

# **Supporting health research proposals; a day in the life of an NIHR Research Design Service information specialist**

Judy Wright and Natalie King  
Information Specialists,

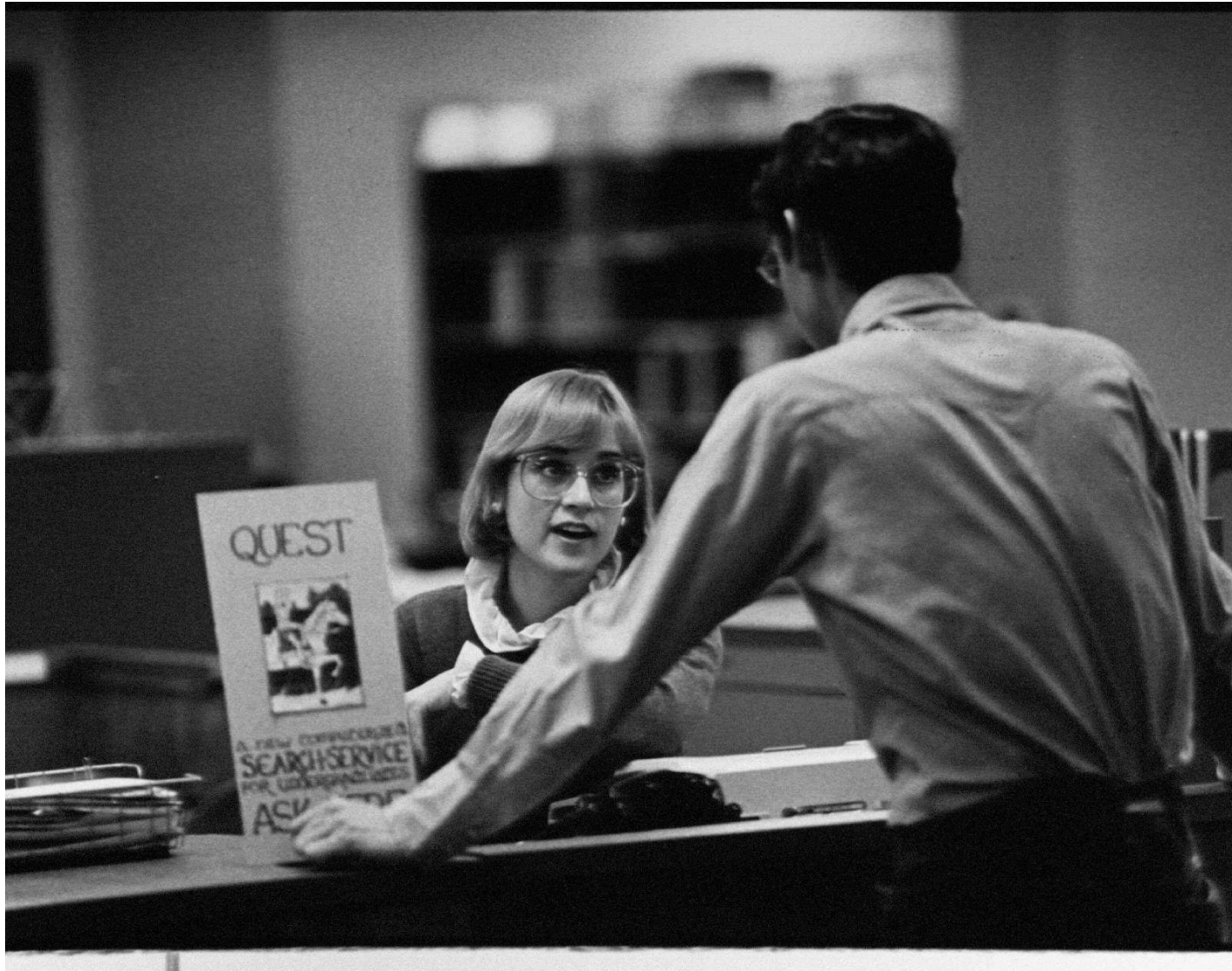
NIHR Research Design Service Yorkshire and the Humber  
Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, University of Leeds

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# Can I check if it's been done before?



