An introduction to the Campbell Collaboration: Aims, achievements and ambitions

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www.campbellcollaboration.org

Today’s speakers

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Overview

• Why is there a Campbell Collaboration?
• Who are involved?
• What do we do? What have we achieved so far?
• What comes next?
• Frequently asked questions
Why is there a Campbell Collaboration?
• The Campbell Collaboration exists to provide a world library that contains the most comprehensive, reliable summaries of empirical evidence that can inform social policy and practice in order to improve lives.

• We work in the fields of
  – Education
  – Social welfare
  – Crime & justice
  – International development

• The Campbell Collaboration produces and disseminates comprehensive, rigorous analyses and syntheses of research results. These summaries are called systematic reviews.
“The United States and other modern nations should be ready for an experimental approach to social reform, an approach in which we try out new programs designed to cure specific problems, in which we learn whether or not these programs are effective, and in which we retain, imitate, modify or discard them on the basis of their effectiveness on the multiple imperfect criteria available.”

Donald T. Campbell, 1969
Less than $1 out of every $100 of government spending is backed by even the most basic evidence that the money is being spent wisely.

Bridgeland and Orszag, 2013
Evidence is needed to guide effective policy and practice to improve:

- Health and mental health
- Human development across the life span
- Child abuse and neglect
- Interpersonal violence
- Crime and justice
- Effective education
- Community and economic development
- Economic stability and equity
The advantage of a stronger knowledge base

• For the individual client: better service through better decisions
• For the practitioner: easier access to reliable and up to date information, as a supplement to professional judgment
• For policy makers: a better knowledge base to inform policy decisions
• For paymasters: more effective allocation of resources
• For society as a whole: better outcomes
Who is involved?
International collaboration has unique strengths

- Harness the potential of dispersed expertise
- Get the right blend of competences
- Light infrastructure

More effective allocation of resources and division of labour can help us build a more complete evidence base
What do we do?
What have we achieved so far?
Strategy in a nutshell

Produce reviews
Disseminate reviews
Arrange a Colloquium as a meeting place
Run an efficient, open and democratic network
Scared straight

Test, Learn, Adapt:
Developing Public Policy with Randomised Controlled Trials

Laura Haynes
Owain Service
Ben Goldacre
David Torgerson

Scared Straight and Other Juvenile Awareness Programs for Preventing Juvenile Delinquency: A Systematic Review
Anthony Petrosino, Carolyn Turpin-Petrosino, Meghan E. Hollis-Peel, Julia G. Lovenberg

Box 7: The Scared Straight Programme: Detering juvenile offenders, or encouraging them?

“Scared Straight” is a programme developed in the US to deter juvenile delinquents and at-risk children from a criminal behaviour. The programme exposed children to the frightening realities of leading a life of crime, through interactions with serious criminals in custody.

The theory was that these children would be less likely to engage in criminal behaviour if they were made aware of the serious consequences. Several early studies, which looked at the criminal behaviours of participants before and after the programme, seemed to support these assumptions. Success rates were reported as being as high as 94%, and the programme was adopted in several countries, including the UK.

None of these evaluations had a control group showing what would have happened to these participants if they had not participated in the programme. Several RCTs set out to rectify this problem. A meta-analysis of 7 US trials which randomly assigned half of the sample of at-risk children to the programme and found that “Scared Straight” in fact led to higher rates of offending behaviour: “doing nothing...”

The Atlantic
Can Government Play Moneyball?

JULY/AUGUST 2013
How a new era of fiscal scarcity could make Washington work better

JOHN BRIDGELAND AND PETER ORSZAG | JUN 19 2013, 10:05 PM ET
Anti-bullying
How to Deprogram Bullies: Teaching Kindness 101
An antibullying program teaches kids to empathize by bringing a mother and baby into the classroom

By Maia Szalavitz | Monday, May 24, 2010
We have stepped up review production

Our Library of reviews has tripled in size since 2008

Editorial inroads:
Newly published Policy and Guidelines
Newly adopted quality standards

Over 800 authors; around 200 peer reviewers
Some topics covered in the Campbell Library

- Preventing school dropout
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)
- Teachers’ Classroom Management Practices
- Kinship Care for Children Removed from the Home *
- Home Visits for Prevention of Impairment and Death in Older Adults
- Conditional and Unconditional Cash Transfers for Schooling Outcomes in Developing Countries
- Restorative Justice Conferencing (RJC)
- Interventions to Reduce Distress in Adult Victims of Sexual Violence and Rape
- Multisystemic Therapy for Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Problems *
** Trafficking for sexual exploitation **

There is growing international concern over trafficking for sexual exploitation. Many policies and interventions to combat trafficking have been initiated; however, a new Campbell review concludes that there are not enough rigorous evaluations to determine their effect.

*Read more.*

** Mindfulness for stress relief **

Stress is a key feature of modern life for many people. Unfortunately, there can be negative consequences of too much or prolonged stress. Can Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) programs help to reduce and manage stress?

