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## #308 - Environmental Scan of Online Knowledge Translation Resources

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### Objectives/aims

Knowledge translation involves the synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and application of evidence to policy and practice. As the field of knowledge translation has grown, so has the availability of online knowledge translation resources. While there are many freely available online resources, differences in global terminology and significant duplication make it challenging to find existing tools easily and efficiently. The National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools conducted an environmental scan to identify and describe available resources that support knowledge translation activities to better understand and map the current knowledge translation landscape.

### Methods

A comprehensive scoping search for online knowledge translation resources was conducted. The search was conducted through Google and DuckDuckGo search engines, using over 60 variations of key terms related to “knowledge translation”. Snowball searches, which included reviewing retrieved websites for links to other relevant resources, identified additional websites. Websites were reviewed for location, types of knowledge translation resources featured, target audience, and topic area. Through inductive thematic analysis, resources were categorized into one of the following five domains: knowledge synthesis, dissemination, application, exchange, and capacity building. A further subgroup analysis was conducted to identify knowledge translation “hubs” – websites that offer focused and comprehensive resources to support the learning and application of knowledge translation.



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## Main findings

A total of 104 unique websites were identified. Websites originate from North America (n=83), Europe (n=11), Australia (n=6), and international collaborations (n=4). Target audiences of the sites include researchers, health care providers, public health practitioners, and policy makers. Websites focused on knowledge translation more generally, or specific health topic areas, such as health and policy research, public health, and health equity. Of these 104 websites, seven were identified as knowledge translation “hubs” that provide capacity building resources, as well as resources related to synthesis, dissemination, exchange, and application of knowledge. Within this cadre of seven knowledge translation hubs, users are likely to find resources that meet their knowledge translation needs.

Across knowledge translation hubs and websites, there are extensive resources for all activities related to knowledge translation. However, despite the volume and diversity of resources, the current online landscape is challenging to navigate and users face difficulty in finding relevant resources. The variations in terms used to describe knowledge translation and duplication of resources across websites contribute to this challenge. Search engine algorithms that may bias search results based on user search history and location. Further analysis will investigate the extent of resource duplication, as well as identify gaps for future resource development with the intent of making it easier to find and access these existing resources.