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# Session overview

- Research competitions, research waste and literature searches
- NIHR Research Design Service, RDS Information Specialists
- Type of information services provided
- Search methods, sources and strategies
- Costing a librarian into a research project
- How can you support research proposals?

# Research competitions

- Winning research grants is increasingly competitive <sup>(1)</sup>
  - 2014-15 applications to Research Councils UK (RCUK) grew 12% on previous year
  - RCUK success rate just under 28% in 2014-15
  - 22% for MRC



Sandcastle competition at Bembridge © Ian S (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Completing applications is very time consuming 😞

‘Research Waste Agenda’ – growing awareness and attempts to reduce unfundable, poor quality proposals

# Avoiding Research Waste – a brief history



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- 85% biomedical research funding unnecessarily wasted <sup>(2)</sup>
- ‘the principle that the initiation of research without a systematic review of already known evidence is unethical, unscientific & wasteful..’ <sup>(3)</sup>
- 2014 Lancet series ‘Biomedical research: increasing value, reducing waste’. 5 reviews lead to 17 recommendations e.g. improved publishing, reporting, research design.
- 2015 progress update <sup>(3)</sup>
- Recommendation 3 - Librarians can help 😊



# Recommendation 3 – What do we already know?



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- “Research funders and regulators should demand that proposals for additional primary research are justified by systematic reviews, showing what is already known, and increase funding for the synthesis of existing evidence” <sup>(3)</sup>



NIHR and DFG (German funder) require references to existing systematic reviews and review of relevant evidence including ongoing research in research applications.



NIH (US), CIHR (Canada), NHMRC (Australia), MRC (UK) do not (yet...)



“To increase the number and proportion of high quality applications for funding ...”

***“of clear relevance to NHS services, clinicians and users”***



<http://www.rds.nihr.ac.uk/>

- “Each RDS must **at its core** have access to methodological expertise”
  - Research methodology
  - Health economics
  - Statistics
  - Systematic reviews
  - Health psychology and behavioural science
- “Must also be able to **draw on other expertise** as necessary or provide advice and guidance on all aspects of research design and conduct”



- Promoting the services available to support researchers in the NHS
- Increasing engagement with NHS staff, developing 'balanced' research team
- Research funding awareness events, tips for applicants
- Face-to-face advice clinics



# NIHR RDS Information Specialists

## Preliminary survey results



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- Often part of their wider role as Information Specialist in a University research department (e.g. few hours per week funded by NIHR RDS)
- Available in North East, Yorkshire, E Midlands, W Midlands. East of England? South West?
- In other regions, the researchers and other advisors do searches
- Time per enquiry ranges from few hours to several days. ½ day -1 day seems to be usual
- Variation in funding, time spent and type of services offered across the regions
- No formal national communication but informal networks

# E.g.s of Information advice work (from ongoing RDS survey)



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- Literature searches:
  - Current research checks
  - Scoping literature searches
  - Systematic review searches
- Other advice
  - Checking references, putting references in EndNote
  - Document acquisition
  - Commenting on proposal as a whole
  - Signposting to other RDS advisors and possible collaborators
  - Training in systematic review methods
  - Who might fund this?
  - How much would it cost to include Librarians in the research project?

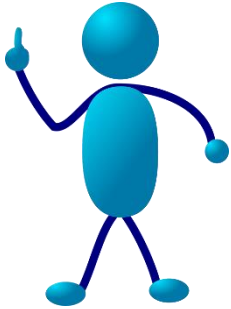


# Example query @ Leeds RDS

## First steps for Dr Ken



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Dr Ken has a research idea to demonstrate that a questionnaire is particularly good for GPs to diagnosing dementia.