*Read more.*

** Classroom management versus problem behavior **

Disruptive behavior in the classroom is a perennial concern, and teachers have sought assistance to counter bad behavior and to better manage the classroom. Are there effective strategies to reduce problem student behavior?

*Read more.*
Kinship care review wins Leonard E. Gibbs Award


Reducing symptoms of distress and trauma for victims of sexual violence

The Campbell Collaboration has undertaken a systematic review, led by Cheryl Regehr, on the effectiveness of psychotherapeutic interventions in reducing symptoms of distress and trauma for victims of sexual violence.

Legitimacy in Policing

The key feature of a legitimate police force is that people feel obliged to voluntarily comply with or obey the police. Police require such voluntary cooperation from the general public to be effective in controlling crime and maintaining order. What is the impact of police efforts that seek to enhance citizen perceptions of police legitimacy?
CCTV has modest impact on crime

A Campbell review examines the effects of closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance on crime rates. The review finds that CCTV has been most effective in reducing vehicle crimes in parking lots.

Employment opportunities for youth with ASD: An important topic that necessitates better research

The number of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is rising. As a result, much attention is directed on potential employment outcomes for youth and young adults with ASD. A recent Campbell review, led by John D. Westbrook, has examined the effectiveness of pre-graduation interventions that seek to improve mainstream employment opportunities for people with ASD.

Random Notes: The impact of land reform on welfare

Our first review of 2014 addresses the impact of changes in land property rights on agricultural productivity in developing countries. Here are ten reasons to read it.

Interventions to help young victims of sexual abuse

There are a number of interventions that aim to help children and adolescents who have been sexually abused. A recent review co-registered with both Campbell and Cochrane, sought to examine the effectiveness of treatments with a long established history, psychodynamic psychotherapy, as it relates to young victims of sexual assault.

Restorative justice practices can be effective

A recent Campbell review, led by Heather Strang, has examined the effectiveness of a subset of restorative justice procedures: face-to-face restorative justice conferencing (RJC). Their findings suggest that RJC appears both to reduce future crimes and improve victims' satisfaction with the handling of their cases.

Assessing the Effectiveness of Workplace Disability Management Programs

A recent Campbell Systematic Review has examined the effectiveness of workplace disability management (WPDM) programs in promoting a return to work. The review team, led by Ulrik Jensby, examined thirteen studies that included data from eleven different WPDM programs.

Interventions for Street-Connected Children and Young People

A team led by Esther Coren, undertook a systematic review on the effectiveness of interventions for street-connected children and young people that promote inclusion, reintegration and the reduction of harms.

Housing Improvements for Health

The Campbell Collaboration has published a systematic review, which is jointly registered with Cochrane, that has examined the health and social impacts on residents following housing improvements.

Unemployment Benefit Exhaustion

A team led by Trine Fjøløs, undertook a C2 Systematic Review that examined the impact of unemployment benefit exhaustion on individuals’ exit rate out of unemployment and into employment.

Reducing symptoms of distress and trauma for victims of sexual violence

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We have focused on competence building

...offers Campbell Collaboration training in Systematic Review methods, both Introductory & Advanced

...as well as resources for authors, decision makers and others: http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/resources/resource_center.php
We are committed to Open Access

- **Campbell Systematic Reviews** – created as a fully open access, electronic publication
- **Colloquium** – greater prominence to work from the network
- **Website**
- **Engagement with social media**
- **Translations**
Our reviews are widely read

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The Annual Colloquia

We just ran our 14th colloquium, in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Other venues to date include Philadelphia (twice), Stockholm, Washington DC (twice), Lisbon, Los Angeles, London, Vancouver, Oslo, Keystone (jointly with the Cochrane Collaboration), Copenhagen and Chicago.
A network in renewal


• Reformed Group: Knowledge Translation and Implementation (2013)

• Renewed leadership

• A new generation is emerging
What comes next?
Room for improvement

- Continue to produce high quality reviews on important topics
- Raise our profile and update perceptions of Campbell
- Improve dissemination of findings, in partnership with KT organisations
- Grow and energise our network
Keep the focus on a stronger knowledge base for policy and practice

1. Identify and address knowledge gaps
2. Cross barriers between sectors and disciplines
3. Organise knowledge – master the information tsunami
4. Accumulate knowledge – design studies to allow updating
5. Communicate knowledge for policy and practice
Frequently asked questions
What is Campbell’s unique selling point?
There are many organizations working in EBP. Where does Campbell fit in? How does it differ?
Some say that too many reviews end up saying ‘more research is needed’. What’s your response to this?
How fast can you deliver an SR?
What does it cost?

Are there benefits to not going so fast?
Is there a magic bullet that can make a difference?
Why did you get involved?
Get in touch:
info@c2admin.org
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www.campbellcollaboration.org
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