practices should librarians follow when communicating with research teams regarding authorship or acknowledgement?

Other Research Questions

- Explore librarian supervisors' attitudes toward acknowledgements,
- Explore whether or not acknowledgements can be made more searchable.

Questions?

Thank you!

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