Contact RDS

Explains research idea and plans on RDS online form

Meet RDS Advisor

Discusses  
What is known already about dementia diagnosis  
How viable plans are  
Possible funders and collaborators

Contact Info Specialist

Plan searches to check:  
Evidence base  
Research recommendations  
Ongoing research

- Research recommendations
  - James Lind Alliance top 10 (DUETs no longer maintained)
  - Systematic Review and journal paper recommendations
- Ongoing and recent research databases
- Overviews of evidence –systematic reviews and summaries
- Prioritise databases, choose most important 1-3 for your question.
  - Eg. PsycInfo for Mental Health may take priority over Medline



# Search methods - Strategies

- Quick searches (not exhaustive) – using clinical queries and filters...
  - simple, concept searches
  - targeted searches – using MeSH, focussed terms, title searches
  - Use ready made filters, clinical queries e.g. Clinical Trial publication type for Therapy studies, or clinical queries searches.
- Look in a few key databases



- **Top 10s of priorities for research**  
<http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/top-10-priorities/>



- Funder's 'Special Calls' e.g. Obesity
- Systematic reviews may recommend further research





## Dementia Top 10

1. What are the most effective components of care that keep a person with dementia as independent as they can be at all stages of the disease in all care settings?
2. How can the best ways to care for people with dementia, including results from research findings, be effectively disseminated and implemented into care practice?
3. What is the impact of an early diagnosis of dementia and how can primary care support a more effective route to diagnosis?

### *Particular questions were raised about the impact of early diagnosis on:*

- Health-related outcomes for people with dementia and their carers (including impact on the progression of the disease and life expectancy, mental health, quality of life, attitudes of healthcare professionals to treatment for people with dementia, and on outcomes for carers, including quality of life and mental health).
- Wider outcomes in society for people with dementia and carers/family (including financial planning, insurance issues, employment prospects, independence, access to other healthcare services, driving).
- Health and social care services.

### *Particular questions about more effective routes to diagnosis in primary care included:*

- Routes to faster referral to specialists, where appropriate.
  - The best way to communicate a diagnosis of dementia, including who is the best person to communicate the diagnosis and where it should be delivered; how best to involve relatives and carers taking confidentiality into account.
  - The psychological impact of a diagnosis of dementia on the person and carers.
4. What non-pharmacological and/or pharmacological (drug) interventions are most effective for managing challenging behaviour in people with dementia?

# Researcher should at least Google!



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A screenshot of a Google search results page. The search bar at the top contains the text "early diagnosis for dementia in primary care". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All", "News", "Shopping", "Images", "Videos", "More", and "Search tools". The "All" tab is selected. The search results show "About 540,000 results (0.67 seconds)". The first result is "Scholarly articles for early diagnosis for dementia in primary care" with sub-results: "... and delayed diagnosis of dementia in primary care: ... - Bradford - Cited by 184" and "The detection of dementia in the primary care setting - Valcour - Cited by 391". The second result is "Dementia: timely diagnosis and early intervention | The BMJ" with the URL "www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h3029" and the text "by L Robinson - 2015 - Cited by 12 - Related articles" and "16 Jun 2015 - Primary and secondary care doctors play complementary roles in dementia diagnosis; differential diagnoses include cognitive impairment due ...". The third result is "[DOC] Dementia: diagnosis and early intervention in primary care" with the URL "www.rcgp.org.uk/.../Dementia/CIRC\_RCGP%20Factsheet%20Dementia%20diagnosis..." and the text "by A Thomas - Related articles" and "Dementia: diagnosis and early intervention in primary care. Key learning points. Dementia is an increasingly important public health issue, due to our rapidly ...". The fourth result is "[PDF] The benefits of early diagnosis and intervention - Alzheimer's Diseases..." with the URL "https://www.alz.co.uk/research/WorldAlzheimerReport2011.pdf" and the text "Service provision for dementia diagnosis and early stage care 16. Is diagnosis feasible in primary care? 16. Screening to facilitate identification of dementia in.". The fifth result is "[PDF] The benefits of early diagnosis and intervention" with the URL "https://www.alz.co.uk/research/WorldAlzheimerReport2011ExecutiveSummary.pdf" and the text "Service provision for dementia diagnosis and early stage care – a global .... practice-based educational programs in primary care, b) the introduction of ...". The sixth result is "Primary care and dementia - Alzheimer's Society" with the URL "https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents\_info.php?documentID=306..." and the text "While much emphasis has been placed on the role of primary care in early detection and diagnosis of dementia, its role in regular assessment, support and ...".

