

**REPORT**

2021

Implementation of machine  
learning in evidence syntheses in  
the Cluster for Reviews and  
Health Technology  
Assessments: Final report  
2020-2021

**Utgitt av** Folkehelseinstituttet  
Område for helsetjenester

**Tittel** Implementering av maskinlæring i kunnskapsoppsummeringer i klynge for vurdering av tiltak: Sluttrapport 2020-2021

**English title** Implementation of machine learning in evidence syntheses in the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments: Final report 2020-2021

**Ansvarlig** Camilla Stoltenberg, direktør

**Forfattere** Ashley Elizabeth Muller, prosjektleder, Folkehelseinstituttet  
Heather Ames, Folkehelseinstituttet  
Jan Himmels, Folkehelseinstituttet  
Patricia Jacobsen Jardim, Folkehelseinstituttet  
Lien Nguyen, Folkehelseinstituttet  
Christopher Rose, Folkehelseinstituttet  
Stijn van de Velde, Folkehelseinstituttet

**ISBN** 978-82-8406-231-0

**Publikasjonstype** Report (Rapport)

**Antall sider** 29 (79 inklusiv vedlegg)

**Oppdragsgiver** Folkehelseinstituttet

**Emneord(MeSH)** biomedical; technological assessment, health; unsupervised machine learning; supervised machine learning; deep learning

**Sitering** Muller AE, Ames H, Himmels J, Jardim PJ, Nguyen L, Rose C, Van de Velde S. Implementering av maskinlæring i kunnskapsoppsummeringer i klynge for vurdering av tiltak: Sluttrapport 2020-2021 [Implementation of machine learning in evidence syntheses in the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments: Final report 2020-2021] –2021. Oslo: Folkehelseinstituttet, 2021.

---

# Table of contents

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>KEY MESSAGES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HOVEDBUDSKAP</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PREFACE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PROJECT RESULTS</b>	<b>7</b>
Time and resources	7
Internal team capacity building and team-building	7
Implementation and training	7
Testing and validation	9
Priority screening	11
Classifiers	12
RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias	16
Automatic text clustering	18
Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG)	20
Collaboration outside of the ML team	22
National Institute for Health Care Excellence and EPPI Centre	22
University of North Carolina	22
NIPH	22
Dissemination outputs	22
User-friendly summaries of machine learning functions	22
User guides adapted to NIPH workflows	23
Manuscripts	23
Presentations	23
Strategy-related outputs	24
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>29</b>

# Key Messages

Machine learning (ML) has the potential to increase the efficiency of evidence syntheses. During 2020-2021, a team in the division for Health Services at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, tested and documented pros and cons of using ML in various phases of the conduct of various evidence syntheses, and built employees' competence in using ML. This report describes the work undertaken by the ML team, project results and lessons learned.

The ML team focused attention on ML functions and systems available within EPPI Reviewer: Priority screening, Custom and Pre-built classifiers, RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias, Automatic text clustering, and Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG). We implemented ML functions across 19 project teams and trained 23 employees. We found that utilizing ML in our reviews increased speed, with no identified threats to methodological quality. Screening time was reduced by 60-90% in all projects. Automated study categorization – while applicable to a smaller range of projects – reduced manual time in this phase by 60-70%.

ML can, and should, change usual project workflows. The review process can become less linear and more cyclical, and several tasks can be conducted in parallel. However, workflow changes are not insignificant for those involved, and future ML work would benefit from a structured approach to both change management and innovation diffusion.

The report concludes with lessons learned and experiences gained. They shaped our proposals for future ML strategies, covering capacity-building, innovative activities, evaluation of effect, and workflow optimization.

**Title:**  
Implementation of machine learning in evidence syntheses in the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments: Final report 2020-2021

**Publisher:**  
The Norwegian Institute of Public Health conducted the project based on an initiative by the Cluster of Reviews and Health Technology Assessments, Division for Health Services at the NIPH

**Type of publication:**  
Report

**Activity timeline:**  
Dec 2020 - June 2021

**Machine learning functions evaluated and implemented:**

- [Priority screening](#)
- [Classifiers \(3 types\)](#)
- [RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias](#)
- [Automatic text clustering](#)
- [Microsoft Academic Graph \(MAG\)](#)

# Hovedbudskap

Maskinlæring kan bidra til betydelig effektivisering av kunnskapsoppsummeringsprosesser. Et lag i Området for helsetjenester ved Folkehelseinstituttet evaluerte og dokumenterte i 2020-2021 fordeler og ulemper ved maskinlæring i flere faser av kunnskapsoppsummeringer, og bygde medarbeidernes kompetanse i å bruke ulike funksjoner. Denne rapporten beskriver lagets arbeid, resultater og erfaringer.

Maskinlæringslaget fokuserte på funksjoner som er tilgjengelig i EPPI-Reviewer verktøyet: «priority screening», flere typer classifiers, RobotReviewer for å vurdere risiko av skjevheter, «automatic text clustering», og Microsoft Academic Graph. Vi implementerte funksjonene i 19 prosjekter og opplærte 23 medarbeidere. Et hovedfunn er at maskinlæringsfunksjoner reduserte manuell tidsbruk, uten reduksjon i metodisk kvalitet. Tidsbruk på vurdering av studier gikk ned med 60-90 % i alle prosjekter. Automatisk studiekategorisering reduserte tidsbruk i denne fasen med 60-70 %.

Maskinlæring kan og bør endre dagens arbeidsflyt. Kunnskapsoppsummeringsprosessen kan bli mindre lineær og mer syklisk, og flere oppgaver kan gjøres samtidig. Slike endringer kan være vesentlige for alle involverte, og i framtidig maskinlæringsarbeid vil det være nyttig med en strukturert tilnærming til både endringsledelse og innovasjonsspredning.

Rapporten avslutter med erfaringer og lærdommer. Disse formet vårt forslag til framtidige strategier relatert til kompetansebygging, innovasjonsaktiviteter, evalueringer og arbeidsflytoptimalisering.

**Tittel:**

Implementering av maskinlæring i kunnskapsoppsummeringer i klynge for vurdering av tiltak: Sluttrapport 2020-2021

-----

**Hvem står bak denne publikasjonen?**

Folkehelseinstituttet utførte studien basert på et initiativ fra klynge for vurdering av tiltak, område for helsetjenester i FHI

-----

**Type publikasjon:**

Rapport

-----

**Tidsperiode for prosjektet:**

Des 2020 - Juni 2021

-----

**Maskinlæringsfunksjoner som vi evaluerte og implementerte:**

[Priority screening](#)  
[Classifiers \(3 types\)](#)  
[RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias](#)  
[Automatic text clustering](#)  
[Microsoft Academic Graph \(MAG\)](#)

-----

---

# Preface

The Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments, Division for Health Services at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) decided in the fall of 2020 to conduct a project on machine learning related to the conduct of evidence syntheses. The goals were to test and document pros and cons of using machine learning in various phases of the conduct of evidence syntheses, as well as build employees' competence in using machine learning. A team of seven worked toward these goals from December 2020 until June 2021. This report describes their work.

The report is relevant for researchers and managers interested in implementing machine learning in their evidence syntheses. It is particularly relevant for evidence synthesis environments that do not have machine learning specialists.

## **Financing**

The work was self-initiated and financed by the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments, Division for Health Services at the NIPH.

## **Team members**

Project leader: Ashley Elizabeth Muller

Team members: Heather Ames, Jan Himmels, Patricia Jacobsen Jardim, Lien Nguyen, Christopher Rose, Stijn Van de Velde

## **Conflicts of interest**

All authors declare they have no conflicts of interest.

Kåre Birger Hagen  
*Research director*

Rigmor C Berg  
*Department director*

Ashley E. Muller  
*Project leader*

---

# Background

In early 2020, the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments, Division for Health Services at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH), became increasingly aware of the potential benefits of using machine learning (ML) in the conduct of evidence syntheses. Thus, the leader team in the cluster decided to initiate a project on ML. The project had two overarching goals: To test and document pros and cons of using ML in various phases of the conduct of evidence syntheses, and to build employees' competence in using ML. There were four objectives:

- Develop and implement a capacity-building ML strategy for the Cluster of Reviews and Health Technology Assessments
- Conduct a retrospective evaluation of ML performance in completed projects, and potentially evaluations in new projects, including recruiting and teaching project leaders
- Report results of capacity-building and evaluations to leadership and others in the Division for Health Services
- Stay abreast of methods and ongoing studies of ML in other health technology assessment organizations, and assess possibilities for collaboration

A team of seven employees (all but one) from the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments, dedicated much of their time from December 2020 until June 2021 to the project.

The ML team's work was anchored in the preliminary NIPH strategies for the 2019-2024 period concerning automation, increasing speed of evidence syntheses, and workflow and methods innovation. One of the goals of the division-specific strategies was for the Division for Health Services to become a leader in automation and digitalization of work processes, and to use these practices to summarize evidence more efficiently.

On a related note, we mention that during this report's preparation, the preliminary NIPH strategy was being revised. The machine learning team analyzed the preliminary strategic priorities and identified a need to integrate the ongoing, siloed ML activities at NIPH into a more cohesive, cross-division approach. Accordingly, the team began contacting, mapping and discussing with other actors and research teams in NIPH involved with ML. The strategy changes we proposed are included in the new NIPH strategy: "NIPH shall be a leader in big data, machine learning, and automation within public health", under [strategic priority 7](#). We refer readers to a separate document which details our machine learning strategy.

---

# Project results

The following text details ML team activities undertaken January 2020 - May 2021.

---

## Time and resources

---

The team of seven, including two advisors, was allocated a maximum of twelve months' working time. The resources allocated to the team were adequate, although not fully exhausted by all team members. Some team members found it difficult to prioritize this team over projects with strict deliverables and timelines. The medium size of the team allowed us to work cooperatively and divide tasks among ourselves.

---

## Internal team capacity building and team-building

---

To bring team members unfamiliar with the field of ML up to date, and as a team-building exercise, we spent the first four weeks presenting new research and concepts to each other in weekly three-hour meetings, followed by discussions. Presentations are available for future use as a ML syllabus. We also used the first part of the year familiarizing ourselves with EPPI Reviewer and its functions.

---

## Implementation and training

---

The ML team supported the implementation of machine learning functions in 19 projects (including the original pilot project in August 2020). Twenty-three employees were trained, of which 18 were not members of the ML team. A list of projects and employees can be provided.

Table 1 gives an overview of the team's implementation and training activities.



**Table 1: Overview of implementation and training activities**

<b>Machine learning function</b>	<b>Project teams</b>	<b>Employees<sup>a</sup> trained<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Training materials created</b>
<a href="#">Priority screening</a>	13	13	How-to guides in Norwegian and English, educational material
<a href="#">Custom classifiers for screening</a>	10	6	How-to guide, educational material
<a href="#">Pre-built study design classifiers</a>	1	2	Educational material
<a href="#">Custom classifiers for study categorization</a>	1	3	Educational material
<a href="#">RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias</a>	3	8	How-to guide for project leaders, how-to guide for project members, educational material
<a href="#">Automatic text clustering</a>	2	4	Educational material
<a href="#">Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG)</a>	4	6	-
<sup>a</sup> Including ML team members. <sup>b</sup> Not all trained users can implement a function independently.			

To support project leaders with the implementation of new ML functions, we provided one-on-one training and technical assistance. Each project received a dedicated ML team member who trained the project leader first, and then the rest of the team, and was available for immediate assistance when needed. This intensive technical assistance ensured we were able to gather the data required for evaluation and validation activities, e.g. training time required. We used a training hand-off procedure to build capacity within the team: 1) a ML team trainee sat in on an experienced ML team member's training of a project; 2) both co-led the next training; 3) finally, the ML team trainee led a subsequent training, with the experienced member sitting in for assistance.

Intensive, often one-on-one technical assistance was necessary for project leaders to understand and implement particular functions, however, providing this level of intense assistance was not sustainable or scalable. In most cases, technical assistance was not sufficient for project leaders to become confident enough to train others, although it did build their confidence in choosing to use a particular technique in future projects.

Acknowledging that one-on-one technical assistance to all project leaders was not sustainable, we developed stand-alone training materials for project leaders and/or members. These materials encourage users to begin implementation independently of the ML team. At the time of report writing (June 2021), these materials are in the final phase of piloting and feedback collection. So far, the training materials have been successful in supporting project leaders to more independently implement ML functions, and reduce technical assistance needs from the machine learning team.

There remains uncertainty in responsibility for tasks among overlapping actors providing digital support: the digital tools team (and EPPI superuser within that team), the

ML team, and EPPI software support. In response and in agreement with the digital tools team and leadership, responsibility was delegated for basic EPPI functions to the digital tools team and ML functions to the ML team. We also encouraged project leads to contact EPPI support for questions, but the threshold appeared higher for this than asking questions in-house. The new EPPI superuser's involvement in an early ML project has proven valuable as software skills were expanded with technical understanding of basic ML techniques – this overlap may be a prerequisite for optimal coordination between the two teams.

---

## Testing and validation

---

While all ML functions available in EPPI-Reviewer are fully developed and have extensive documentation of validity, the majority lacked published validation studies specifically conducted within the field of evidence synthesis. We decided that internal/institutional evaluations of all functions were a necessary first step to increase trust and buy-in among colleagues. Additionally, these evaluations provided a stronger foundation to evaluate particular functions' usefulness to our workflows. Almost all evaluations were integrated into ongoing projects, with exception of the retrospective evaluation of ML within screening (NICE is leading a simulation study of retrospective studies to identify “stopping criteria” for screening, while this team built and evaluated custom classifiers using previously completed projects) and a parallel initiative of our librarians to test Microsoft Academic Graph.

We created user-friendly introductions to each ML function; please see [User-friendly summaries of machine learning functions](#). These 1-page, introductory infographics were developed to help project leaders understand the different functions, when to use them, and how to combine them.

In the following subsections we present how we tested and validated each of the functions as well as recommendations for next steps and/or implementation. Table 2 provides a summary. Characteristics of each function is found in the description of each function further below.

**Table 2: Overview of evaluated techniques, benefits, and recommendations**

<b>Function</b>	<b>Relevant review types</b>	<b>Workflow changes to optimize benefits</b>	<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<a href="#">Priority screening</a>	All	Single- or auto-screening. Screening de-prioritization.	60% less time used to screen. Rapid team understanding of inclusion criteria. Rapid communication of potential review size (or other issues) to commissioner.	Scale up implementation
<a href="#">Custom classifiers for screening</a>	Reviews with clear inclusion criteria and research questions	Single- or auto-screening. Screening de-prioritization.	60-90% less time used to screen, when preceded by priority screening	Scale up implementation
<a href="#">Pre-built study design classifiers</a>	Reviews of RCTs. Overviews of SRs.	Single- or auto-screening. Screening de-prioritization.	Accurately identify prioritized designs to reduce screening burden	Scale up implementation
<a href="#">Custom classifiers for study categorization</a>	Review updates. Rolling reviews. Literature searches with sorting. Large reviews that have already begun categorization.	Single- or auto-categorization (data extraction)	32-77% less time used to categorize. Equally as accurate as any one reviewer, blinded or non-blinded.	Evaluate further. Explore additional applications
<a href="#">RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias</a>	Reviews of RCTs	Use as pedagogic tool, particularly for newer researchers	Equally as accurate as one researcher. No reliable time estimates.	Scale up implementation
<a href="#">Automatic text clustering</a>	All	Single- or auto-screening. Screening de-prioritization. Single- or auto-categorization (data extraction).	In screening: 74% less time to screen when applied to the least relevant studies. In study categorization: Equally as accurate as one researcher. 34% less time to categorize when semi-automated; 71% less time when fully automated.	Explore additional applications. Scale up implementation within screening
<a href="#">Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG)</a>	Review updates	Supplement or replace some database searches	Retrieve fewer and more relevant studies than traditional database searches. Potentially replace one or more database searches.	Librarians proceed

Explanation: RCT=randomized controlled trial, SR=systematic review.

## Priority screening

Priority screening learns from researcher screening decisions and pushes relevant studies forward in the screening queue (table 3). This technique does not make screening decisions, but helps researchers identify and handle included studies first.

