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# Thai online bibliographical biomedical databases



K Atsawaranunt<sup>1</sup>, CE Adams<sup>2</sup>, S Roberts<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Srinakharinwirot, Thailand

<sup>2</sup>Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, University of Nottingham UK

## Background

Thailand is a poor but highly literate country of over 60 million people in South-East Asia. Much biomedical research is undertaken but dissemination is limited. To our knowledge, there are no surveys of Thai databases or research activities in Thailand.

## Aim

To identify relevant Thai bibliographic databases and investigate accessibility, functionality and content particularly in relation to randomised trials.

## Methods

- Using PubMed and WHO Medical School Directory Thai medical databases were identified and were, if possible, systematically searched.
- All reports of randomised trials were identified by both Thai and English words specific for each database combined with the 'OR' operator and then uploaded into Endnote X2.
- i.e. [randomized] or [randomised] or [double-blind] or [สุ่ม]
- Reports of trials were selected using the criteria outlined in the training manuals for handsearchers by the US Cochrane Centre <sup>1</sup>.
- Reports of all eligible trials found in this way were sought in PubMed.
- Focusing on mental health trials- reports of all eligible trials found in this way were sought in PsycINFO, EMBASE and MEDLINE.

Number of RCTs and CCTs in each medical specialty		
Medical Specialty	Keywords Used to find RCTs/CCTs	Number of RCTs/CCTs
Anaesthesiology	Analg, anaesth, anesth, ยาผสม	18
Cardiovascular	Cardio, heart, หัวใจ, หลอดเลือด	57
Dentistry	Dentist, teeth, gum, ฟัน, ฟัน, เหงือก	5
Dermatology	Skin, dermat, ผิวหนัง	17
Endocrinology	Endocrin, adrenal, ต่อมไร้ท่อ	12
Fertility Regulation	Fertile, infertile, embryo, fetus, faetus, ตัวอ่อน	8
Gastroenterology	Gastro, entero, intestine, stomach, colon, rectum, ลำไส้, ทางเดินอาหาร, กระเพาะ	38
Haematology	Haemat, hemat, hemaglo, blood, เลือด	1
Immunology	Immune, leuk, rheuma, เนื้องอก, รุมดอยด์	7
Infectious Diseases (excluding HIV/AIDS)	Infect, malaria, bacteria, viral, virus, fung, protozoa, โรคติดต่อ, มาเลเรีย, แบคทีเรีย, ไวรัส, เชื้อรา	126
HIV/AIDS	Hiv, aids, เชชไอวี, เอดส์	47
Internal Medicine	(Manually identified)	17
Neonatology	Neonat, baby, babies, infant, เด็กแรกเกิด, ทารก	20
Nephrology	Nephro, kidney, renal, ไต	10
Neurology	Neuro, nerv, brain, spine, cereb, สมอง, เส้นประสาท, ไขสันหลัง	17
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Obstetric, gynecol, gynaeco, birth, labour, pregnan, cesar, vagin, ovar, uterus, คลอด, มดลูก, รังไข่, ช่องคลอด, อวัยวะเพศ	103
Oncology	Oncology, cancer, มะเร็ง, เนื้องอก	24
Ophthalmology	Ophthalm, cataract, eye, ตา	9
Orthopaediology	Orthop, bone, ligament, กระดูก, ข้อ, เอ็น	31
Otorhinolaryngology	Ent, laryn, nose, ear, throat, หู, คอ, จมูก	8
Paediatrics	Paediat, pediat, child, เด็ก, กุมาร	28
Psychiatry	Psych, mental, จิต	30
Public Health	(Manually identified)	6
Radiology	Radio, radia, scan, mri, ct, x-ray, รังสี	5
Respiratory	Respire, lung, trachea, alveol, asthma, ทางเดินหายใจ, ปอด	10
Surgery	Surgery, surg, operat, ผ่าตัด	123
Urology	Urin, ปัสสาวะ	4
TOTAL		781

## Results

- 32 different databases were identified
- 29 of the 32 databases were accessible outside of Thailand
- Coverage, overlap and functionality vary between databases.
- 16 databases contained unique records of randomised trials (total n=781).
- 209 of 781 trials were accessible on PubMed (27%).
- 4 of 30 mental health trials were accessible in either PsycINFO, EMBASE and MEDLINE (13.3%)

## Conclusions

- Knowledge of the Thai language is necessary to comprehensively identify Thai trials.
- Institutions should collaborate to produce one highly searchable, accessible Thai biomedical database.
- Dissemination of Thai trials is poor in commonly used databases.
- All the 781 trials found are to be forwarded to the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials database.

<sup>1</sup>US Cochrane Centre. (2002) *Training manual for handsearchers*. [WWW] US Cochrane Centre. Available from:

<http://apps1.jhsph.edu/cochrane/documents/Training%20Manual%20for%20Handsearchers%20Final.pdf> [Accessed 01/11/2008]