Google

early diagnosis for dementia in primary care

All News Shopping Images Videos More Search tools

About 540,000 results (0.67 seconds)

Scholarly articles for **early diagnosis for dementia in primary care**  
... and delayed **diagnosis of dementia in primary care**: ... - Bradford - Cited by 184  
The **detection of dementia in the primary care setting** - Valcour - Cited by 391

**Dementia: timely diagnosis and early intervention | The BMJ**  
[www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h3029](http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h3029) ▼  
by L Robinson - 2015 - Cited by 12 - Related articles  
16 Jun 2015 - **Primary** and secondary care doctors play complementary roles in **dementia diagnosis**; differential diagnoses include cognitive impairment due ...

**[DOC] Dementia: diagnosis and early intervention in primary care**  
[www.rcgp.org.uk/.../Dementia/CIRC\\_RCGP%20Factsheet%20Dementia%20diagnosis...](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/.../Dementia/CIRC_RCGP%20Factsheet%20Dementia%20diagnosis...) ▼  
by A Thomas - Related articles  
**Dementia: diagnosis and early intervention in primary care.** Key learning points. Dementia is an increasingly important public health issue, due to our rapidly ...

**[PDF] The benefits of early diagnosis and intervention - Alzheimer's Diseases...**  
<https://www.alz.co.uk/research/WorldAlzheimerReport2011.pdf> ▼  
Service provision for dementia diagnosis and early stage care 16. Is **diagnosis** feasible in primary care? 16. Screening to facilitate identification of dementia in.

**[PDF] The benefits of early diagnosis and intervention**  
<https://www.alz.co.uk/research/WorldAlzheimerReport2011ExecutiveSummary.pdf> ▼  
Service provision for dementia diagnosis and early stage care – a global .... practice-based educational programs in **primary care**, b) the introduction of ...

**Primary care and dementia - Alzheimer's Society**  
[https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=306...](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=306...) ▼  
While much emphasis has been placed on the role of **primary care** in early detection and diagnosis of dementia, its role in regular assessment, support and ...



# Systematic Review search - DEMO

- Cochrane Library
- NHS Evidence
- other databases with SR filter e.g. PsycInfo for Mental Health.

Search


Search Manager


























Medical Terms (MeSH)

Browse

To search an exact word(s) use quotation marks, e.g. "hospital" finds hospital; hospital (no quotation marks) finds hospital and hospitals; pay finds paid, pays, paying, payed)

[Add to top](#)

[View all lines](#) 

			#1	(dementia or alzheimer*):ti,ab,kw		9956
			#2	("early diagnos*"):ti,ab,kw		1482
			#3	(primary or "general practi*" or "family practi*"):ti,ab,kw		121188
			#4	#1 and #2 and #3		12
			#5	#1 and #2		66
			#6		 	N/A

**Clear Strategy**

[Search Help](#)

☐ Highlight orphan lines

Save strategy

Strategy Name

**Save Strategy**

Comments

All Results (66)

☒ Cochrane Reviews (8)

- ☒ All
- ☐ Review
- ☐ Protocol

☐ Other Reviews (4)

☐ Trials (48)

☐ Methods Studies (0)

☐ Technology Assessments (3)

☐ Economic Evaluations (3)

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews : Issue 8 of 12, August 2016

Issue [updated daily](#) throughout month

There are 8 results from 9515 records for your search on #5 - #1 and #2 in Cochrane Reviews in the strategy currently being edited

Sort by Relevance: high to low ▼

[Select all](#) | [Export all](#) | [Export selected](#)



FREE

**<sup>11</sup>C-PIB-PET for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease dementia and other dementias in people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI)**

Shuo Zhang , Nadja Smaligic , Chris Hyde , Anna H Noel-Storr , Yemisi Takwoingi , Rupert McShane and Juan Feng