**Table 3:** Brief description of characteristics of priority screening

<b>Type of machine learning</b>	Supervised, human-in-the-loop, active learning
<b>Combination with other ML functions</b>	Optimizes the subsequent use of custom classifiers
<b>Review stage</b>	Title and abstract screening
<b>Degree of difficulty</b>	Easy
<b>Support needs</b>	Low - Can be implemented independently with email support from EPPI or ML team

Five projects contributed to this evaluation:

- [Secure institutions for youth](#)
- [Understanding and helping children who resist or refuse postseparation parental contact](#)
- [Systematic review of RCTs of treatment for perpetrators of sexual violence](#)
- [The relationship of travel distance to delivery institutions and accompaniment](#)
- [The effects of covid-19 on children and youth's wellbeing](#)

### How did we test the function?

- In the pilot project, we randomized 14,000 studies to be screened as usual (randomly) or using priority. Researchers tracked time spent, and we calculated inclusion rates after regular amounts of studies had been screened.
- Subsequent projects used priority screening exclusively (with no comparison to random screening) and we tracked inclusion rates at regular intervals.

### What have we found so far?

- Time savings in the screening phase: 60% less time compared to screening as usual, if used until the inclusion rate flattens and then moving to single-screening (pilot study). 90% less time when used in combination with custom classifiers and switching to single- or auto-screening for studies under or over various cut-offs (see [Classifiers](#)).
- Efficiency: 95% of all included studies are found after screening 7.5-35% of retrieved studies. The more precise the PICO (and the more precise human screening), the more efficient priority screening is, and the quicker all included studies are identified.
- Other benefits: It requires precision of inclusion criteria immediately in the screening process, and therefore a clarification of misunderstandings earlier, both within the project team and between the project team and commissioner. It also allows projects to provide commissioners with estimates of project size quickly.
- Usefulness: Highly accepted by the teams that have used it.

### Workflow changes that optimize benefits

- Priority screening necessarily changes existing screening workflows, and more than any other function we have evaluated. For example, the project team should sit together electronically or in person when screening the first 200 studies, and reconcile screening conflicts much more frequently and at regular intervals.
- Move to single-screening, and/or de-prioritize screening, after the inclusion rate plateaus. To maximize time savings, build a custom classifier.
- Begin full-text screening in parallel, as relevant studies are identified immediately.

### Next steps

- We are confident that priority screening can be implemented across all projects.

### **Classifiers**

Classifiers use natural language processing to predict membership of a piece of data (e.g. text in the title and abstract of a study) into one of two binary categories: “A” vs “not A” (table 4). For example, *include vs exclude*, or *population of interest vs not the population of interest*. “Pre-built” classifiers are those that have been trained and validated. “Custom” classifiers refer to any classifiers built by a user. Within EPPI-Reviewer, several pre-built classifiers are available, and users can build their own. We conducted three separate evaluations.

**Table 4:** Brief description of characteristics of classifiers to screen or categorize

<b>Type of machine learning</b>	Supervised, human-in-the-loop
<b>Combination with other ML functions</b>	Ideal after priority screening
<b>Review stage</b>	Title and abstract screening, or data extraction
<b>Degree of difficulty</b>	High. Requires both understanding of the ML process behind it, and high user skills in EPPI.
<b>Support needs</b>	Our user guide can be followed. 60-120 min of ML team support to help project leaders the first time.

### ***Custom classifiers for screening***

This type of classifier is useful for all systematic reviews and health technology assessments (HTAs) with clearly defined research questions and inclusion criteria. It is not recommended for overviews of overviews, broad scoping reviews with multiple research questions, or for reviews with novel definitions of interventions, exposures, etc. The accuracy depends on model quality, which the ML team can help project leaders assess in order to proceed correctly.

Nine projects contributed to this evaluation: an update of a covid-19 rapid review, one EUnetHTA rolling collaborative review and two updates, three scoping reviews, three reviews of RCTs/cohort studies, and one overview of reviews.

### How did we test the function?

- Review of RCTs: We built a custom classifier after having screened (using priority screening and pre-built classifiers) 13.5% of references. We auto-screened all studies <10% likely, then manually single-screened to quality control. Screeners tracked time.
- Review of cohort studies: We built a custom classifier after having screened 61% of references. We deprioritized and single-screened all studies <30% likely, while writing the report.
- EUnetHTA rolling review and covid-19 update: We built a classifier first after having screened the first 1000 studies, and at regular increments thereafter, and repeated during subsequent updates.
- The remaining studies contributed to a retrospective evaluation. In seven completed reviews, we trained classifiers using random samples of 50 and 100 studies, as well as the first 25 studies included and a random 25 excluded studies (balanced between included and excluded), applied these to the remaining studies, and compared classifications with actual screening decisions

### What have we found so far?

A <30% cut-off criteria is highly accurate to predict exclusion:

- Studies below this cut-off can be auto-screened as irrelevant.
- No studies included at full-text are lost.
- 18-90% fewer studies can be screened at title and abstract level.
- Studies included first by priority screening should be used to train the classifier. These classifiers performed better than models with larger but randomly chosen training sets.
- This applies to SRs with clear research questions and well-defined interventions or exposures.

There are significant time savings even using a more conservative cut-off:

- In practice: Auto-screening <10% relevant studies saved 48 hours (36% of total screening time), with complete accuracy.
- Retrospective estimates:
  - Auto-screening <10% and >90% relevant studies, saves 90% of screening time.
  - Single-screening <50% relevant studies saves 60-70% of screening time.
- This applies to systematic reviews with clear research questions and well-defined interventions or exposures.

When custom classifiers do not work:

- In broad scoping reviews with multiple RQs or novel definitions of exposure, the data was not good enough to create a strong model. 1-2% of included studies were missed using a <30% cut-off.

### What do we need to do next to find out more?

- Evaluate in a qualitative evidence synthesis.

- Improve training materials to make new users more independent and to reduce training burden on the ML team.
- Scale up teaching of necessary basic ML knowledge, to reduce user threshold to use this technique.
- Consider making guidelines regarding a cut-off threshold that could be implemented in evaluated product types.

### ***Pre-built study design classifiers***

This type of classifier is applied to identified studies to identify three specific study designs: RCTs, systematic reviews, and economic evaluations. We did not evaluate the economic evaluation classifier. These classifiers are already fully developed and validated.

The following projects contributed to this evaluation:

- Pilot and retrospective evaluation: [Systematic review of RCTs of treatment for perpetrators of sexual violence](#) (12,000 references, 1.5% included at title and abstract, 0.1% included at full-text). Prioritized study designs: systematic reviews, then RCT, then n-RCT.
- Retrospective evaluation: [Overview of reviews of remote patient monitoring RCTs](#) (3,000 references, 4.8% included at title and abstract, 0.1% included at full-text). Due to a complicated research question, this project involved assessing primary studies included within systematic reviews.

### How did we test the function?

- Pilot: We applied study design classifiers consecutively, according to prioritized study design: first the systematic review classifier, then RCT classifier. We prioritized screening of those classified as >50% likely. At the end of the project, we checked all included studies' classifier score to see if they had been captured by the relevant study design classifier.
- Retrospective evaluations: We retrospectively applied the relevant pre-built classifier(s) to screened studies in two reviews. We compared classifications to actual screening and inclusion decisions.

### What have we found so far?

- Highly accurate: Pre-built classifiers are excellent at identifying study designs, confirming previous research. In the pilot study, 100% of included RCTs were identified by RCT classifier (as well as two included n-RCTs).
- <30% cut-off is accurate to auto-screen and reduces screening burden: They can be trusted to auto-screen irrelevant designs using a <30% cut-off, with no relevant studies lost. In the retrospective evaluations, auto-screening would have reduced screening burden by 25-76% studies at the title and abstract level, and 2-63% at full-text level.
- >50% cut-off is accurate to prioritize relevant designs. In the pilot study, 7 of 8 included studies were identified by the SR and RCT classifiers (the remaining study was a different study design and identified by a custom classifier). These were captured after having screened only 13.5% of 12,000 references.

### Next steps:

- These are well-developed and there is no need for further internal evaluation.
- Improve training materials to make new users more independent and to reduce the training burden on the ML team.
- Scale up teaching of necessary basic ML knowledge, to reduce user threshold to use this technique.

### ***Custom classifiers for study categorization***

This type of classifier is relevant for review updates, rolling/living reviews, and other large projects (3000+ studies). It categorizes studies based on titles/abstracts, which can be used as a direct form of data extraction, or as a sorting exercise in order to prioritize or target screening or other actions.

The following projects contributed to this evaluation:

- [Covid-19 living map](#): Studies were manually categorized according to title/abstract to at least one population and one intervention. Thousands of new studies each week required significant scaling up of activities.
- [EUnetHTA rolling collaborative HTA on rare medications for covid-19](#): The team could not rely solely on priority screening, as rare medications were not being picked up and thus the algorithm could not learn to identify them. Neither could the team rely on manual screening, due to the amount of studies and the rolling deadlines.

### How did we test the function?

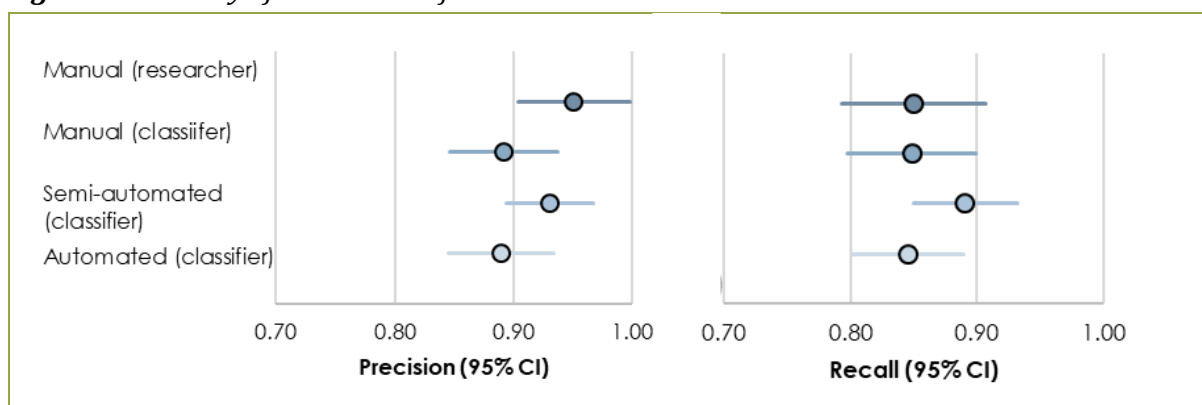
- Covid-19 living map: After categorizing 2,400 studies, we built custom classifiers to predict the 50 most common categories. 200 unscreened studies were randomized into 1 of 3 arms (2 researchers blinded to each other, fully manual; fully automated, with quality-control by 1 researcher; semi-automated, with 1 researcher non-blinded to the classifiers and 1 researcher as quality-control). Three researchers were randomly assigned studies within each arm. Precision, recall, and time were tracked.
- EUnetHTA rolling review: Classifiers were built to identify studies of prioritized rare medications that they team had not yet identified through priority screening. That is, classifiers identified studies of thematic relevance to prioritize for human screening, rather than identifying studies relevant for inclusion.

### What have we found so far?

- 60-70% time savings in categorization compared to manual practice
- Successfully identified rare studies for further screening, which otherwise would not have been identified through priority screening
- Equal accuracy compared to manual practice (Figure 1)



**Figure 1: Accuracy of custom classifiers**



What do we need to do next to find out more?

- Continue evaluation in future review updates or rolling reviews.
- Scale up implementation through teaching and training so that more project leaders can be independent.

**RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias**

RobotReviewer is fully developed ML system that assesses the first four domains of Cochrane’s Risk of Bias tool and extracts relevant text to justify each assessment (table 5). It is integrated into EPPI Reviewer, as well as a standalone web-based tool.

**Table 5: Brief description of characteristics of RobotReviewer to assess Risk of Bias**

<b>Type of machine learning</b>	Semi-automated, human-in-the-loop: the user can accept suggestions for domain assessments and attach text snippets or amend them.
<b>Combination with other ML functions</b>	Not required
<b>Review stage</b>	Risk of Bias assessment for RCTs
<b>Degree of difficulty</b>	In EPPI Reviewer: intermediate skills. In the web-based version: no skills needed, but this is a slower alternative to EPPI Reviewer, and users were less positive.
<b>Support needs</b>	Minimal: Follow our how-to guide at your own pace. The EPPI superuser can you help you if you get stuck.

We tested RobotReviewer in two systematic reviews of RCTs involving six researchers.

- [Work-related interventions for people on long-term sick leave](#): N=23 RCTs contributed 148 domains. Two experienced and two newer researchers. One researcher-pair used RobotReviewer within EPPI Reviewer; one pair used the RobotReviewer website.
- [Systematic review of RCTs of treatment for perpetrators of sexual violence](#): N=3 RCTs contributed 12 domains. One experienced and one newer researcher. One researcher used EPPI Reviewer and the other used the RobotReviewer website.

How did we test the function?

- RCTs were randomly assigned into two arms for assessment: RobotReviewer within EPPI Reviewer, or the RobotReviewer website.
- All researchers were able to see RobotReviewer's domain and text suggestions while they made their own (i.e. no blinding). We measured human changes to RobotReviewer's domains (160 in total), changes from individual human assessments to final assessments, whether RobotReviewer's extracted text was deemed correct by humans, and time spent by every human on every step (administration, training, individual assessment, reconciliation, etc). Each person was also asked to report their overall impressions of the utility of RobotReviewer.

### What have we found so far?

#### *Accuracy*

- RobotReviewer was as accurate as any one researcher: researchers accepted 83% of RobotReviewer's assessments (133 of 160), and 81% (129 of 160) of each other's assessments.
- In 79% of domains, there was complete agreement between RobotReviewer's assessment, a human's assessment, and the final assessment after agreement with another human. In only 4% of domains did RobotReviewer underestimate bias. For all other domains, automated RoB was over-estimated.
- Text snippets were sufficient for 86% of domains (86 of 104). This means researchers did not have to extract text justifications for 86% of these domains.
- Human corrections to RobotReviewer did not correlate with human experience level (i.e. no sign of confirmation bias among newer researchers), or with reviewer order (i.e. no sign of confirmation bias among the first of two researchers).

#### *Time and resource use*

- Using RobotReviewer in EPPI Reviewer took 40% less time than using the web-based version. However, time use varied substantially by individual, and estimates must be taken with caution. Time use did not vary consistently according to experience level, amount of human corrections to RobotReviewer, or even amount of human corrections during reconciliation.
- We did not evaluate time use without automation.
- Administration time without needing to train a team (1 leader, 2 members, 1 support/analysis person): 2.6 hours. Administration time when training was needed, for an entirely new project team: 5 hours.

#### *Acceptance*

- Newer researchers said the extracted text helped focus their attention to the relevant parts of the study to examine, and that this saved time. Experienced researchers were, at worst, ambivalent. No one was negative to using RobotReviewer in the future, particularly the EPPI integration.

- Most researchers are not interested in replacing one reviewer with RobotReviewer, but in adding RobotReviewer to the existing process of two reviewers.

What do we need to do next to find out more?

- Recommendation: Repeat this evaluation in two new social/welfare reviews.
- Recommendation: Explore adaptation to Cochrane’s Risk of Bias version 2.
- Optional: If time saved compared to fully manual RoB assessment is of interest, repeat this evaluation in a large review; ideally with the same participants.
- Optional: repeat this evaluation and measure acceptance more systematically.
- Proceed with capacity-building by highlighting accuracy over time saved.

We have an ongoing manuscript reporting these results which will be submitted in the fall.

**Automatic text clustering**

Clustering algorithms analyze the distribution of words, parts of words, or terms in titles and abstracts, then uses the specifications of the user to make clusters based on dis/similarity, with descriptive names (table 6). The references in a review are assigned to one or more automatically identified clusters, such that any two references within the same cluster are similar in some useful way, and any two clusters are dissimilar in some useful way. Each cluster’s references, text (titles/abstracts), and search terms can be examined.

**Table 6: Brief description of characteristics of automatic text clustering**

<b>Type of machine learning</b>	Unsupervised
<b>Combination with other ML functions</b>	When used to help screen irrelevant references: useful to precede with priority screening and custom classifiers
<b>Review stage</b>	Title and abstract screening, data mapping, study categorization, searching
<b>Degree of difficulty</b>	Intermediate
<b>Support needs</b>	High: ML team provides an introduction and is available for troubleshooting. The user can follow EPPI’s guides and contact the NIPH EPPI superuser or EPPI Centre for support.

Automatic document clustering was tested across the following projects:

- Pilot project for study categorization: [Secure institutions for youth](#), a systematic literature search with sorting.
- Pilot project for use in screening: [Systematic review of RCTs of treatment for perpetrators of sexual violence](#)
- [The relationship of travel distance to delivery institutions and accompaniment](#)

How did we test the function?

