Useful websites from Research for Evidence-Based Practice in Health Care (in order of citation)

There is a huge amount of research methodology information on the Web, and not all of it is good. The list below gives all the sites we recommend in the book, and we have checked each site extensively. In many cases, there is loads of information other than the specific pages we direct you to, and we recommend further exploration. Where sites are especially valuable and contain so much information that we cannot guarantee to have explored exhaustively we say so. However, you are probably still on safe ground with these sites, as the large sites tend to be well researched and well maintained. As far as we have been able to tell, using high quality protections software, the sites are free from viruses/malware, but of course, we can’t guarantee this, as new viruses come onstream all the time.
Website using Sherlock Holmes as an example of inductive and deductive reasoning (Honestly). This site takes you through some issues around the philosophies of scientific inquiry in an entertaining but still challenging and thoughtful way.

Nice website giving synopses of qualitative and quantitative approaches to research, including different methodological approaches. There are lots of useful subpages on different designs which are well worth exploration.

Homepage of the Cochrane Collaboration – contains a wide range of information and guidance. This is a huge site and pretty much THE starting point for anyone looking for evidence and trying to decide whether a topic requires fresh research.

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination website – contains links to their publications and advice on systematic reviewing. As with Cochrane, this is a massive site.

Canadian university web page outlining policies for research ethics. Useful introduction to the detailed consideration of issues which arise from the basic ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence and justice.

The website of the National Research Ethics Service. Contains lots of information about research ethics and the work of ethics committees in the UK. This site is almost a life’s work, both in its compilation and to study. We don’t find it terribly easy to navigate around, but it is certainly comprehensive, and contains both general ethics information and guidance for researchers trying to find their way around UK NHS ethics procedures. There is guidance on pretty much every topic you are likely to come up against, either in dedicated subpages or through links to other relevant sources, ranging from such issues as mental capacity and the use of human tissue through to examples of how to construct patient information sheets. Interested readers can also go to: https://www.myresearchproject.org.uk/ which is the web address for the UK’s Intergrated Research Application System. Interactive NHS ethics application forms are to be found here.

NHS research governance website.
Medical Research Council website’s research ethics pages. Extensive resource, with much information relevant to nurses. As with the NHRES site, this site is not the easiest to navigate around, mainly because it is so extensive, but it really pays off.

Interesting web article on sample size in qualitative research. This is an important site, in our view, because there is so little sensible comment on issue around sample size in qualitative research.

Excellent University of West of England site which gives an introduction to qualitative data analysis, including useful exercises. The site is part of a larger site which also contains lots of other very good introductory material, including webpages on research topics, including one on quantitative data analysis (see Chapter 20).

Great online essay on the topics of external and internal validity, seen mainly from a psychology standpoint, but entirely relevant to health care. These concepts are basic to an understanding of what research tries to do. We worked out that we have been doing research for nearly 60 years between us (!), and we still argue about these matters and want to understand them better.

Thorough introduction to sampling, with pages on general reliability and validity. This site also has lots of good material on general research design issues.

Free-access online tutorial from a respected UK site, covering hypothesis testing and estimation. Estimation is barely discussed in our book, but is an important alternative approach to hypothesis testing, and this site give a good grounding in what is involved in a way which is accessible to the non-statistician.
http://www.dssresearch.com/toolkit/spcalc/power_a2.asp

Simple-to-follow power calculation for a number of common experimental approaches. See also:
http://www.raosoft.com/samplesize.html for a similar site devoted to sample size in surveys. Rob uses this all the time in teaching because it is interactive and you can see students suddenly get the ideas about the interaction between margin for error, confidence intervals and samples size as the key in different numbers into the site calculator.

http://www.csulb.edu/~msaintg/ppa696/696quasi.htm

This site gives a good run down on a variety of quasi-experimental approaches, often in considerable detail. Although some of the material requires close attention (partly because the examples are not from health care, and partly because of the language used), this is well worth the effort.


Critical appraisal site with a good, clear checklist for appraisal criteria for RCTs.

http://clem.mscd.edu/~davisj/prm2/correl1.html

Brief descriptions of main concepts of correlational research.


Powerpoint presentation from a US psychology course. This is a very clear and engaging description of correlation.

www.uiowa.edu/~resmeth/study_questions/sq-descrp-ccomp.html

Website with some exam questions about causal comparative designs which might give you some food for thought.

http://hsc.uwe.ac.uk/dataanalysis/quantWhat.asp

University of West of England webpages covering quantitative analysis and statistical appreciation. As with all the UWE research materials, this is very good.

http://www.medicine.ox.ac.uk/bandolier/

Excellent evidence based health care site. As well as regular reviews, this site also contains many well-written, accessible authoritative articles on methodological issues relevant to evidence based practice – just scroll down the site page to see these.
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/312/7023/71?view=long&pmid=8555924

web publication of British Medical Journal paper introducing the concepts of evidence based practice and examining common misrepresentations of the EBP initiative. Irritatingly, you can only get straight to this paper through this link if you are a registered BMJ user. If not, you need to go through: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8555924 then click on the Full text-FREE/BMJ button on the right hand side of the page. You may be automatically redirected to this route.

http://www.cebm.utoronto.ca/practise/formulate/pg2.htm

Canadian EBP website, again with lots of useful downloads.

http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Pages/PHD/resources.htm

Good source of structured guidelines about how to critically appraise a research paper.

http://www.ferne.org/Lectures/GLDiffintro0402.htm

Great US website. Don’t be put off by the fact that the author is a medical practitioner. This site contains a Powerpoint presentation plus a free online lecture (needs Realplayer™ software). We nearly didn’t write the guidelines chapter after seeing this site!

http://www.shef.ac.uk/scharr/ir/units/resprac/index.htm

Clear introduction to the process of getting research into practice from the SCHARR website.

http://www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/choices/workshop/

University of Southampton Website which describes the 2001 workshop which gave rise to the Getting Research into Policy and Practice. Contains many useful presentations.

http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/85/6/07-042531/en/index.html

World Health Organisation online bulletin feature article from 2007 on getting research into practice.

And finally: http://www.statisticshell.com/

This one isn’t in the book because we stumbled on it after we went to press, but we have no idea how we missed it! It’s the website for Andy Field, who is a Psychology professor at University of Sussex, and is a fantastic statistical resource with podcasts, online lecture notes and reprints of many of Andy’s book chapter contributions. This site will give you pretty much all you need to know about stats from basic entry level concepts to postgraduate research. It is designed for a psychology audience, but entirely relevant to all health professions and way beyond that.

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Watch out for the home page and style, which make you feel you have stumbled into some kind of Goth daydream! All adds to the friendly style of the site, and the content is of the highest quality. Takes a long time to explore. A recent addition which might interest you is at: http://www.statisticshell.com/press.html where you can click on the first video interview to get to: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/s3/?id=100 where Andy talks about how stats are taught at Sussex, but takes in stats in everyday life, the role of stats as central to an understanding of behaviour and thought, and what stats can tell you about the activities of the clairvoyant octopus during the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Also quite nice to see the difference between Andy in life and his Goth web persona!

Thanks Andy – great resource.