## Filters

### Guidance

#### ► Area of interest

#### ► Types of information

Evidence Summaries ×

Systematic Reviews ×

#### ► Source

#### ► Medicine

#### ► Date

Clear all filters ×

Results 1 - 10 of 663 sorted by relevance / date

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### Rapid appraisal of barriers to the **diagnosis** and management of patients with **dementia in primary care** : a systematic review

01 July 2010 - Publisher: Springer

**Abstract Background**The diagnosis of dementia in primary care is perceived as a problem across countries and systems, resulting in delayed recognition and adverse outcomes for patients and their carers. Improving its early detection is an area identified for

[Read Summary](#) - [Remove: Systematic Reviews filter](#)

### World Alzheimer report 2011 : the benefits of **early diagnosis** and intervention <sup>[PDF]</sup>

12 September 2011 - Publisher: Alzheimer's Disease International

This report shows that there are interventions that are effective in the early stages of dementia, some of which may be more effective when started earlier, and that there is a strong economic argument in favour of earlier diagnosis and timely intervention.

[Read Summary](#) - [Remove: Evidence Summaries filter](#)

### Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) for the **diagnosis** of **dementia** within a general practice (**primary** care) setting

Source: [Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews](#) - 03 July 2014

...particular utility in **primary** care / general...against a clinical **diagnosis** of **dementia** (the reference...ALOIS (Cochrane **Dementia** and Cognitive Improvement...cognitive screening and **dementia**. We used standardized...increasing globally. **Early diagnosis** of **dementia**...

[Remove: Systematic Reviews filter](#)

### The accuracy of family physicians' **dementia diagnoses** at different stages of **dementia**: a systematic review

Source: [SCIE Social Care Online](#) - 01 January 2012

...physicians' **dementia diagnoses** at different stages of **dementia**: a systematic...recognition and **diagnosis** of **dementia** are critical if...importance of **early diagnosis**, the...different stages of **dementia** in a **primary** care setting...

[Read Summary](#) - [Remove: Systematic Reviews filter](#)

# Ovid Embase Proposal Reviews Search



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Ovid®

My

Search Journals Books My Workspace Multimedia

▼ Search History (13)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp *dementia/	171288
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	(dementia or alzheimer*).ti.	113811
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 or 2 [Dementia]	180004
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	early diagnosis/	93132
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	((early or earlier) adj3 (diagnos* or identif* or test or tests)).ti.	24400
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	4 or 5 [Early Diagnosis]	108990
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	exp *primary health care/	47043
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	*general practice/	40313
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	*general practitioner/	18108
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	(primary or gp or "general practi*" or "family practi*").ti.	374333
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	or/7-10 [Primary Care]	412281
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	3 and 6 and 11	96
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	limit 12 to "reviews (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)"	20

Focused headings (sometimes), title searches, simple searches

Additional limits & clinical queries – useful shortcuts

**L i m i t s**

<input type="checkbox"/> Ovid Full Text Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Latest Update
<input type="checkbox"/> Priority Journals	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstracts	<input type="checkbox"/> Human
<input type="checkbox"/> Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Cochrane
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> English Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Exclude MEDLINE Journals		

Publication Year: - -

To select or remove multiple items from a list below, hold down the Shift, Ctrl, or "Apple" key while clicking.

<input type="checkbox"/> Records From	<input type="checkbox"/> EBM-Evidence Based Medicine
-	-
Embase	Evidence Based Medicine
	Consensus Development
	Meta Analysis
	Outcomes Research
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Trials	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Queries
-	-
Clinical Trial	Reviews (maximizes sensitivity)
Randomized Controlled Trial	Reviews (maximizes specificity)
Controlled Clinical Trial	Reviews (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)
Multicenter Study	Therapy (maximizes sensitivity)
Phase 1 Clinical Trial	Therapy (maximizes specificity)
<input type="checkbox"/> Languages	<input type="checkbox"/> Publication Types
-	-
Afrikaans	Article
Albanian	Book
Arabic	Book Series
Armenian	Chapter
Azerbaijani	Conference Abstract