- *Study categorization or data mapping:* We compared time use, precision and recall of manual study categorization (humans using human-designed categories), fully automated clustering (machine using machine-designed

categories), and semi-automated clustering (human using machine-designed categories), in a simplified systematic review. All 128 studies in a review were categorized by two humans manually. We then ran the clustering algorithm, and randomly assigned all studies to be either coded by a human researcher blinded to cluster assignment (mimicking two independent researchers) or by a human researcher non-blinded to cluster assignment (mimicking one researcher checking another’s work); the gold standard was agreement by a third researcher. Finally, we compared the original cluster assignments to this gold standard.

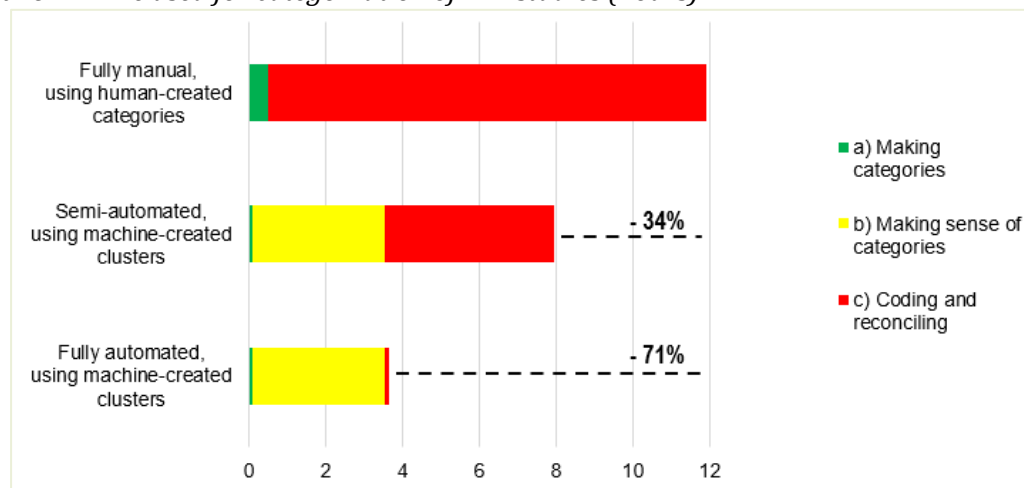
- *Screening:* We applied auto clustering to half of all unscreened studies that had already been classified as irrelevant. One researcher screened as usual, while a second used the clusters to help screen. We tracked productivity.

What have we found so far?

*Data mapping:*

- Most of the machine-created clusters were meaningful and useful, and some overlapped with manual categories. Machine-created clusters also uncovered one category not identified by human researchers – but it could not have been used to sort studies into the pre-determined categories.
- Equal accuracy: When humans categorized according to the auto clustering scheme, automated clustering had similar precision to both blinded and non-blinded researchers (e.g., 88% vs 89%), but higher recall (e.g., 89% vs 84%).
- No evidence of confirmation bias: Researchers blinded and non-blinded to the cluster assignments did not categorize differently.
- Time saved: Semi-automated clustering took 34% less time than fully manual categorization of 128 studies, including time spent making the categories/clusters to final agreement. Fully automated clustering took 71% less time (figure 2).

**Figure 2:** Time used for categorization of 128 studies (hours)



*Screening:*

- Time saved: 74% less time used to screen irrelevant studies (383 excluded/20 min with clusters, including the time needed to make the clusters, compared to 100 excluded /20 min).

#### *Usefulness:*

- Study categorization / data mapping: Ideal for simpler products (scoping reviews, systematic literature with sorting), to quickly become familiar with available data and uncover similarities and differences between studies.
- Screening: The more studies to screen, the more useful auto clustering is. It is particularly useful to screen or auto-screen irrelevant studies near the end of the priority screening process.
- Norwegian studies can be clustered.
- References without abstracts (often grey literature) are difficult to cluster.

#### What do we need to do next to find out more?

- For use in screening: test in 1-2 more projects with large amounts of studies, to confirm time saved. Randomize half of studies to be screened as usual, and half to be clustered and then screened.
- For use in search term identification: a librarian team should evaluate usefulness of automatically vs manually identified terms, in a finished search strategy.
- Clustering is a well-known ML technique. We should explore other innovative ways of applying auto clustering to systematic reviews, e.g. sampling within QES.
- Scale up implementation.

A manuscript reporting these results has been accepted upon minor revisions to *Research Synthesis Methods*.

### **Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG)**

Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG) is an online database and knowledge graph of 260 million scientific publications, featuring a novel data structure that is based on advanced neural network machine learning (table 7). With MAG, researchers are able to search for research semantically, similar to searching in Google, and research is linked using an iterative, machine-learning-created hierarchy of 700,000 topics – rather than having to identify research based on keywords or database-specific terms.

Within the EPPI software it is possible to use a selection of articles as a starting point to conduct literature searches of the whole database, by requesting the retrieval of similar studies. Hence the tool provides the option to update a review or supplement a search, based a previous version's included studies or an already included batch of studies from a single database.

In May 2021, Microsoft announced that the Microsoft Academic website will be retired on December 31, 2021. Although this means that introducing MAG searches more

widely is not sensible, gained experience supports the use of semantic/neural network searches, which are being developed by other players in the field (Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus). Our gained experience will be of relevance when evaluating usefulness of other service provider's search functions in the future.

**Table 7: Brief description of characteristics of Microsoft Academic Graph**

<b>Type of machine learning</b>	Neural network
<b>Combination with other ML functions</b>	Priority screening, custom classifiers
<b>Review stage</b>	Searching, title and abstract screening, review updating
<b>Degree of difficulty</b>	Low
<b>Support needs</b>	N/A – Librarians proceed

We evaluated this function in the following projects:

- [Long covid](#)
- [Risk factors of covid \(4<sup>th</sup> update\)](#)
- [EUnetHTA rolling collaborative review of rare medications \(3<sup>rd</sup> update\)](#)
- An ongoing librarian evaluation led by Lien Nguyen

#### How did we test the function?

- Covid projects: We used MAG as a supplementary database for an update or to complement a simple search within a review. We used priority screening to immediately identify relevant studies following database searches, then entered the included studies into MAG, and retrieved relevant studies back.
- EUnetHTA and librarian evaluation: We compared overlap between MAG and traditional database searches, to identify if studies were identified by only one of the two sources.

#### What have we found so far?

- MAG's retrieved studies are 3-6 times more relevant compared to a single database's retrieved studies, both at title/abstract and full-text level. MAG provided 23-50% of the studies included at full-text.
- MAG retrieves up to 85% fewer studies compared to a single database search.
- In one project's update (EUnetHTA), MAG failed to identify one included study at full-text that the traditional search identified, due to a 4+ week lag after journal publication. In the librarian evaluation, MAG retrieved all included studies.

#### What should a librarian team do to find out more?

- Identify alternatives to MAG, due to MAG shutting down in December 2021.
- Measure overlap between our commonly used databases and MAG (or MAG alternatives), to reduce searching in superfluous databases/sources.
- Assess whether a traditional literature search can be replaced by searching exclusively in MAG.
- Repeat this evaluation in social/welfare reviews.

- Repeat this evaluation in different review sizes, to estimate a threshold for when it is enough to search in/with MAG only.
- Explore MAG's potentials in grey literature searching, which is known to be time consuming.
- Explore the potential implications of MAG (and its alternatives) to our conventional approach to searching. We need to be prepared for the next alternative, so that we can quickly implement and evaluate its functions.

---

## **Collaboration outside of the ML team**

---

Part of the team's work was to assess possibilities for collaboration, nationally and internationally.

### **National Institute for Health Care Excellence and EPPI Centre**

We initiated a study with NICE and EPPI Centre to improve the priority screening algorithms within EPPI. Each organization has contributed RIS files of completed projects, and NICE and EPPI programmers are running simulations with new algorithms. This study ( $k > 100$  projects) is the largest simulation study of ML approaches with screening, and results will be used to suggest stopping criteria for screening, or when researchers can stop manual screening.

### **University of North Carolina**

We exchange researcher-oriented ML user guides and feedback with the University of North Carolina's information specialists, who hold responsibility for ML activities within evidence synthesis.

### **NIPH**

We initiated talks with: Divisions for Mental and Physical Health, Health data and digitalization, Infectious Diseases, and IT.

We have reached out to researchers across the NIPH to map ongoing ML activities and interests, and held a one-hour networking meeting on 23. June 2021. The meeting goal was to be a springboard for knowledge transfer and collaboration beginning simply by communicating, as it appears that ML activities are siloed within both divisions and projects. We identified overlapping activities and drivers, and are working on next steps.

---

## **Dissemination outputs**

---

### **User-friendly summaries of machine learning functions**

We created 1-page, user-friendly summaries of each ML function. They were developed to help project leaders understand the different functions, when to use them, and how to combine them.

## User guides adapted to NIPH workflows

See Appendix for information on user guides.

One remaining assignment that we suggest continuing with in future projects is producing template language about ML for project leaders to use in protocols and reports. Text has already been extracted from all published protocols and reports but needs to be transformed into template suggestions as well as integrated into the NIPH handbook for systematic reviews.

## Manuscripts

Muller AE, Ames HMR, Jardim PSJ, Rose CJ (revision submitted and under review). Comparing automated text clustering with Lingo3G and human research categorization in a rapid review. *Research Synthesis Methods*.

Jardim PSJ, van de Velde S, Rose CJ, Ames HMR, Meneses Echavez JF, Himmels J, Muller AE (in progress). A user-centered study of automating risk of bias in real-life systematic reviews.

Røst T, Slaughter L, Nytrø Ø, Muller AE, Vist GE (in press). "Using neural networks to support high-quality evidence mapping". *BMC Informatics*.

## Presentations

Members of the team gave a number of presentations during spring 2021 (table 8).

**Table 8:** Overview of presentations delivered by the ML team

Date	Presentation title	Context and audience
02.02.2021	Drøfting av planer og aktiviteter lag for maskinlæring	Leader team, Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments
3.03.2021	Microsoft Academic Graph	Librarian <i>faggruppe</i>
23.02.2021	Testing out Microsoft Academic Graph in covid-19 rapid reviews	Citation networks in literature search - web conference, Norwegian Scientific Community for Food and Environment
15.03.2021	Getting to know the machine learning team – who we are and what we are working on	Ukestart meeting, Division for Health Services
06.04.2021	Midtveis rapport	Leader team, Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments
26.04.2021	Results of a prospective user study of RobotReviewer	Project leaders and members who participated in the user study in the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments
08.06.2021	Scaling up machine learning with a dedicated team	Network meeting of evidence synthesis organizations: NIPH, NICE (UK), EPPI Centre (UK), ICQIG (Germany), SBU (Sweden),



		CADTH (Canada), Cochrane, Cochrane Netherlands, MAGICapp
25.05.2021	Proposal for a ML strategy	Leadership group, Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments
21.06.2021	Hvor mange roboter trenges for å vurdere Risk of Bias?	Ukestart meeting, Division for Health Services
23.06.2021	Introduction to HTV's ML team	Network meeting on machine learning and big data: representatives from all divisions + IT
2.11.2021	5 oral presentation abstracts submitted; no decisions yet about acceptance	CADTH online conference: "Uncertain Times, Imperfect Evidence, and the Imperative to Act"

### Strategy-related outputs

We developed a proposal for a machine learning strategy for the Cluster for Reviews and Health Technology Assessments. The full strategy is presented in a separate document.

We also proposed a text for NIPH's revised strategic priorities. The following text was submitted to the management in the Division for Health Services in May 2021:

"Context: There is an increasing demand from users for high-quality products delivered faster, with greater efficiency, and at lower cost. There is also a growing societal need for high-quality, understandable, and accessible knowledge. Furthermore, rapid developments in the types of data and advanced methods available are opening opportunities to increase efficiency and speed without compromising on quality. With the revision of the strategy document, we have the opportunity to develop a clear, cross-division commitment to ML and methods innovation that can facilitate the systematic identification and implementation of tools and strategies to benefit a wide variety of products across the institute.

The problem: We have identified machine learning (ML), big data, and advanced analyses included directly or indirectly within several different strategic priorities in the 2019-2014 institute strategy.

- Forutse helsetrusler
- Stor data og avansert analyse
- Sanntidsovervåking
- På tvers av sektorer
- Enklere navigasjon
- Helsedata skal komme til nytte

But these strategies don't appear particularly coordinated or connected – which very likely means untapped opportunities for knowledge transfer, capacity-building, innovation, and de-duplication of work. For example, Jon Bohlin (Smittevern) uses machine learning in epigenetic modelling, Christian Madsen (Psykisk og fysisk helse) to predict maternal outcomes, and Yungsung Lee (Psykisk og fysisk helse) to predict biological

age based on blood samples – similar techniques can be used in vaccine development and in epidemic modeling.

The solution:

- An institution-wide vision: FHI will be an innovative organization that uses machine learning, automation, and big data to deliver our high-quality products (kunnskap, beredskap, and infrastruktur) more effectively, while also increasing accessibility, and sustainability.
- An institutional strategy that brings together the currently disjointed and vertical activities into a more cohesive, mutually beneficial and innovation-oriented collaboration. FHI products (kunnskap, beredskap, infrastruktur) will be stronger if we can facilitate in-house knowledge transfer and coordination. Based on our networking regarding only machine learning, we see quite a lot of internal expertise that can be exploited, as well as numerous opportunities for external collaboration and capacity-building.
- A Center of Excellence for knowledge innovation for machine learning, automation and big data. This will draw together/centralize/coordinate ongoing machine learning, other advanced methods, and workflow optimization projects involving arbeidsflyt, automation, and dating sharing, currently localized in Områder for smittevern, helsetjenester, helsedata og digitalisering, psykisk og fysisk helse, and IT (See figure for an example of the ongoing machine learning activities).

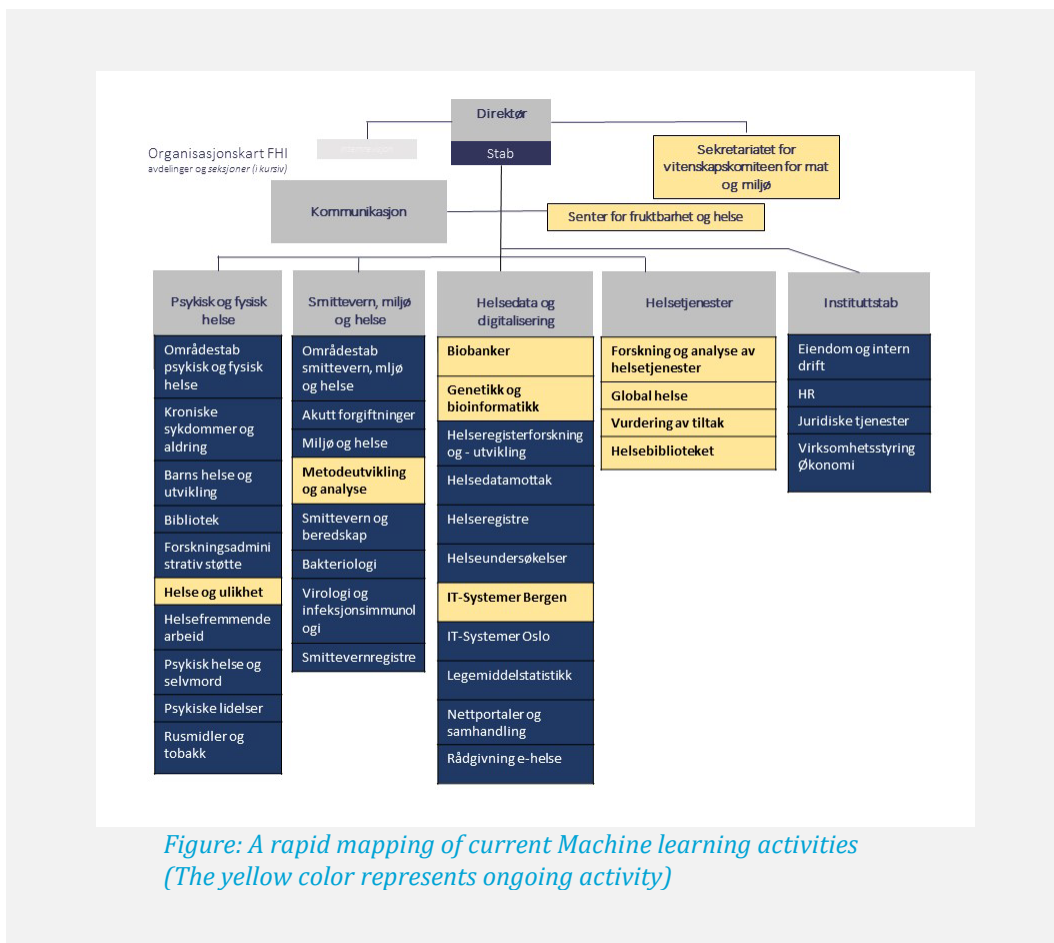


Figure: A rapid mapping of current Machine learning activities (The yellow color represents ongoing activity)

The potential: Synergies that directly benefit existing strategies (see above).

