

Cochrane Library Quick Look

27 February 2018

Summary: The Cochrane Library is a robust product that would merit a trial for a college with a Registered Nursing program.

What is it?

This review covers the standalone, Cochrane Library on the Wiley platform.

The Cochrane Library is a decision support resource for students in the medical disciplines. Cochrane Library is comprised of 3 databases that include different kinds of medical evidence to help inform decision-making. They include:

1. Database of Systematic Reviews
2. Central Register of Controlled Trials
3. Clinical Answers

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) is unlike an article database in that the articles are literature reviews and are written by an author team working with the Cochrane Review Group.

Central Register of Controlled Trials is a database of reports about randomized and quasi-randomized controlled trials. They do not contain full-text access to articles, but abstracts are provided.

Clinical Answers is a point-of-care tool aiming to provide clinical information easily.

There are several competitors in the medical-decision support space:

- DynaMed (EBSCO)
- GIDEON
- UpToDate (Wolters Kluwer)
- Merck Pro

Quick Evaluation

- There are many reviews on a variety of topics that provide an overview of various topics of interest to Nursing students.

- For a library looking for a product to complement an article database, The Cochrane Library provides useful information to assist with point-of-care decision-making.
- To maximize use of the Cochrane Library, it may be important for Nursing faculty to integrate the use of this type of resource into the curriculum.
- Of note:
 - Plain Language Summary are available for all of the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. They are brief and easy to understand. They would be especially helpful for new Nursing students.
 - Labelling of articles in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews is clear.
 - After running the aXe accessibility extension, each page had a fair number of errors, including items in violation of WCAG 2 and Section 508.
 - The site is generally easy to navigate and is mobile friendly with the search results being less mobile friendly than the article pages.

Relevant Links

<http://www.cochranelibrary.com/>

<http://www.cochranelibrary.com/about/about-the-cochrane-library.html>