# Ongoing / recent research - DEMO

- Ongoing trials registers
  - [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov)
  - [ICTRP](https://www.who.int/clinical-trials-registry-platform) International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (WHO)
  -
- Medline-in-Process, Daily update... (Ovid)
- PubMed
- [PROSPERO](https://www.prospero.org/) – International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews
- Funding body web pages e.g [NIHR Evaluation Trials and Studies Portfolio Search](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about/evaluation-trials-and-studies-portfolio-search/)



## Advanced Search

Fill in any or all of the fields below. Click on the label to the left of each search field for more information or read the [Help](#)

[Search Terms:](#)

[Search](#)

[Help](#)

[Recruitment:](#)

All Studies ▾

☐ Exclude Unknown status

[Study Type:](#)

All Studies

[Study Results:](#)

Open Studies

-- Not yet recruiting

-- Recruiting

-- Expanded Access: Available

Closed Studies

-- Active, not recruiting

-- Completed

-- Terminated

-- Suspended

-- Withdrawn

-- Enrolling by invitation

-- Expanded Access: Temporarily not available

-- Expanded Access: No longer available

-- Expanded Access: Approved for marketing

**Eligibility Criteria:**

[Age:](#)

[Gender:](#)

[Accepts Healthy Volunteers:](#)

**Targeted Search:**

[Conditions:](#)

dementia OR alzheimers

[Interventions:](#)

[Title Acronym/Titles:](#)

"early diagnosis"

[Outcome Measures:](#)

[Sponsor/Collaborators:](#)

[Sponsor \(Lead\):](#)

[Study IDs:](#)

☐ Exact match

☐ Exact match

**Locations:**

[State 1:](#)

--- Optional --- ▾

[Country 1:](#)

--- Optional --- ▾

[State 2:](#)

--- Optional --- ▾

[Country 2:](#)

--- Optional --- ▾

[State 3:](#)

--- Optional --- ▾

[Country 3:](#)

--- Optional --- ▾



**11 studies found for:** dementia OR alzheimers | "early diagnosis"

[Modify this search](#) | [How to Use Search Results](#)

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☐ Include only open studies ☐ Exclude studies with Unknown status

Rank	Status	Study
1	Terminated	<a href="#">Early Diagnosis of Alzheimer-like Dementia: Benefit of MRI and PET Imaging</a> <b>Conditions:</b> Alzheimer Disease; Mild Cognitive Impairment; Vascular Dementia <b>Interventions:</b> Other: Magnetic resonance imaging; Other: Positron emission tomography
2	Recruiting	<a href="#">Early Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease - a Multidisciplinary Approach</a> <b>Conditions:</b> Mild Cognitive Impairment; Alzheimer's Disease; Dementia With Lewy Bodies; Vascular Dementia <b>Intervention:</b>
3	Recruiting	<a href="#">Korean Brain Aging Study for Early Diagnosis and Prediction of Alzheimer's Disease</a> <b>Conditions:</b> Alzheimer's Disease; Mild Cognitive Impairment <b>Intervention:</b>
4	Active, not recruiting	<a href="#">Vagus Somatosensory Evoked Potentials and Near-infrared Spectroscopy in the Early Diagnosis of Dementia</a> <b>Condition:</b> Alzheimer's Disease <b>Intervention:</b>
5	Completed	<a href="#">Early Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease: Clinical, Neuropsychological and Neuroimaging Follow-up of a Cohort of Patients With an Isolated Memory Impairment</a> <b>Condition:</b> Alzheimer's Disease <b>Interventions:</b> Other: Neurological and neuropsychological consultation, MRI; Other: Neurological and neuropsychological consultation, MRI, Studies in imaging of drip, DNA
6	Recruiting	<a href="#">Developing a New EEG Method for the Early Diagnosis of Dementia</a> <b>Condition:</b> Dementia



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## ▼ Search History (13)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp *dementia/	111920	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	(dementia or alzheimer*).ti.	87631	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	1 or 2 [Dementia]	125049	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	early diagnosis/	20117	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	((early or earlier) adj3 (diagnos* or identif* or test or tests)).ti.	18534	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	4 or 5 [Early Diagnosis]	33821	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	exp *primary health care/	71414	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	*general practice/	8025	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	*general practitioner/	4021	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	(primary or gp or "general practi*" or "family practi*").ti.	299398	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	or/7-10 [Primary Care]	347320	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	3 and 6 and 11	51	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	limit 12 to yr="2010 -Current"	28	Advanced	<a href="#">Display</a>

Save

Remove

Combine with:

AND

OR

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Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process &amp; Other Non-Indexed Citations, Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily and Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present

Click to [show your search history and hide search results](#) . Remember you can use the [quick search page](#) instead.