- Through coordinating område-specific activities, internal expertise will be identified and strengthened, and thereby made available for future development.
- Increased efficiency and speed of production, while maintaining/improving quality, in the involved projects and knowledge products. Some examples: faster evidence synthesis in Område for helsetjenester, advanced epidemiological studies in Område for psykisk helse, rapid covid-19 modelling in Område for smittevern.
- Resources and time saved can be 'banked' back into development/innovation efforts.
- This center, and FHI in general, could become a model for other public health institutions (strategic priority: 'Norge i verden'). Through prioritizing ML innovation, we can demonstrate the implementation and success of cross-sectoral, horizontal programs rather than vertical, siloed initiatives."

---

# Lessons learned

We managed to spark interest in ML, and successfully recruited and trained several project leaders and members to apply newly learned methods. Sole one-on-one trainings were, however, not sufficient for immediate method independence. To address this, educational and how-to guides were developed, and in the future, a new constellation of the ML team with more employees involved in distinct short-term roles will support scalability.

This team – initially mostly ML-novices – matured to internal training and implementation experts, through 4-5 weeks of internal capacity-building and peer-teaching. This was a sunk cost and delayed the start of other activities, although served the additional purpose of team-building. For future iterations of the team, recruiting employees with existing skills in ML and software within evidence synthesis would minimize large up-front costs.

Blocking out team members' time allowed them to prioritize ML tasks, which were often naturally de-prioritized in the face of other commissions. Related to this, team members also needed to feel confident that risk-taking was allowed and encouraged; for example, testing out a ML function in a new software for several hours and concluding that it had limited utility was still a valuable use of time.

It is crucial that the ML team continues to recruit “early adopters”: employees interested in ML and innovative methods, and willing to adopt and spread new skills and knowledge. It is equally important that the team be critical and aware of ML's limitations, but such constructive criticism should be provided by team members or advisors with ML experience, not by ML-naïve/skeptic team members.

To support ML adoption and acceptability, in-house evaluations can be used, including well-developed and already validated techniques. Involving interested project leaders in the design of these evaluations may also increase subsequent acceptability. These evaluations can also be used to experiment with workflow modifications. The more workflows are changed, the more important it is that project teams feel ownership of or inclusion in those change decisions.

Home-grown, Norwegian-language training materials were popular.

ML can be a disruptive technology within evidence syntheses, although it does not have to be. The time savings we have seen in various phases of our reviews can be received

as positive, as well as threatening to one's usual role and responsibility, or both. We hope that our suggested format of the future team, with rotating short-term members will build trust in ML, but this is not a given: a goal should be to expose as many employees as possible to ML, while ensuring that concerns are heard and addressed.

---

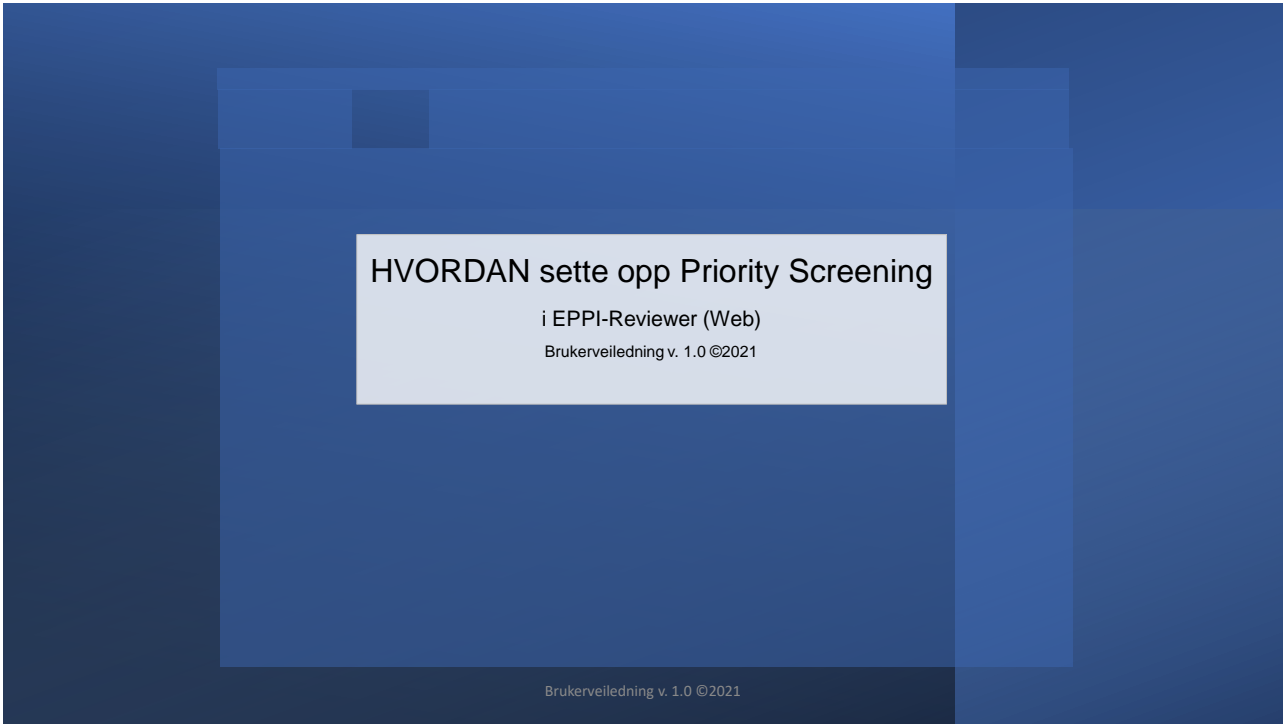
# Appendices

Appendix 1: How to put up a priority screening in EPPI-reviewer

Appendix 2: Machine learning classifiers – how to build your own in EPPI 4

Appendix 3: Risk of Bias assessments with machine learning – Team leaders

Appendix 4: Risk of Bias assessments with machine learning – Team members



1



2

https://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/eppireviewer-web/home

**EPPI CENTRE** **EPPI-Reviewer** LOGIN

18 May 2021 Search

HOME HELP EPPi-MAPPER RIS EXPORT ABOUT ACCOUNT MANAGER

Home

### Getting Started

EPPI-Reviewer is an application for all types of literature review, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, 'narrative' reviews and meta-ethnographies. It is suitable for small or large-scale reviews (with some of our existing reviews containing over a million items).

**Start using EPPi-Reviewer today! Sign up for a free one month trial!**

**Please see [About our fees](#) and [About support](#) for further information.**

### EPPI Reviewer Web

EPPI Reviewer Web is the latest version of our software, running on any modern web browser without the need for any add-ons or other installation. It works across web-enabled devices including smartphones and tablets - useful for screening on the move!

**ER Web login -:**  
[eppi.ioe.ac.uk/EPPiReviewer-Web](https://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/EPPiReviewer-Web)

We are always improving and refining the software and you can find details in our "Latest Changes" forum post.

### News

**Microsoft Academic Graph**  
 EPPI Reviewer is integrating access to 230 million OA bibliographic records of research articles, connected in a large network graph of concept & citation relationships: the Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG) - updated weekly.

**WWGS 2020**  
 We presented our Evidence Mapping Tools at the **What Works Global Summit 2020**  
 Click to find out more...

**New Videos for ER Web!**  
 Great for those new to EPPi Reviewer or switching from EPPi Reviewer 4.

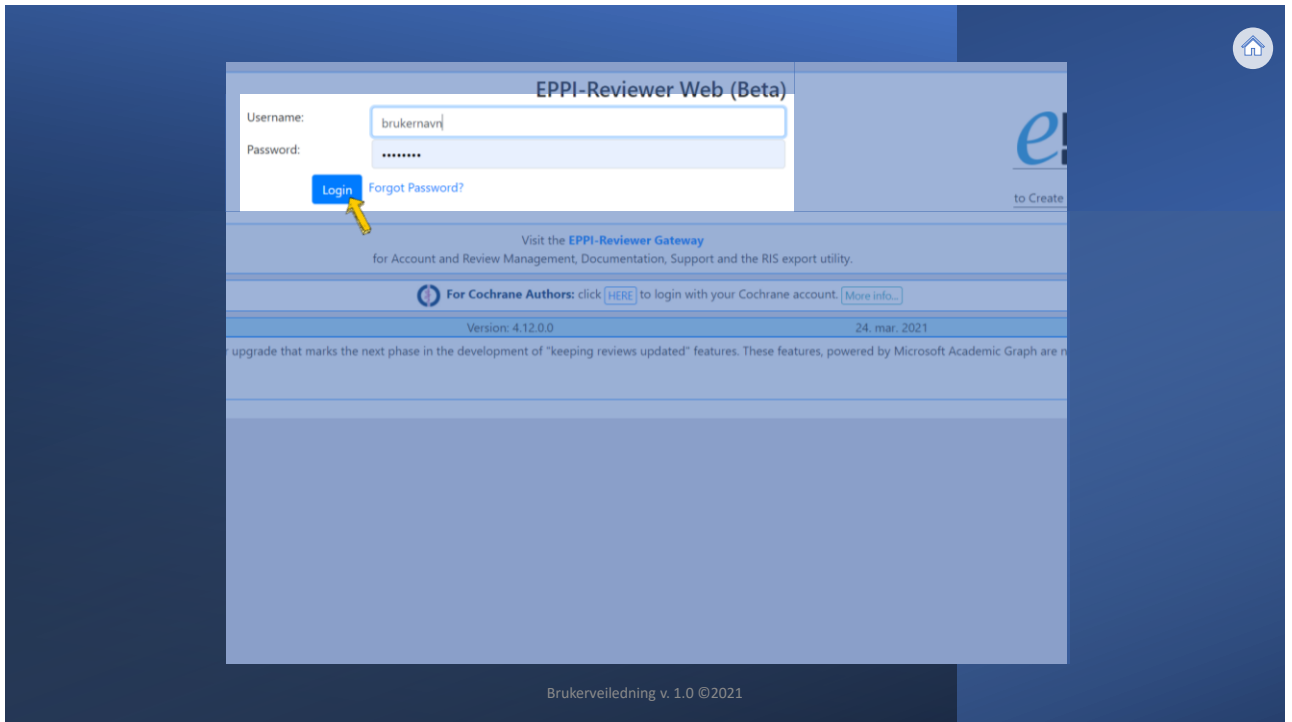
Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

3

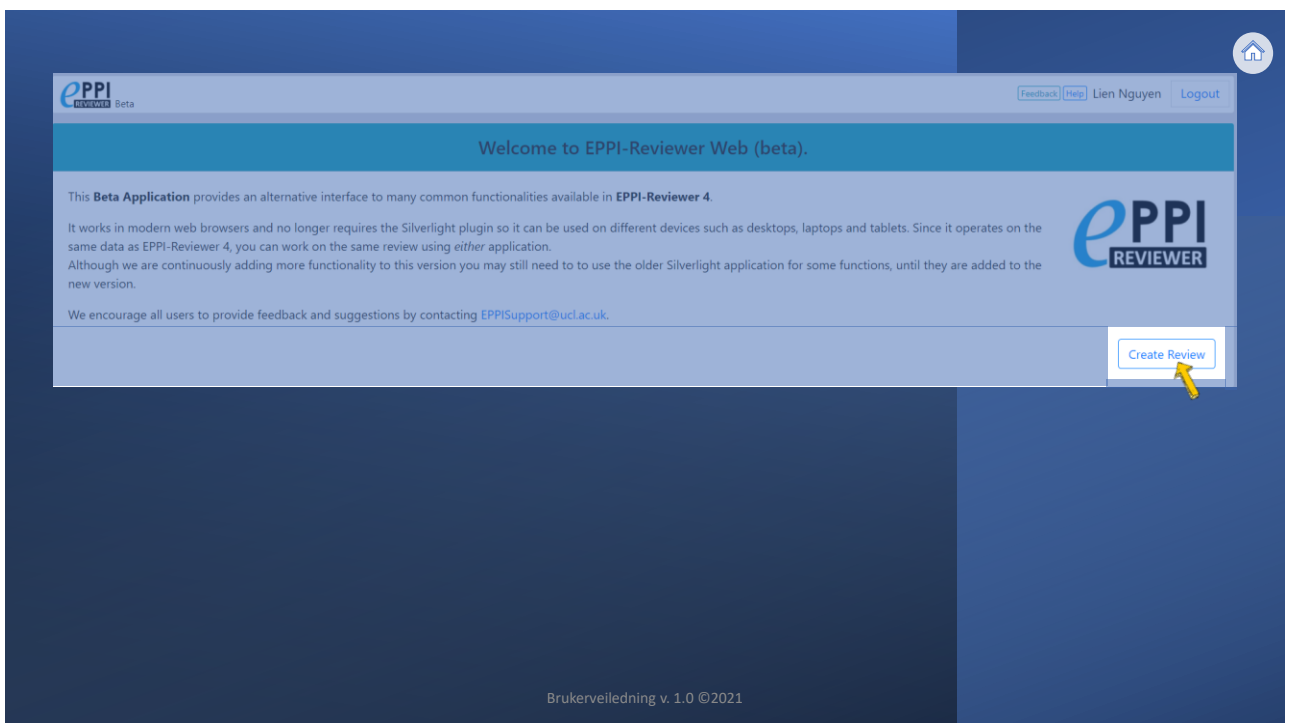


4





5



6

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Welcome to EPPI-Reviewer Web (beta).

This **Beta Application** provides an alternative interface to many common functionalities available in **EPPI-Reviewer 4**.

It works in modern web browsers and no longer requires the Silverlight plugin so it can be used on different devices such as desktops, laptops and tablets. Since it operates on the same data as EPPI-Reviewer 4, you can work on the same review using *either* application. Although we are continuously adding more functionality to this version you may still need to use the older Silverlight application for some functions, until they are added to the new version.

We encourage all users to provide feedback and suggestions by contacting [EPPIsupport@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:EPPIsupport@ucl.ac.uk).

EPPI REVIEWER

New Review Name

Create Review Cancel

1 2

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

7

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Welcome to EPPI-Reviewer Web (beta).

This **Beta Application** provides an alternative interface to many common functionalities available in **EPPI-Reviewer 4**.

It works in modern web browsers and no longer requires the Silverlight plugin so it can be used on different devices such as desktops, laptops and tablets. Since it operates on the same data as EPPI-Reviewer 4, you can work on the same review using *either* application. Although we are continuously adding more functionality to this version you may still need to use the older Silverlight application for some functions, until they are added to the new version.

We encourage all users to provide feedback and suggestions by contacting [EPPIsupport@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:EPPIsupport@ucl.ac.uk).

New Review Name

Create Review Cancel

Review name & ID-number

[srtools-support@fhi.no](mailto:srtools-support@fhi.no)

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

8



9

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Review home References Frequencies Crosstabs Search & Classify Collaborate

Review Items Import Items Manage Duplicates Update review

Included: 2905 Excluded: 0 Deleted: 186 Duplicates: 109

Coding Progress Coding Tools

Screening Tools:

Screen on Title & Abstract	31	0
Screen on Full Text	15	0
Screen T/A, Fear SR	317	0

Standard Tools:

Risk Of Bias (Cochrane)	0	0
Data Extraction	0	0
NTRK	417	0

Administration Tools:

Allocations	0	0
Retrieval status	0	0

REVIEW HOME (Startside)

The Screening List is Enabled and Ready. [Click Here](#) to start screening.

Your account expires on: 15. des. 2021  
Current(shared) review expires on: 15. des. 2021.

