

$$\text{Usefulness} = \frac{\text{Relevance} \times \text{Validity}}{\text{Work}}$$

Name	Description	Access Requirements
Foraging Tools		
ACP Journal Club http://www.acpjc.org	Bimonthly journal that analyze the content over 100 clinical journals and summarizes those articles found to have scientific merit and relevance to medical practice	Subscription required
American Family Physician http://www.aafp.org/afp	Twice monthly clinical review journal that contains EMB components such as POEM's, Cochrane for Clinicians and Point-of-Care Guides	Subscription required
The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/revabstr/mainindex.htm	Most extensive database of systematic reviews	Free online access to abstracts; subscription required for full-text
The York Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/darehp.htm	Collection of abstracts of systematic reviews	Free online
Essential Evidence Plus http://www.essentialevidenceplus.com	Daily e-mail update with approximately 30 POEM's per month	Subscription required
Pharmacist's Letter http://www.pharmacistsletter.com	Unbiased evidence and advice for the pharmacist updated monthly	Subscription required for online, print and handheld
Hunting Tools		
Clinical Evidence http://www.clinicalevidence.com	A compendium of systematic reviews, gathered from Cochrane, MEDLINE updated and expanded every 6 months	Subscription required
DynaMed http://www.ebscohost.com/dynamed/	A database of summaries of the evidence drawn from sources such as Clinical Evidence and the Cochrane Library	Subscription required
Essential Evidence Plus http://www.essentialevidenceplus.com	A search engine with access to EBM such as POEM's, Cochrane, clinical rules, practice guideline summaries; subscribers also receive access to Essential Evidence Plus	Subscription required for online and handheld access
UpToDate http://www.uptodate.com/home	Electronic evidence-based clinical decision support resource authored by physicians to help healthcare practitioners make the best decisions at the point of care.	Subscription required for online and handheld access
TRIP Database (Turning Research Into Practice) http://www.tripdatabase.com	A search engine that gathers EBM information from MEDLINE, DARE, the National Guideline Clearinghouse and other EBM sites	Free online access

Comparison Table For Hunting Tools

Hunting Tool _____

Relevance Criteria

Are key recommendations supported by patient-oriented outcomes when possible , and when not, specified as preliminary when supported by disease-oriented outcomes

YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO

Validity Criteria (found in the “about” section)

Is there an explanation of how validity is assessed?*

YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO

Is there a specific method for searching the literature?

YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO

If YES, what is it?

Do the search methods include at least one evidence-based resource

YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO

If YES, what method(s)

Are key recommendations supported by strength of recommendation (SOR) levels of evidence (LOE) using acceptable criteria?

How often is the information updated? Is it systematic and timely?

Other Information (including work)

Is the funding source identifiable?

YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO

If YES, what is it?

What is the cost?

\$ \$ \$ \$

What platforms are available for access to the information

Smartphone Web-based Desktop Other Smartphone Web-based Desktop Other Smartphone Web-based Desktop Other Smartphone Web-based Desktop Other

Is it coordinated with a high quality foraging tool?

YES NO YES NO YES NO YES NO

* Acceptable indicators of a validity assessment

Therapy: a) randomization; b) control group; c) intention to treat analysis; d) blind outcome evaluations; e) concealed allocation assignment

Diagnosis: a) gold standard; b) blind interpretation of test results; c) description of study population; d) consecutive enrollment

Prognosis: a) inception cohort; b) adequate follow-up; c) blind assessment of outcomes; d) description of referral pattern

Decision/Cost analysis: a) inclusions of important strategies/outcomes; b) explicit method for combining probabilities; c) credible costs/utilities; d) sensitivity reviews

Reviews: a) specific search methods using EB resources; b) specific study inclusion criteria; c) independent assessment of review and evaluation; d) discussion of publication bias; e) homo-heterogeneity of results

Comparison Table For Foraging Tools

Foraging Tool

Evaluating a sample of the tool

Is the scope of information limited to your specialty? (i.e. relevant)?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Does it seem that the service emphasizes new research findings that focuses on patient vs. disease-oriented (i.e. POEMs vs. DOEs)?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Are key recommendations supported by strength of recommendation (SOR) or levels of evidence (LOE) using acceptable criteria?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Does the service explain how validity is assessed?*	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

Evaluating the system used by the service to evaluate for relevance and validity

Most of this information will need to be obtained from the web site or supporting documentation

Does the service have specific criteria for designating what types of sources of research are used?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
If YES, does the service have specific criteria for distinguishing between patient and disease-oriented outcomes?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Does the service have specific criteria for evaluating research and including research of a certain quality?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO

Other information

What is the cost? \$_____ \$_____ \$_____ \$_____

How does the service deliver the information	Paper	Paper	Paper	Paper
	E-mail	E-mail	E-mail	E-mail
	Web	Web	Web	Web

How often is the information updated?

Is it coordinated with a high quality hunting tool?