Go

MeSH

Clear filters

Show filters

The default is to search the whole of PROSPERO without restriction. Change how PROSPERO is searched by clicking Show Filters button then editing the sections to add one or more search filters. All filters you select will be applied to the next search you perform and will stay in place until you change them.

6 records found for **(dementia or alzheimers) and "early diagnosis"**

[\[Export\]](#)

Registered  Title 

Review status 

23/08/2016	18F-PET ligands for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease dementia and other dementias in people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) [Cochrane Protocol]	Ongoing
18/08/2015	Automated tests for cognitive impairment	Ongoing
06/01/2015	Individual and group psychotherapy with people affected by dementia	Ongoing
22/05/2015	Informant Questionnaire on Cognitive Decline in the Elderly (IQCODE) for the early diagnosis of dementia across a variety of healthcare settings [Cochrane Protocol]	Ongoing
30/10/2015	Multi-disciplinary team approaches to screening and early diagnosis of dementia in primary care - costs and consequences	Ongoing
04/06/2013	Observational assessments of task performance in complex everyday activities to estimate functional cognition in older adults: a systematic review and evaluation of measurement properties	Ongoing



## Evaluation, Trials and Studies

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**Project portfolio**

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The impact of our health research

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### Search our portfolio of projects

Search terms

[Search](#)

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### Results for: *Dementia early diagnosis*

Filter by project status:

☐ All statuses

☐ Waiting to start

☒ Research in progress

☐ Waiting to publish

☐ Project complete

ALL

EME

HS&DR

HTA

PHR

SR

### Recent portfolio projects

Start date (desc) ▾

10 results per page ▾

Number of projects: 7

#### HS&DR Project: 14/70/96

**Project title:** **Dementia** undetected or undiagnosed in primary care: the prevalence, causes and consequences

**Chief investigator:** Dr George Savva

**Organisation:** South Norfolk CCG

**Status:** Research in progress

[Notify me](#) when this item is published

[View project page](#)

#### HTA Project: 14/140/80

**Project title:** Journeying through **dementia**; randomised controlled trial of clinical and cost effectiveness

**Chief investigator:** Professor Gail Mountain

**Organisation:** Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

**Status:** Research in progress

### Search

[Browse](#) | [Visit project portfolio](#)

### We'd like your views

Help us improve your experience of our website by participating in a short survey.

[Website survey](#)

### Project Status

Research In Progress (7)

### HRCS Health Category

Neurological (4)

Mental Health (1)

Cancer (1)

### HRCS Research Activity Code

6 Evaluation Of Treatments And Therapeutic Interventions (4)

7 Management Of Diseases And Conditions (3)

5 Development Of Treatments And Therapeutic Interventions (1)

8 Health And Social Care Services Research (1)

4 Detection, Screening And Diagnosis (1)

### Start Date

2015 (2)

# Example Query @ Leeds RDS

## Dr Ken refines the question



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### Searches show

Range of current tools and techniques are in use and being researched around the world

'Early' diagnosis is a research priority

Outcomes of early diagnosis is under-researched

GPs and patients play a role in success of tools and techniques for diagnosis

### Follow-up RDS meeting

Dr Ken discusses lit search results with RDS team.