Create Review

Status: Normal. Last code update: 24/03/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

10

EPPI Reviewer Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Review home References Frequencies Crosstabs Search & Classify Collaborate

Review Items **Import Items** Manage Duplicates Update review

Included: 2905 Excluded: 0 Deleted: 186 Duplicates: 109

Coding Progress Coding Tools

Screening Tools:

Screen on Title & Abstract	31	0
Screen on Full Text	15	0
Screen T/A, Fear SR	317	0

Standard Tools:

Risk Of Bias (Cochrane)	0	0
Data Extraction	0	0
NTRK	417	0

Administration Tools:

Allocations	0	0
Retrieval status	0	0

Status: Normal. Last code update: 24/03/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

11

EPPI Reviewer Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Manage Sources **Import Items** PubMed

SOURCES in Review: Close/back

SR Fear for import.txt

Step 1: Choose file format and select file

Filter: RIS

Pick the file to upload: Select File

Importer referanser

Klikk på Import Items

Velg RIS-fil

MAG search: AND(#22, #23)

jan files.txt

Mental health MAG (Jan)

Selected items from MAG on 2/11/2021 at 11:52:57 AM

Selected items from MAG on 2/11/2021 at 3:21:00 PM

SR fear 18 included from map.txt

Automated search: 3/10/2021 at 2:57:58 PM

Automated search: 3/10/2021 at 3:45:51 PM

Lien og Marit test 12.03.21.txt

TestMAG\_20210406.txt

Tannpleie\_MAG-test.txt

Tannpleie\_ALLE\_EPPI-test.txt

Automated search: 4/13/2021 at 2:58:28 PM

Microsoft Academic search: AND(#15, #16)

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

12

**Importere referanser**

- Klikk på Import Items
- Velg RIS-fil
- Klikk på Select File
- Last opp RIS-fil fra EndNote-bibliotek

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021    Current User: Lien Nguyen    Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

13

**Importere referanser**

- Klikk på Import Items
- Velg RIS-fil
- Klikk på Select File
- Last opp RIS-fil fra EndNote-bibliotek
- Fyll ut info for enklere gjenfinning

Step 2: Preview and import:

back    Show Preview

Results: Total references = 101

Source Name: citation-export.ris    Date of search: 22-May-2021

Search String (optional):

Database (optional):

Description (optional):

Notes (optional):

Import

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

14

**Import/Manage Sources**

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Manage Sources Import Items PubMed SOURCES in Review: No Sources in review. Close/back

**Step 2: Preview and import:**

back Show Preview

Results: Total references = 101

Source Name: citation-export.ris Date of search: 22-May-2021

Search String (optional)

Database (optional)

Description (optional)

Notes (optional)

Import

**Importere referanser**

- Klikk på Import Items
- Velg RIS-fil
- Last opp RIS-fil fra EndNote-bibliotek
- Fyll ut info for enklere gjenfinning
- Klikk på Close/back for å komme tilbake til Review Home

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

15

**EPPI REVIEWER Beta**

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Review home References Frequencies Crosstabs Search & Classify Collaborate

Review Items Import Items Manage Duplicates Update review

Included: 2905 Excluded: 0 Deleted: 186 Duplicates: 109

Coding Progress Coding Tools

Screening Tools:

Screen on Title & Abstract	31	0
Screen on Full Text	15	0
Screen T/A, Fear SR	317	0

Standard Tools:

Risk Of Bias (Cochrane)	0	0
Data Extraction	0	0
NTRK	417	0

Administration Tools:

Allocations	0	0
Retrieval status	0	0

**REVIEW HOME**

Fjerne dubletter

- Klikk på Manage Duplicates

Your account expires on: 15. des. 2021  
Current(shared) review expires on: 15. des. 2021.

Create Review

Status: Normal. Last code update: 24/03/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

16

**PPI** Beta

**Duplicates** Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Tools... Refresh **Get New Duplicates** Mark Automatically More... 0 groups of possible duplicates loaded (0 marked as completed). Close/back

Done? ID Short Title

Please click on a group to see the group details.

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Lien test med Elisabeth

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

Fjerne dubletter

- Klikk på Manage Duplicates
- Klikk på Get New Duplicates

17

**PPI** Beta

**Duplicates** Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Tools... Refresh Get New Duplicates Mark Automatically More... 0 groups of possible duplicates loaded (0 marked as completed). Close/back

Done? ID Short Title

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021

**Start Get New Duplicates?**

Do you want to start finding new duplicates?

Cancel **OK**

Fjerne dubletter

- Klikk på Manage Duplicates
- Klikk på Get New Duplicates
- Klikk OK

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

18

**PPPI** Beta

**Duplicates** Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Refresh Get New Duplicates Mark Automatically More... 98 groups of possible duplicates loaded (0 marked as completed). Close/back

Done?	ID	Short Title
false	5510051	Diskin (2009)
false	5510052	Petry (2008)
false	5510053	Hodgins (2001)
false	5510054	Petry (2009)
false	5510055	Petry (2016)
false	5510056	Oei (2010)
false	5510057	Grant (2009)
false	5510058	Pfund (2020)
false	5510059	Hodgins (2009)
false	5510060	Hodgins (2004)
false	5510061	Carlbring (2010)
false	5510062	NCT00203645 (2005)
false	5510063	Abbott (2018)
false	5510064	Toneatto (2016)
false	5510065	Grant (2011)
false	5510066	Luquiens (2015)
false	5510067	NCT00183599 (2005)
false	5510068	Abbott (2017)
false	5510069	Thomas (2015)
false	5510070	Luquiens (2015)

**Master Item ID:** 58326106 **Coded count:** 0 **Uploaded Docs:** 0 **Pages:** 382-388

**Pub Type:** Journal, Article **Date:** 2009 **Source:** citation-export.ris

**Author(s):** Diskin KM ; Hodgins DC ;

**Title:** A randomized controlled trial of a single session motivational intervention for concerned gamblers

**Pub Name:** Behaviour research and therapy

---

**Item ID:** 58326208 **Coded count:** 0 **Uploaded Docs:** 0 **Pages:** 382-388

**Pub Type:** Journal, Article **Similarity: 1.000** **Date:** 2009 **Source:** kopi-citation-export.ris

**Author(s):** Diskin KM ; Hodgins DC ;

**Title:** A randomized controlled trial of a single session motivational intervention for concerned gamblers

**Pub Name:** Behaviour research and therapy

**Marked As:** Not checked

**Fjerne dubletter**

- Klikk på «A Duplicate» hvis studien er duplikat
- eller*
- Klikk på «Not a Duplicate» hvis den ikke er en duplikat

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Lien test med Elisabet

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

19



20



https://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/cms/Default.aspx?tabid=2914



**ePPI CENTRE** **EPPI-Reviewer** LOGIN

18 May 2021 Search

HOME HELP EPPI-MAPPER RIS EXPORT ABOUT **ACCOUNT MANAGER**

Home

### Getting Started

EPPI-Reviewer is an application for all types of literature review, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, 'narrative' reviews and meta-ethnographies. It is suitable for small or large-scale reviews (with some of our existing reviews containing over a million items).

**Start using EPPI-Reviewer today! Sign up for a free one month trial!**

**Please see About our fees and About support for further information.**

### EPPI Reviewer Web

EPPI Reviewer Web is the latest version of our software, running on any modern web browser without the need for any add-ons or other installation. It works across web-enabled devices including smartphones and tablets - useful for screening on the move!

**ER Web login - : eppi.ioe.ac.uk/EPPIReviewer-Web**

We are always improving and refining the software and you can find details in our "Latest Changes" forum post.

### News

**Microsoft Academic Graph**  
EPPI Reviewer is integrating access to 230 million OA bibliographic records of research articles, connected in a large network graph of concept & citation relationships: the Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG) - updated weekly.

**WWGS 2020**  
We presented our Evidence Mapping Tools at the **What Works Global Summit 2020** Click to find out more...

**New Videos for ER Web!**  
Great for those new to EPPI Reviewer or switching from EPPI Reviewer 4.

Review Name	References	Procedures	Qualities	Search & Query	Collaborate
Review Name	Import Items	Manage Databases			
Included: 11136	Excluded: 31938	Deleted: 4038	Qualities: 638		
Current Program	Getting Tools				
Data Extractions for rapid review	0/1	0/1	0/1		
Qualitative Evidence Review (QER)	0/1	0/1	0/1		
Qualitative Evidence Review (QER)	0/1	0/1	0/1		
Qualitative Evidence Review (QER)	0/1	0/1	0/1		



Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

21

**ePPI CENTRE** **EPPI-Reviewer** LOGIN

22 May 2021 Search

HOME HELP EPPI-MAPPER RIS EXPORT ABOUT **ACCOUNT MANAGER**

Account Manager

### Account and Review Manager

Status: Status: Normal.

**If you already have an EPPI-Reviewer 4 account please click on Login.**

**Login** Access an existing account

[Forgot your Password?](#) [Forgot your Username?](#) [Need to activate your account?](#)

**If you do not have an EPPI-Reviewer 4 account you can create one by clicking on New account.**

**New account** Create a new account.

If you are creating a trial account please see About trial access.

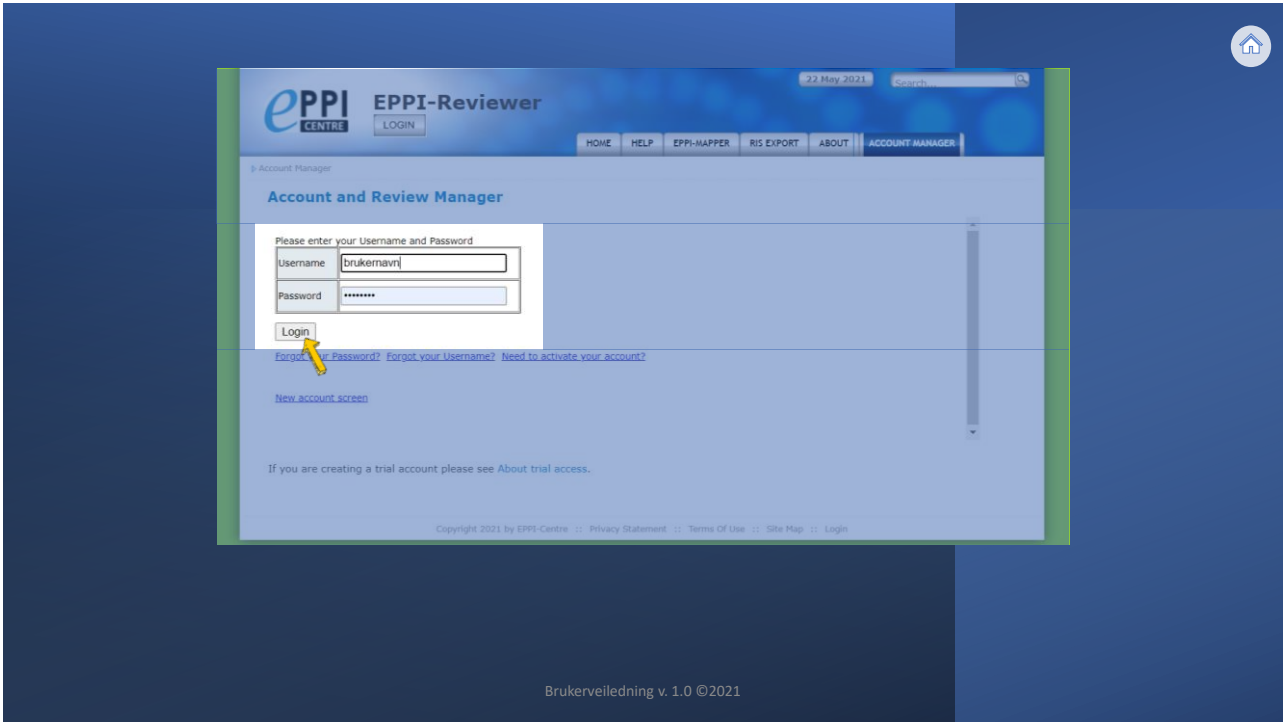
Copyright 2021 by EPPI-Centre :: Privacy Statement :: Terms Of Use :: Site Map :: Login

Home :: Help :: EPPI-Mapper :: RIS Export :: About :: Account Manager

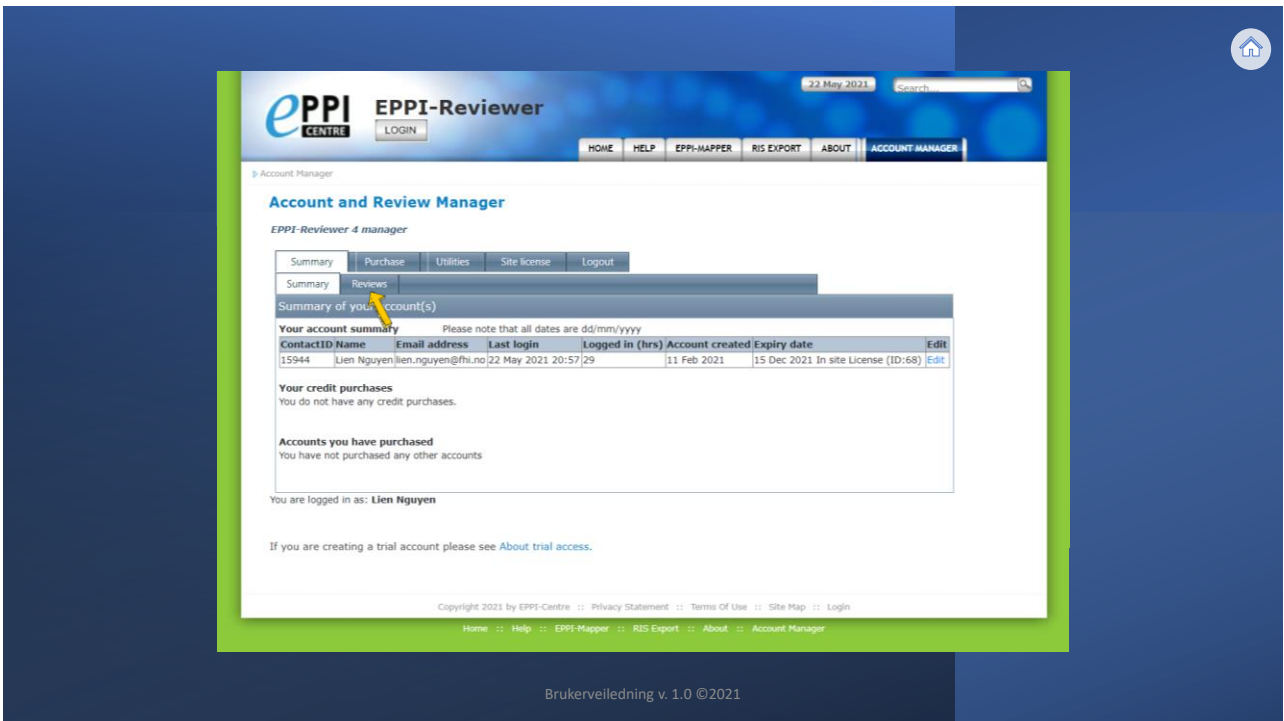


Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

22



23



24

The screenshot shows the 'Account and Review Manager' page for 'EPPI-Reviewer 4 manager'. The 'Reviews' tab is active. A red box highlights the text 'Shareable reviews you have purchased or have administrative rights to'. Below this, there are three tables: 'Summary of your reviews', 'Your non-shareable reviews', and 'Other shareable reviews you are a member of'. A yellow arrow points to the 'Edit' link in the first row of the 'Summary of your reviews' table.

ReviewID	Name of review	Date review created	Last login by this reviewer	Expiry date	Edit
25587	MAG Controlled	25 Nov 2020	06 May 2021 15:39	15 Dec 2021 In Site License 'NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH' (ID:68)	<a href="#">Edit</a>

ReviewID	Name of review	Date created	Last login by this reviewer	Edit
27304	Lien test med Elisabeth	06 Apr 2021	22 May 2021 20:57	<a href="#">Edit</a>
26506	Lien Nguyen's example non-shareable review	11 Feb 2021	27 Apr 2021 11:17	<a href="#">Edit</a>

ReviewID	Name of review	Review owner	Date review created	Last login by this reviewer	Remove from review
26223	ELINETHTA RCR	Stijn Van de Velde	21 Jan 2021	06 Apr 2021 11:26	<a href="#">Remove</a>
25587	MAG Controlled	Marit Johansen	25 Nov 2020	10 May 2021 14:34	<a href="#">Remove</a>
25168	Test MAG	Ley Muller	23 Oct 2020	22 May 2021 14:28	<a href="#">Remove</a>

You are logged in as: Lien Nguyen

25

The screenshot shows the 'Details' view for review 25587. It includes a form for 'Review #', 'Review title', and 'Priority screening'. Below this is a table titled 'Members of this review' with columns for Contact ID, Reviewer (expiry date), Email, Last access, Coding only, Read only, Review admin, and Remove from review. A yellow arrow points to the 'Review admin' checkbox for Marit Johansen.