* Acceptable indicators of a validity assessment

Therapy: a) randomization; b) control group; c) intention to treat analysis; d) blind outcome evaluations; e) concealed allocation assignment

Diagnosis: a) gold standard; b) blind interpretation of test results; c) description of study population; d) consecutive enrollment

Prognosis: a) inception cohort; b) adequate follow-up; c) blind assessment of outcomes; d) description of referral pattern

Decision/Cost analysis: a) inclusions of important strategies/outcomes; b) explicit method for combining probabilities; c) credible costs/utilities; d) sensitivity reviews

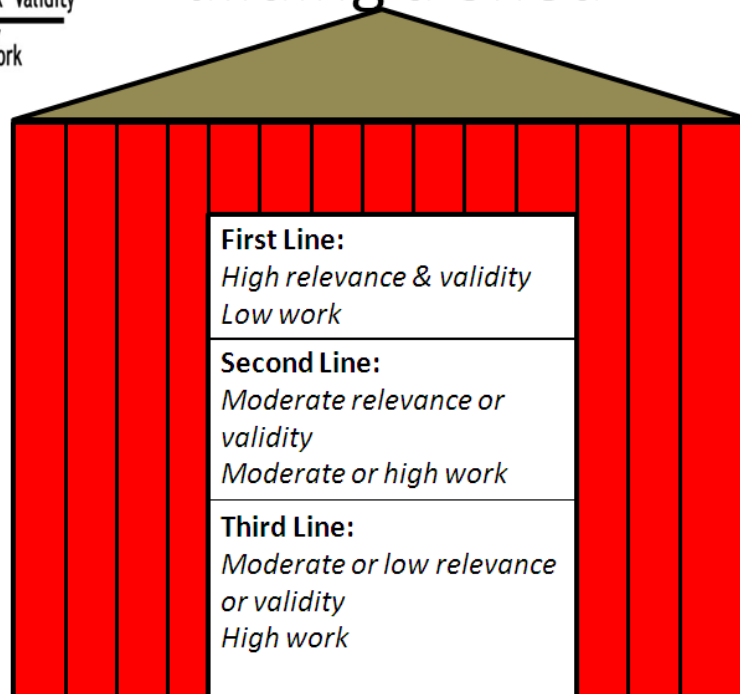
Reviews: a) specific search methods using EB resources; b) specific study inclusion criteria; c) independent assessment of review and evaluation; d) discussion of publication bias; e) homo-heterogeneity of results

Adapted from Center for Information Mastery:

<http://medicine.tufts.edu/Education/Academic-Departments/Clinical-Departments/Family-Medicine/Center-for-Information-Mastery>

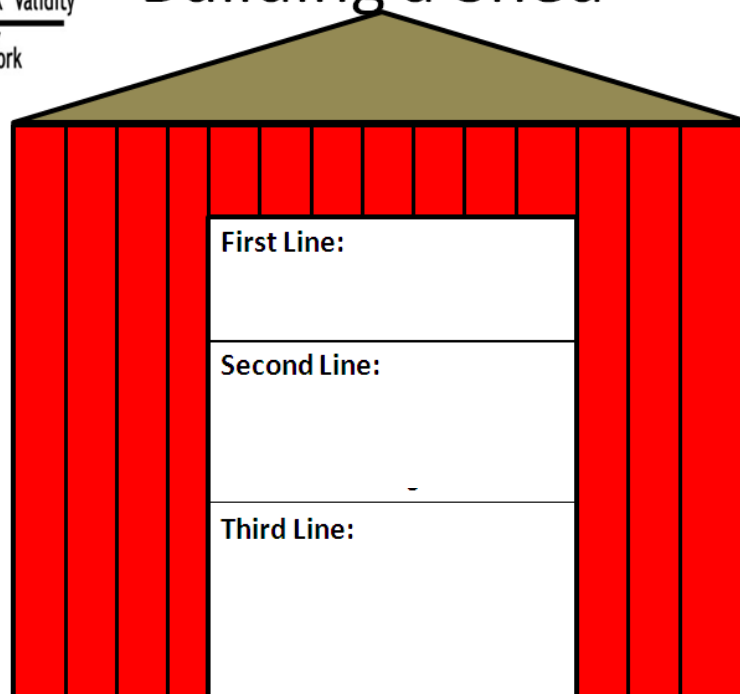
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Building a Shed



$$\text{Usefulness} = \frac{\text{Relevance} \times \text{Validity}}{\text{Work}}$$

Building a Shed



Selected Resources:

Shaughnessy AF, Slawson DC, Bennett JH. Becoming an information master: A guidebook to the medical information jungle. J Fam Pract.1994;39:489-99.

Slawson DC, Shaughnessy AF, Bennett JH. Becoming an information master: Feeling good about not knowing everything. J Fam Pract.1994;38:505-13.

Grandage KK, Slawson DC, Shaughnessy AF. When less is more: a practical approach to searching for evidence-based answers. J Med Lib Assoc 2002;90:298-304.

Ebell MH. How to find answers to clinical questions. Am Fam Physician. 2009;79(4):293-296.

Center for Information Mastery: <http://medicine.tufts.edu/Education/Academic-Departments/Clinical-Departments/Family-Medicine/Center-for-Information-Mastery>
<http://clinicalinformationsciences.com/>