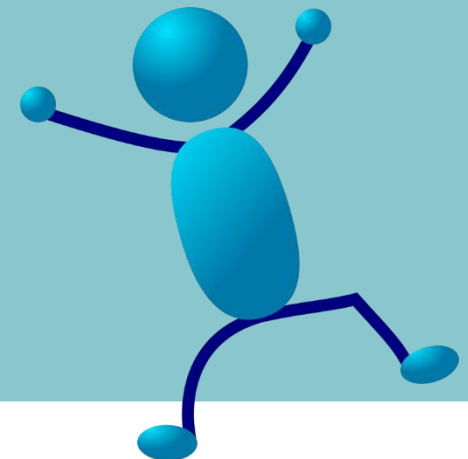
Research question may be modified in light of evidence

### Improved proposal

Dr Ken' proposal:  
Has relevant up to date references

Demonstrates good knowledge of the research area

Provides robust rationale for the research



# Costing a librarian into a research project



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- Ask to see proposal even if its 'very draft'
- Scoping & draft searches help to get idea of size of searches, complexity (do search concepts have MeSH that fit well?)
- Manage expectations, offer alternatives, negotiate





# Adding it all up

- Cost the time requirements based on
  - Expertise and salary of the searcher
  - Number of databases
  - Complexity of searches
  - Likely duplication / reference management
  - If document acquisition is required
  - Writing search methods
  - Update searches
  - Time in meetings



Cat and Calculator by Felix Idan\*

- Remember any travel, consumables, Inter-library loan costs
- Add 10%? Always takes longer than you think

\* <https://www.flickr.com/photos/felixidan/2162733310> (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

# How can you support research proposals?



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- Refer your researchers to the RDS service\*

<http://www.rds.nihr.ac.uk/>

A green rectangular button with white text that reads "Request support from the RDS". The button is overlaid on a dark background that appears to be a video frame showing a person's hand.

Request support from the RDS

- If capacity, undertake some proposal searches
- Advise researchers on starting their own searches
- Check that research idea really is novel  
<http://youtu.be/WLmhNNdYntQ> (Claire Beecroft, ScHARR)

\*NHS & academics are eligible if applying for national funded schemes



# Benefits of proposal work

- Interesting
- Widen your network of contacts, greater engagement
- May lead to funded project work for Info team
- Develop your own skills in grant applications
- Reduces waste and improves value of research



# Conclusions & Issues

- Growing potential/obligation to help tackle research waste
- Low profile of librarians in supporting research proposals?
- How to measure impact of proposal work?
  - # successful proposals?
  - amount of proposal work prevented by identifying when a researcher is attempting duplicate or unviable research?
- Greater sharing of search methods and evaluation of methods will improve our best practice.
- Next...co-authoring paper for Supporting Researchers special issue of the New Review of Academic Librarianship (Mary Edmunds Otter RDS E Mids)



# Acknowledgements

- Natalie King (RDSYH) and Mary Edmunds Otter (RDS E Mids) – RDS Information Specialist survey
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- RDS Information Specialists and Advisors providing supporting information and survey results
- Emoji provided free by <http://emojione.com>
- Vector images by <https://Pixabay.com>



# References

1. Matthews D. Success rates: surge in application to 'struggling research councils'. Times Higher Education Supplement. 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015
2. Chalmers I, Glasziou P. Avoidable waste in the production and reporting of research evidence. Obstetrics & Gynecology. 2009 Dec 1;114(6):1341-5.
3. Moher D, Glasziou P, Chalmers I, Nasser M, Bossuyt PM, Korevaar DA, Graham ID, Ravaud P, Boutron I. Increasing value and reducing waste in biomedical research: who's listening? The Lancet. 2016 Apr 15;387(10027):1573-86.

- NIHR Research Design Service <http://www.rds.nihr.ac.uk/>
- Top 10s of priorities for research <http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/top-10-priorities/>
- The Cochrane Library <http://www.cochranelibrary.com/>
- NICE Evidence <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>
- ClinicalTrials.gov <https://clinicaltrials.gov/>
- International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (WHO)  
<http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/>
- PROSPERO <http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/searchadvanced.php>
- NIHR Evaluation Trials and Studies <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/>
- Check that research idea really is novel <http://youtu.be/WLmhNNdYntQ>  
(Claire Beecroft, SchARR)