ReviewID	Name of review	Date review created	Last login by this reviewer	Expiry date	Edit
25587	MAG Controlled	25 Nov 2020	06 May 2021 15:39	15 Dec 2021 In Site License 'NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH' (ID:68)	<a href="#">Edit</a>

Review #	Review title	Priority screening
25587	MAG Controlled	<input type="radio"/> On <input checked="" type="radio"/> Off

Contact ID	Reviewer (expiry date)	Email	Last access	Coding only	Read only	Review admin	Remove from review
10426	Marit Johansen () In Site License #68	marit.johansen@fhi.no	06 May 2021 15:29	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Remove</a>
11210	Ingrid Harboe () In Site License #68	ingrid.harboe@fhi.no	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Remove</a>
15367	Gyri Hval () In Site License #68	gyri.hval@fhi.no	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Remove</a>
11288	Ley Muller () In Site License #68	aemu@fhi.no	06 Apr 2021 09:53	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Remove</a>
10004	Lien Nguyen () In Site License #68	lien.nguyen@fhi.no	10 May 2021 10:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Remove</a>

26

1

2

Invite

Enter a users email address and select **Invite**.  
If the account is valid it will be placed in the review and an email send to the account holder.

Contact ID	Reviewer (expiry date)	Email	Last access	Coding only	Read only	Review admin	Remove from review
10426	Mart Johansen () in Site License #68	mart.johansen@fhi.no	06 May 2021 15:29	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remove
11210	Ingrid Harboe () in Site License #68	ingrid.harboe@fhi.no	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove
15367	Gyri Hval () in Site License #68	gyri.hval@fhi.no	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove
11288	Ley Muller () in Site License #68	aemu@fhi.no	06 Apr 2021 09:53	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove
11288	Lien Nguyen () in Site License #68	lien.nguyen@fhi.no	10 May 2021 10:53	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

27



28

**Account and Review Manager**

Summary of your reviews

Shareable reviews you have purchased or have administrative rights to

ReviewID	Name of review	Date review created	Last login by this reviewer	Expiry date	Edit
25587	MAG Controlled	25 Nov 2020	06 May 2021 15:39	15 Dec 2021 In Site License 'NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH' (ID:68)	Edit

Review # 25587  
Review title MAG Controlled

Save Cancel/close Priority screening  On  Off

Members of this review

Contact ID	Reviewer (expiry date)	Email	Last access	Coding only	Read only	Review admin	Remove from review
10426	Mart Johansen () in Site License #68	marit.johansen@fhi.no	06 May 2021 15:29	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Remove
11210	Ingrid Harboe () in Site License #68	ingrid.harboe@fhi.no	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove
15367	Gyri Hval () in Site License #68	gyri.hval@fhi.no	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove
11288	Ley Muller () in Site License #68	aemu@fhi.no	06 Apr 2021 09:53	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove
12241	Lien Nguyen () in Site License	lien.nguyen@fhi.no	10 May 2021	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

29

**Getting Started**

EPPi-Reviewer is an application for all types of literature review, including systematic reviews, meta-analyses, "narrative" reviews and meta-ethnographies. It is suitable for small or large-scale reviews (with some of our existing reviews containing over a million items).

Start using EPPi-Reviewer today! Sign up for a free one month trial!

Please see About our fees and About support for further information.

**Microsoft Academic Graph**

EPPi Reviewer is integrating access to 230 million OA bibliographic records of research articles, connected in a large network graph of concept & citation relationships: the Microsoft Academic Graph (MAG) - updated weekly.

**WWGS 2020**

We presented our Evidence Mapping Tools at the What Works Global Summit 2020. Click to find out more...

**ER Web login -:**  
eppi.ioe.ac.uk/  
EPPiReviewer-Web

We are always improving and refining the software and you can find details in our "Latest Changes" forum post.

**New Videos for ER Web!**  
Great for those new to EPPi Reviewer or switching from EPPi Reviewer 4.

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

30

Welcome to EPPI-Reviewer Web (beta).

This **Beta Application** provides an alternative interface to many common functionalities available in **EPPI-Reviewer 4**.

It works in modern web browsers and no longer requires the Silverlight plugin so it can be used on different devices such as desktops, laptops and tablets. Since it operates on the same data as EPPI-Reviewer 4, you can work on the same review using *either* application. Although we are continuously adding more functionality to this version you may still need to use the older Silverlight application for some functions, until they are added to the new version.

We encourage all users to provide feedback and suggestions by contacting [EPPIsupport@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:EPPIsupport@ucl.ac.uk).

[Create Review](#)

ID	Review Name	Last Access: ↓	Coding UI
25168	Test MAG	18. mai 2021	<a href="#">Coding UI</a>
25587	MAG Controlled	10. mai 2021	<a href="#">Coding UI</a>
26506	<a href="#">Lien Nguyen's example non-shareable review</a>	27. apr. 2021	<a href="#">Coding UI</a>
26223	<a href="#">EUnetHTA RCR</a>	6. apr. 2021	<a href="#">Coding UI</a>
27304	<a href="#">Lien test med Elisabet</a>	6. apr. 2021	<a href="#">Coding UI</a>

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

31

REVIEW HOME (Startside)

The Screening List is **Enabled and Ready**. [Click Here](#) to start screening.

Your account expires on: 15. des. 2021  
Current(shared) review expires on: 15. des. 2021.

[Create Review](#)

Review Items: Import Items, Manage Duplicates, Update review  
Included: 2905 Excluded: 0 Deleted: 186 Duplicates: 109

Coding Progress: Coding Tools

Screening Tools:

Tool	Completed	Remaining
Screen on Title & Abstract	31	0
Screen on Full Text	15	0
Screen T/A, Fear SR	317	0

Standard Tools:

Tool	Completed	Remaining
Risk Of Bias (Cochrane)	0	0
Data Extraction	0	0
NTRK	417	0

Administration Tools:

Tool	Completed	Remaining
Allocations	0	0
Retrieval status	0	0

Status: Normal. Last code update: 24/03/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

32

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Review home | References | Frequencies | Crosstabs | Search & Classify | Collaborate

Review Items | Import Items | Manage Duplicates | Update review

Included: 2905 | Excluded: 0 | Deleted: 186 | Duplicates: 109

Coding Progress | Coding Tools

Screening Tools:

Tool	Completed	Remaining
Screen on Title & Abstract	31	0
Screen on Full Text	15	0
Screen T/A, Fear SR	317	0

Standard Tools:

Tool	Completed	Remaining
Risk Of Bias (Cochrane)	0	0
Data Extraction	0	0
NTRK	417	0

Administration Tools:

Tool	Completed	Remaining
Allocations	0	0
Retrieval status	0	0

Your account expires on: 15. des. 2021  
Current(shared) review expires on: 15. des. 2021  
[Create Review](#)

Status: Normal. Last code update: 24/03/2021 | Current User: Lien Nguyen | Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

33

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Review home | References | Frequencies | Crosstabs | Search & Classify | Collaborate

Screening | Distribute Work | Create reference groups | Create new code | Create coding assignment | Create comparison

Reviewers

ID	Name
15944	Lien Nguyen

Coding Assignments

Id	Name	Study Group	Codes to
No records available.			

Comparisons

Codes applied from this set	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	(Reviewer 3)	(Only with this code)	Date	Quick Rep.	Details	Delete
No records available.								

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 | Current User: Lien Nguyen | Review: Lien test med Elisabet

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

34

**Fordele referanser**

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard

The screenshot shows the PPI Beta interface with the 'Screening' tab selected. A yellow box highlights the 'Setup Wizard' button and a list of instructions for distributing references. The interface includes a navigation bar with 'Review home', 'References', 'Frequencies', 'Crosstabs', 'Search & Classify', and 'Collaborate'. Below the navigation bar are buttons for 'Screening', 'Distribute Work', 'Create reference groups', 'Create new code', 'Create coding assignment', and 'Create comparison'. The main content area shows instructions on how to set up and review screening settings, with a 'Setup Wizard' button highlighted by a yellow arrow. Below this are sections for 'Reviewers', 'Coding Assignments', and 'Comparisons'. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021' and 'Current User: Lien Nguyen'.

35

**Fordele referanser**

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes

The screenshot shows the PPI Beta interface with the 'Setup Screening - Step 1: define what to do' wizard. A yellow box highlights the 'Klikk på Codes' option in the 'Fordele referanser' list. The wizard includes instructions on how to set up 'random' and 'priority' screening, with three steps: 'Screening tool and what to screen', 'How to screen', and 'Automation options'. The 'Screening Tool' is currently 'Not Configured...'. The 'What to screen' section has 'All Items' selected. The 'Next' button is highlighted by a yellow arrow. Below the wizard are sections for 'Reviewers', 'Coding Assignments', and 'Comparisons'. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021' and 'Current User: Lien Nguyen'.

36



Review home | References | Frequencies | Crosstabs | Search & Classify | Collaborate

Screening | Distribute Work | Create reference groups | Create new code

### Setup Screening - Step 1: define what to do

This wizard will help you setting up "random" and "priority" screening

1. Screening tool and what to screen:
2. How to screen:
3. Automation options

1.1 Screening Tool:

1.2 What to screen:

Previous **Next** Cancel

**Reviewers**

ID	Name
15944	Lien Nguyen

**Coding Assignments**

Id...	Name	Study Group	Codes to apply	Allocated	Started	Remaining
No records available.						

**Comparisons**

Codes applied from this set	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	(Reviewer 3)	(Only with this code)	Date	Quick Rep.	Details	Delete

Feedback | Help | Lien Nguyen | Logout

Edit Tools | With this Code |

Review Contains no Coding Tools...

[Click Here](#) to Import Coding Tools from templates.

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen

Brokerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

37

Import Coding Tools

This wizard will help you set up the Coding Tools in your review in just a few clicks.

You can pick your Coding Tools from a list of templates or manually copy individual codesets into your review.

In ePPI-Reviewer Coding Tool (or Codesets) are used to store most of the reviewing data so configuring your codesets correctly is important. Coding Tools can be designed for all stages of the review process. They are used to create screening (inclusion/exclusion) tools, and other coding needed.

Coding Tools can also be used to organise the review workflow and can be used to group together references according to other Coding Tools. Coding Tools come in three types: Screening, Administrative and Normal, the latter being used for data-extraction and similar tasks. Below you will find a list of Review Templates along with a description. Each template consists of a number of Coding Tools.

**Please pick One Option:**

- Standard Review**
- Minimal Review
- Manually pick from Public codesets...
- Manually pick from your own codesets...

**Description:**

This template contains screening rounds, and this template is your best option and/or add more codesets. Contains 6 Coding Tools.

Cancel **Proceed**

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 | Current User: Lien Nguyen | Review: Lien test med Elisabeth

Feedback | Help | Lien Nguyen | Logout

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen
- Importer kodingsverktøyet

Brokerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

38

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen
- Importer kodingsverktøyet
- Velg Screen on Title & Abstract > All Items > Klikk på Next

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

39

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen
- Importer kodingsverktøyet
- Velg Screen on Title & Abstract > All Items > Klikk på Next
- Velg Priority

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

40

3. Automation options

2.1 Screening Mode: Priority

Training codes:

1 Repopulate... Add a code...

Code name	Include/Exclude	Delete
EXCLUDE on date	Exclude Change	Delete
EXCLUDE on country	Exclude Change	Delete
EXCLUDE on target group	Exclude Change	Delete
EXCLUDE on intervention	Exclude Change	Delete
EXCLUDE on evidence	Exclude Change	Delete
INCLUDE for second opinion	Include Change	Delete
INCLUDE on title & abstract	Include Change	Delete

2 Confirm: I've checked

3

2.2 N. of people per item: One (Screening set is in "Normal" data entry mode).

2.3

Use "Priority Screening" or randomise the order in which items are screened? Note that it is **recommended** to enable Priority Screening only after you have found a good number of better data that you want to screen (this is called Seeding). Priority Screening will use a randomised order of items and will switch to priority mode when a better data set is available. Manual seeding is **recommended** because you can learn from better data. Thus, you may start in "random" and then change to "Priority Screening" to get a **representative** sample of "Included" items. This also allows to evaluate how many "In" items are overall (useful to decide when to stop screening).

This is the list used by the machine to evaluate titles and abstracts. As the machine only evaluates titles and abstracts, it will only include codes that rely on **data that are available in titles and abstracts**. A typical type of codes that are not included is "Exclude on Date". This list is **already saved** and changes are **immediately** saved. To proceed, you need to type "I've checked" in the "Confirm" field. This is because it is **extremely important** to train the machine does not include codes that are not available in titles and abstracts.

How many people should screen each item? This is always **one** if the screening tool is in "Normal data entry" mode. Otherwise, for **double/multiple screening** it should be at least **two**, and can be risen to up to the number of review members. Please note that rising this number to more than three is **not recommended**.

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen
- Importer kodingsverktøyet
- Velg Screen on Title & Abstract > All Items > Klikk på Next
- Velg Priority
- (1) Klikk på Repopulate (2) Tast inn I've checked (helt sant) (3) Klikk på rød firkant.

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

41

3. Automation options

2.1 Screening Mode: Priority

2.2 N. of people per item: One (Screening set is in "Normal" data entry mode).

The selected screening tool is set for single coding (Normal Data Entry). Do you wish to change the data entry mode to Comparison Coding?

Change to Data Entry Mode: Comparison

Are you sure you want to change to 'Comparison' data entry? This implies that you will have multiple users coding the same item using this Coding Tool and then reconciling the disagreements. Please ensure you have read the manual to check the implications of this.

Cancel

Yes, change to Comparison mode.

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen
- Importer kodingsverktøyet
- Velg Screen on Title & Abstract > All Items > Klikk på Next
- Velg Priority
- (1) Klikk på Repopulate (2) Tast inn I've checked (helt sant) (3) Klikk på rød firkant.
- Klikk på Comparison

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

42

3. Automation options

2.1 Screening Mode: Priority

3.1 Reconciliation Mode: Multiple (no auto-completion)

3.2 AUTO EXCLUDE?  Yes  No

3.3 Indexing: The index is **not up to date**. This means that at the next training round the machine will re-index the titles and abstracts to ensure date data (training will take a little longer). If you believe that this is not necessary, click [here](#).

Buttons: Previous, Save settings, Save and Create List, Cancel

INCLUDE on title & abstract:  Include  Change

2.2 N. of people per item: One (Screening set is in 'Normal' data entry mode). Click [here](#) to enable changing its data entry mode.

How many people should screen each item? This is always **one** if the screening tool is in 'Normal data entry' mode. Otherwise, for **double/multiple screening** it should be at least **two**, and can be risen to up to the number of review members. Please note that doing this results to more than three is **not**

Fordele referanser

- Klikk på Collaborate
- Klikk på Screening
- Klikk på Setup Wizard
- Klikk på Codes
- Klikk på den grønne knappen
- Importer kodingsverktøyet
- Velg Screen on Title & Abstract > All Items > Klikk på Next
- Velg Priority
- (1) Klikk på Repopulate (2) Tast inn *I've checked* (helt sant) (3) Klikk på rød firkant.
- Klikk på Comparison

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

43



44

**Hvorfor trene maskinen?**

For at Priority screening skal starte må man først inkludere 5 studier til fulltekst og ekskludere 5 studier

**Hvordan kan man trene maskinen?**

Bruke kombinasjon av relevante søkeord for ditt prosjekt for å identifisere studier raskere enn ved tilfeldig gjennomgang

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

45

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Review home References Frequencies Crosstabs **Search & Classify** Collaborate

Review Items Import Items Manage Duplicates Update review

Included: 2905 Excluded: 0 Deleted: 186 Duplicates: 109

Coding Progress Coding Tools

Screening Tools:

Screen on Title & Abstract	31	0
Screen on Full Text	15	0
Screen T/A, Fear SR	317	0

Standard Tools:

Risk Of Bias (Cochrane)	0	0
Data Extraction	0	0
NTRK	417	0

Administration Tools:

Allocations	0	0
Retrieval status	0	0

REVIEW HOME

Trene algoritme

Klikk på Search & Classify

Your account expires on: 15. des. 2021  
Current(shared) review expires on: 15. des. 2021.

Create Review

Status: Normal. Last code update: 24/03/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: Test MAG

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

46

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Review home References Frequencies Crosstabs Search & Classify Collaborate

New Search Refresh List Delete Selected Combine Build Model Classify

	Name	Created By
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	"Internet-based interventions for problem gamblers: self-directed recovery" (in Title and Abstract)	Lien Nguyen
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coded with: Usikker	Lien Nguyen

REVIEW HOME

Trene algoritme

Klikk på Search & Classify

Klikk på New Search

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: MAG Controlled

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

47

EPPI REVIEWER Beta

Feedback Help Lien Nguyen Logout

Review home References Frequencies Crosstabs Search & Classify Collaborate

New Search Refresh List Delete Selected Combine Build Model Classify

	Name	Created By
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	"Internet-based interventions for problem gamblers: self-directed recovery" (in Title and Abstract)	Lien Nguyen
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Coded with: Usikker	Lien Nguyen

REVIEW HOME

Trene algoritme

Klikk på Search & Classify

[...]

(1) Velg Containing this text (2) Tast inn søkeord (3) Velg hvor i artikkelen søkeord skal forekomme (4) Klikk op Run Search

1 With this code

- With this code
- Without this code
- With these internal IDs (comma separated)
- With these imported IDs (comma separated)
- That have at least one code from this Coding Tool
- That don't have any codes from this Coding Tool
- Containing this text
- With at least one document uploaded
- Without any documents uploaded
- Without an abstract

2 [search text]

3

- Title and abstract
- Title only
- Abstract only
- Additional text
- Uploaded documents
- Authors
- Publication year

4 Run Search

Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: MAG Controlled

Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021

48

The screenshot shows the EPPI REVIEWER Beta interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Review home, References, Frequencies, Crosstabs, Search & Classify, and Collaborate. Below these are buttons for New Search, Refresh List, Delete Selected, and a dropdown menu for Combine. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: AND, OR, NOT, and NOT (excluded). A yellow arrow points to the 'Combine' dropdown. To the right, a yellow box highlights a 'REVIEW HOME' section with the following text:

**REVIEW HOME**  
 Trene algoritme  
 Klikk på Search & Classify  
 [...]  
 Bruk eventuelt boolske symboler for å kombinere søkeord

In the bottom left, a speech bubble says "Hjelp? Klikk her" with a lightbulb icon. At the bottom of the interface, there is a status bar with the text: "Status: Normal. Last code update: 20/05/2021 Current User: Lien Nguyen Review: MAG Controlled". The footer of the page reads "Brukerveiledning v. 1.0 ©2021".

## Machine learning classifiers – how to build your own in EPPI 4

### What is a classifier?

Classification is the process of predicting data points. Classification predictive modelling is the task of predicting output variables from input variables. It belongs to the category of supervised learning where a human provides input data.

**For example:** Spam detection in email service providers can be identified as a classification problem. This is a binary classification since there are only 2 classes as spam and not spam. A classifier utilizes some training data to understand how given input variables relate to the class. In this case, known spam and non-spam emails have to be used as the training data. When the classifier is trained accurately, it can be used to detect an unknown email.

### When is this relevant for you?

You have already coded a set of references in a dichotomous manner (e.g. *includes/excludes* from screening or priority screening). Now you want to see if your progress is sufficient to apply machine learning to further references to save time with screening or to prioritise your efforts on more relevant studies. With a decent model, you can expect to get a ranking of your further references by % likely relevance. This will also allow you to allocate references by % likely relevance to team members, or set yourself a cut-off percentage of % likely relevance to stop screening.

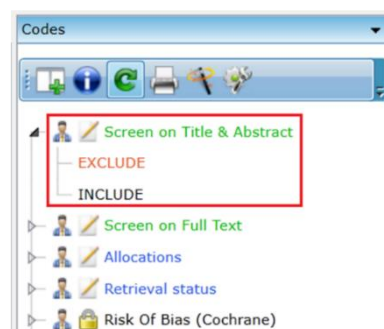
**Note:** a decent model can be built if you have enough *include/exclude* screening decisions to train the model with. The more, the better. You have to build your model before assessing how useful it is; see “How to interpret the results from your model?” at the end of the document for more detail.

### How to set up your classifier:

Before you get started you need a **training set** of known *includes /excludes* (e.g. your screening results). In addition, you need to create a code for all non-processed references to have them easily accessible.

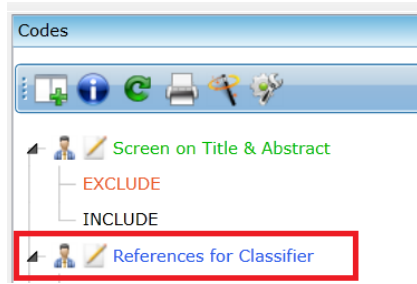
#### 1. Codesets

Have your includes/ excludes ready. To get most sensible predictions of likely relevance, you need to have a balanced ratio of includes/excludes (ideally, not exceeding 1:5). You will be guided in how to balance your studies.

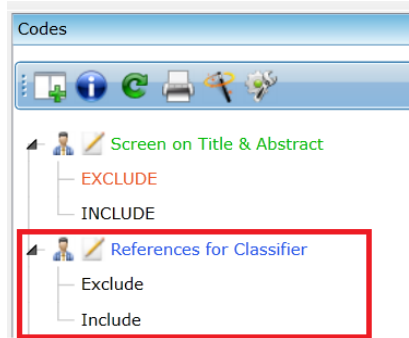




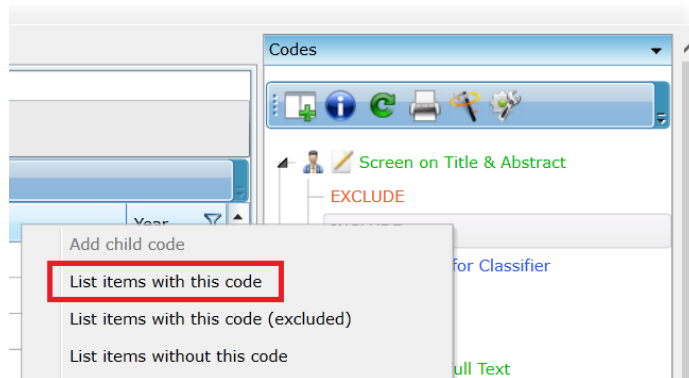
Create an **Administrative** codeset named:  
**Reference for Classifier**. Choose Codeset type: **Administrative**. It will then appear in **blue**.



“Add a child code” via right clicking on the **Reference for Classifier**. One for *Includes* and one for *Excludes*



Check how many includes you have under “**Screen on Title & Abstract**”. Right-click on **Include** and “list items with this code”



In the example there are 78 includes. Remember/ write down your number of *Includes*.

Documents | Search | Diagrams | Frequencies | Cross-tabs | Reports | Meta-analysis | Collaborate | My info | Screening

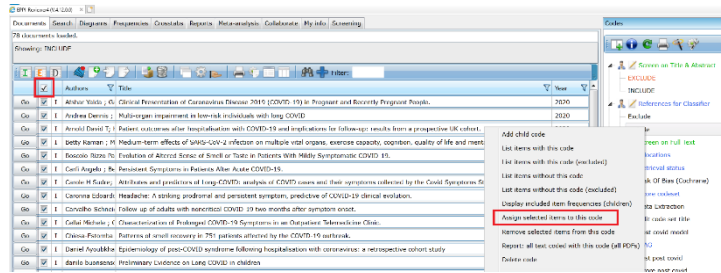
78 documents loaded.

Showing: INCLUDE

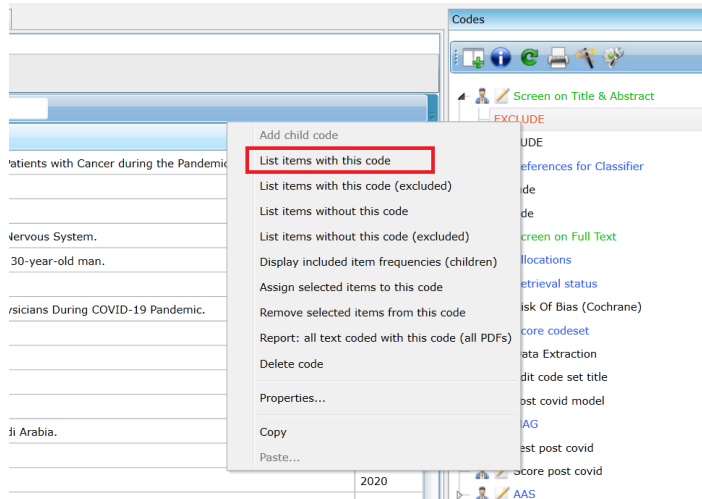
Authors	Title	Year
Alshai Yabla ; Qi	Clinical Presentation of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Pregnant and Recently Pregnant People.	2020
Andreas Demias ;	Multi-organ impairment in low-risk individuals with long COVID.	2020
Arnold David T ;	Patient outcomes after hospitalisation with COVID-19 and implications for follow-up: results from a prospective UK cohort.	2020
Jetty Isman ; M	Medium term effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on multiple vital organs, exercise capacity, cognition, quality of life and mental health, post-hospital.	2020
Bouali-Rizzo R ;	Evaluation of Altered Sense of Smell in Taste & Patients With Mildly Symptomatic COVID-19.	2020
Clark Anglin ; Bc	Persistent symptoms in patients after Acute COVID-19.	2020
Carole H Santes ;	Attributes and predictors of Long-COVID: analysis of COVID cases and their symptoms collected by the Covid Symptoms Study App	2020
Caronna Edouard ;	Headache: A striking prodromal and persistent symptom, predictive of COVID-19 clinical evolution.	2020
Carvalho-Schmitt ;	Follow-up of adults with noncritical COVID-19 two months after symptom onset.	2020
Collin Meeble ; C	Characterization of Prolonged COVID-19 Symptoms in an Outpatient Helioscopic Clinic.	2020
Chiana Intorola ;	Patterns of smell recovery in 713 patients affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.	2020
Daniel AyoubAlah ;	Epidemiology of post-COVID syndrome following hospitalisation with coronavirus: a retrospective cohort study	2021
Idrilo burazerovic ;	Preliminary Evidence on Long COVID in children	2021
Jiang Cheng ; Gf	Clinical characteristics and outcomes of adult patients admitted with COVID-19 in East London: a retrospective cohort analysis	2020
Jonathan Daniels ;	Long term COVID-19 symptoms in a large, unselected population	2020
Gertraude Ewe ;	Post-discharge persistent symptoms and health-related quality of life after hospitalization for COVID-19.	2020
Stavros Fyt ;	Post-discharge persistent symptoms and health-related quality of life after hospitalization for COVID-19.	2020
Goertz Yvonne M ;	Persistent symptoms 3 months after a SARS-CoV-2 infection: the post-COVID-19 syndrome?	2021
Gulay Sabina A ;	Pulmonary function and radiological features four months after COVID-19: first results from the national prospective observational Swiss COVID-1	2021
Cule Sabine A ;	Pulmonary function and radiological features four months after COVID-19: first results from the national prospective observational Swiss COVID-1	2021
Holger Berghorn ;	Post-discharge symptoms and rehabilitation needs in survivors of COVID-19 infection: A cross-sectional evaluation.	2021
Han X ; Fan Y ; ;	Six-Month Follow-up Chest CT Findings after Severe COVID-19 Pneumonia	2021
Hannah C Davis ;	Characterizing Long COVID in an International Cohort: 7 Months of Symptoms and Their Impact	2020
Muhammed C ; Sam ;	Six-month follow-up of self-reported levels of well-being in the COVID-19 pandemic	2020

Page 1 of 1

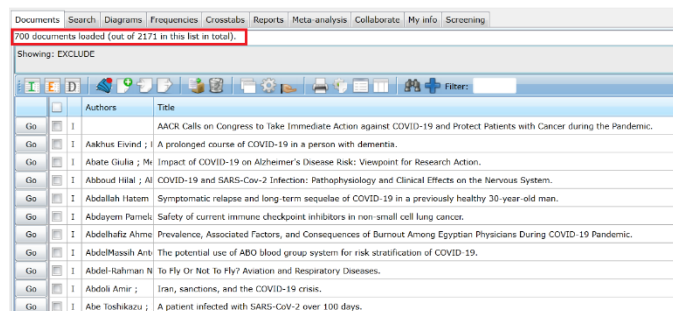
Select all references and assign them to childcode “Include” of the codeset [Reference for Classifier](#).



You now need to assign a selection of your Excludes to childcode “Exclude” of the codeset [Reference for Classifier](#).



Right-click on “Exclude”, and then “list items with this code”.

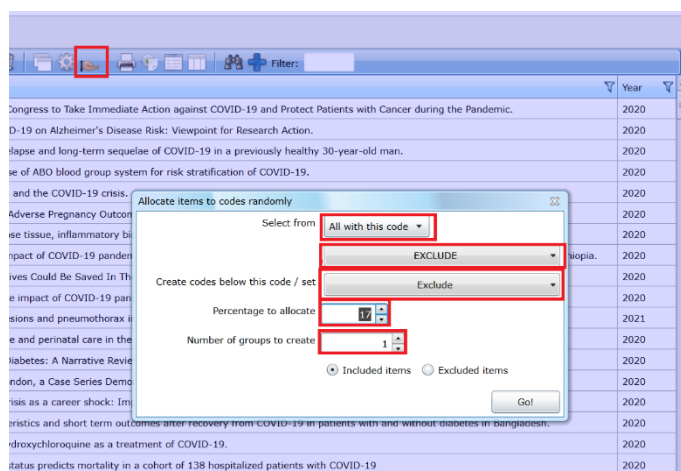


In the example there are 2171 references coded as “Exclude”.

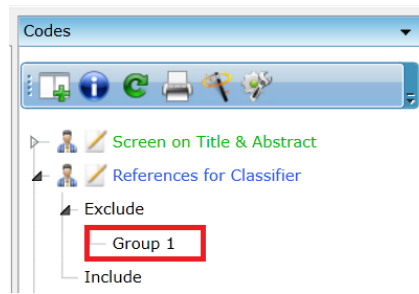
To allocate a selection of “Exclude” not more than 1:5 of Include (i.e.  $5 \times 78 = 390$ ), click the hand symbol to “Allocate items to codes randomly”.

To not exceed the 1:5 ratio, calculate the correct amount percentage you need to assign.

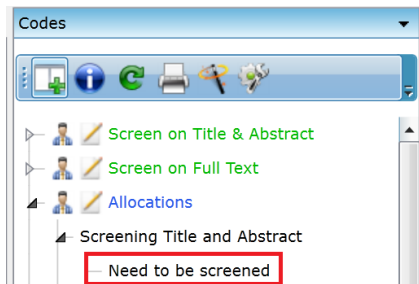
In the example:  $(5 \times 78) / (2171/100) = 17.97$ . So you need to allocate 17% in one group to the childcode “Exclude” of the codeset [Reference for Classifier](#).



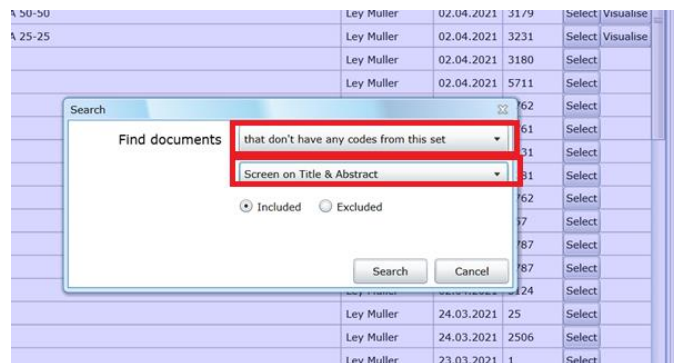
Under the codeset [Reference for Classifier/ Exclude](#) you find “*Group 1*” – your random selection of excludes.



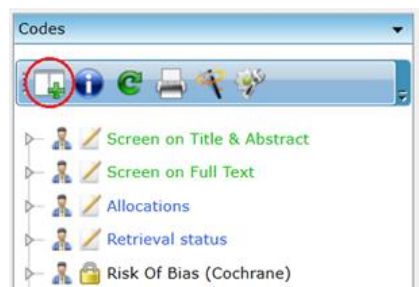
Your references which haven't been screened need to have their own code too. For example, you can code them to a code “*need to be screened*” under the allocations codeset.



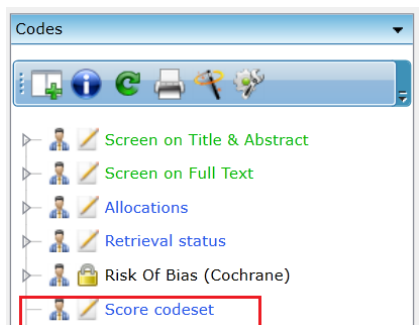
To find the not screened studies, go to the search tab, and search for studies “*that don't have any codes from this set*” “*Screen on Title & Abstract*”. Assign these studies to your “*Need to be screened*” code.



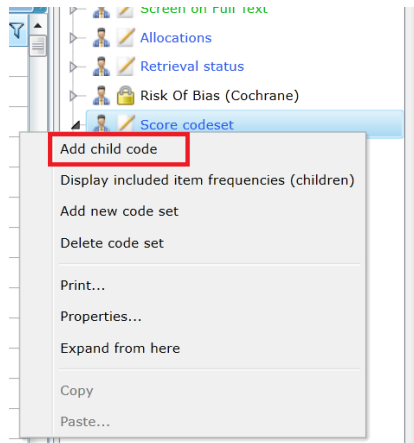
**1. a)** Create an **Administrative** codeset named: [Score codeset](#)



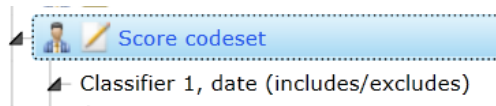
**1. b)** Check that your: [Score codeset](#) is visible and [blue](#)



1. c) "Add a child code" via right clicking on the [score codeset](#)

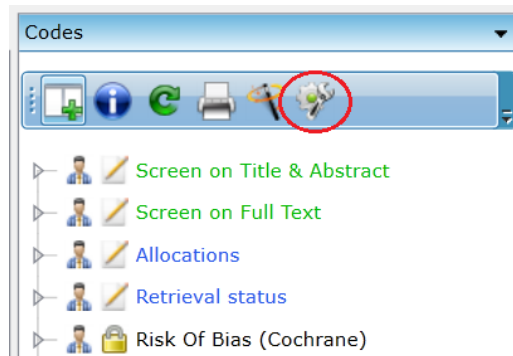


1. d) Name the child code:  
Number and date it, and provide  
the information on how many  
includes/excludes you have  
ready

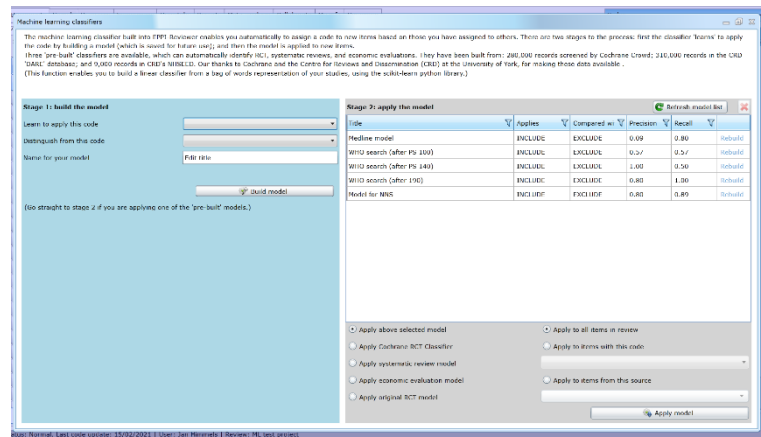


## 2. The Classifier menu

Click on the spanner “classifier” icon to get the Machine building classifier menu

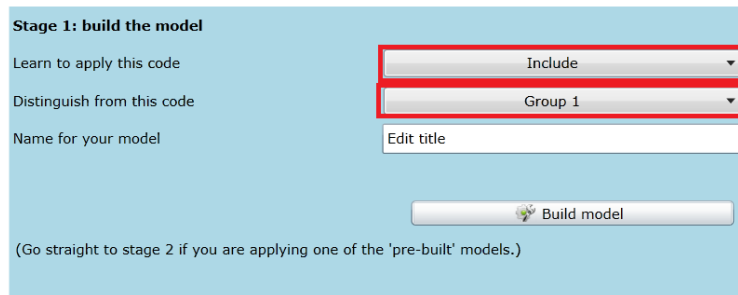


The Machine building classifier menu



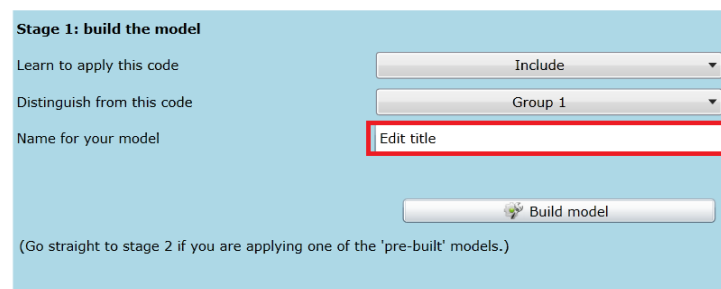
## 3. Build the model

Apply the [Reference for Classifier: Include](#) code from [Reference for Classifier/ Exclude/ Group 1](#) code.



Name the model “Classifier INCLUDE vs EXCLUDE, [number of include – number of exclude]”

Example: “Classifier INCLUDE vs EXCLUDE, 50-200” shows that this model has been trained by 50 included studies and 200 excluded studies.



## Build the model

(Wait a few minutes.)

**Stage 1: build the model**

Learn to apply this code

Distinguish from this code

Name for your model

(Go straight to stage 2 if you are applying one of the 'pre-built' models.)

Your **model is ready** based on your *includes* and *excludes*!

## 4. Apply the model

Go to Stage 2 (right side):  
Applying the model to un-coded/not screened studies

The screenshot shows the 'Machine Learning Classifier' interface. On the left is 'Stage 1: build the model' with dropdowns for 'INCLUDE' and 'EXCLUDE', a text input for 'Title', and a 'Build model' button. On the right is 'Stage 2: apply the model' which contains a table of models and a list of application options.

Title	Applies	Compared w/	Precision	Recall	Rebuild
Test model	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE	0.09	0.80	Rebuild

Below the table are radio buttons for applying the model to various study types, including 'Apply above selected model', 'Apply Cochrane HCI Classifier', 'Apply systematic review model', 'Apply economic evaluation model', and 'Apply original RCT model'. There are also options to 'Apply to all items in review' and 'Apply to items with this code'.

4.a) Select the model you just built

**Stage 2: apply the model**

Title	Applies	Compared w/	Precision	Recall	Rebuild
Test model	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE	0.09	0.80	Rebuild

4.b) Select the studies to apply the model to:

*specific code (that describes your un-processed studies, i.e. "need to be screened" (the code specified in point 1) or a specific source (i.e. a RIS-file)*

**Stage 2: apply the model**

Title	Applies	Compared w/	Precision	Recall	Rebuild
Test model	INCLUDE	EXCLUDE	0.50	0.60	Rebuild

Apply above selected model

Apply to all items in review

Apply to items with this code

Apply Cochrane RCT Classifier

Apply systematic review model

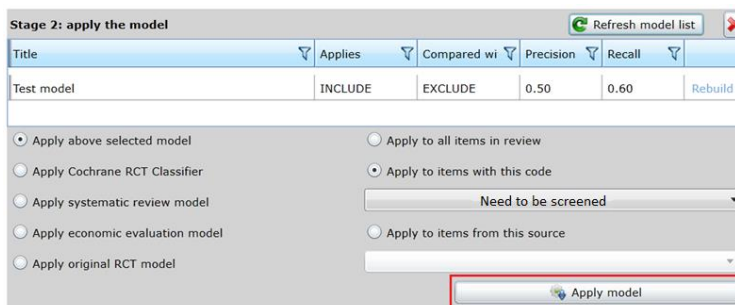
Apply economic evaluation model

Apply original RCT model

Apply to items from this source

## Now: Apply model

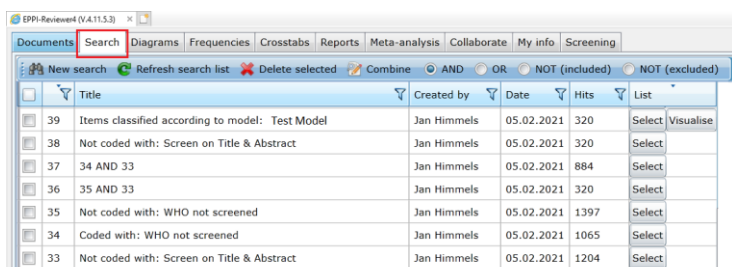
Wait for a few minutes.



## 5. Find the results of your model

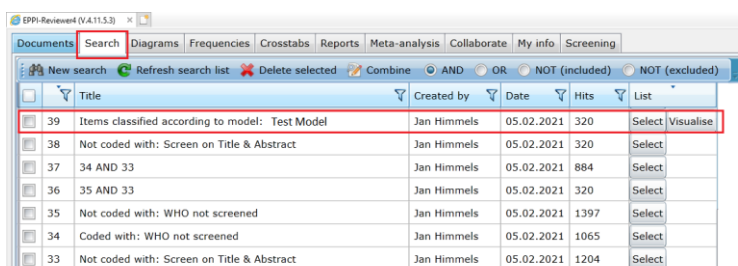
Choose the "Search" tab to see the results.

You will likely have to click "Refresh search list" a few times



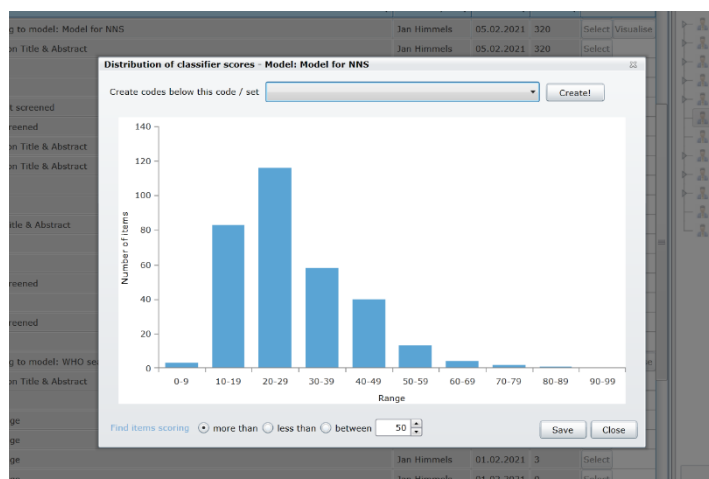
By clicking "Visualise", you get a distribution chart. By clicking on "Select", you get a list of the references with ranking by relevance.

You want to **visualise** your results



After clicking "Visualise", a distribution chart **pops up**

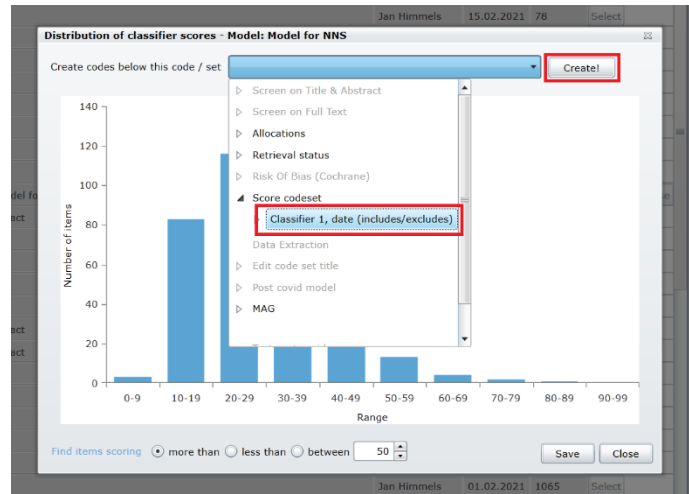
In the example to the right, about 120 studies are ranked as 20-29% likely included; only a few are ranked as 0-9% likely.



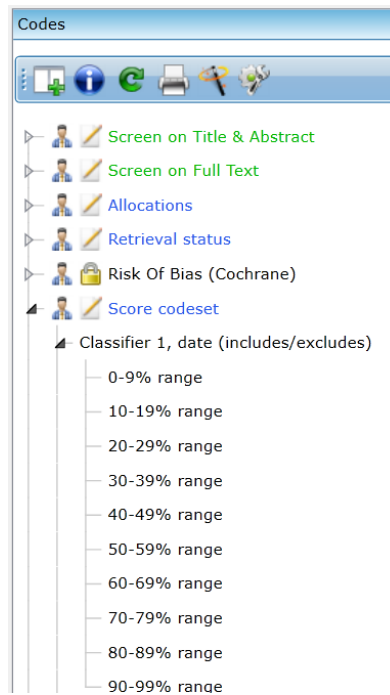
## 6. Saving your results as codes by % likely relevance

Select the child code under the “**Score codeset**” to save each bar as a code (the **child code** you created in Step 1.d).

Click “**Create!**”



Under your administrative **Score codeset**, and under the **child code** you can find each bar from the chart, as its own code.





## 7. Using your results

Consider your options:

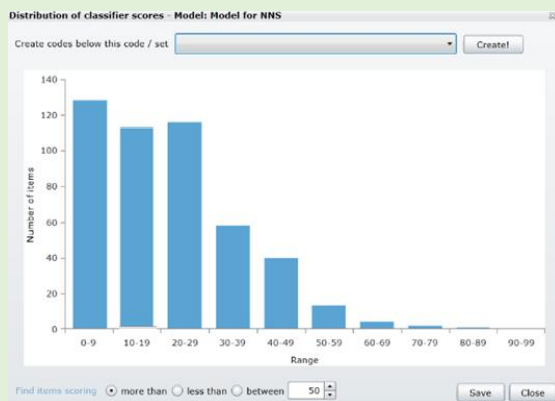
With your results ready, you need to assess their usefulness, if you are satisfied with the results you may want to code studies with low/high likely relevance as includes or excludes, or you can allocate them to a member of your team so screen them.

### Interpret your results

#### *A decent model*

Your results, visualised in the bar chart, reflect the strength of the model. The example below shows a distribution with few studies having a high % likely relevance, and gradually more with less likely relevance. The example reflects a rather good model, with the most relevant studies already having been identified.

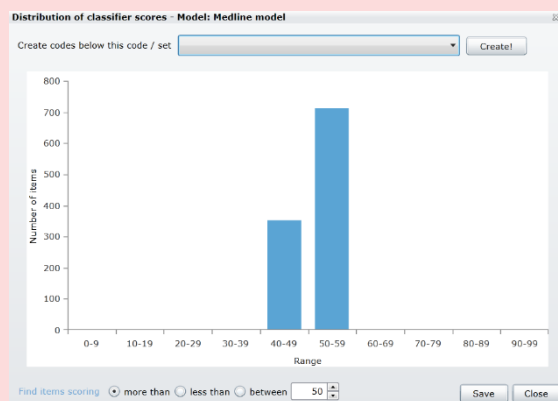
**In this case you can continue on to changing your screening procedures.**



#### *A model that needs to be trained more or adjusted*

The results of a less successful model are depicted below. The model was not able to be very certain in which studies were most likely relevant, or which studies were unlikely relevant. This indicates that the classifier had too little data available to make more certain predictions.

**In this case, you should continue screening, and rebuild the model once you have screened more studies (rule of thumb: 50-100 studies).**

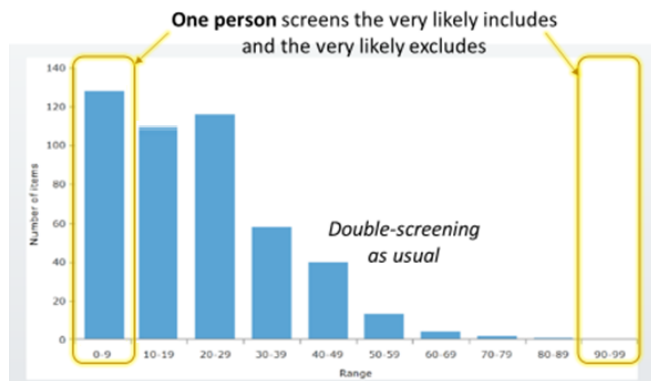


If after you continue screening your model is still clustered around 50-60%, try making your *includes* and *excludes* more balanced. This likely means picking a new, smaller random selection of *excludes*.

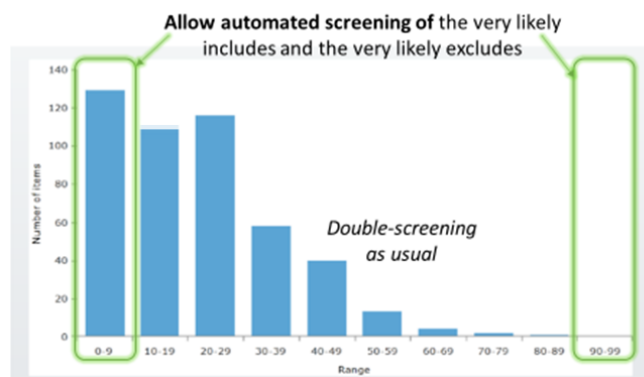
## Changing your screening procedures based on your classifier

If you have built a decent classifier, you have several options. Some examples:

One person, instead of two, can confirm the studies classified as very likely (90-99%) and as very unlikely (0-9%).



Without manual confirmation, you can screen the studies classified as very likely (90-99%) and as very unlikely (0-9%) according to the classifier's prediction.



One person, instead of two, can confirm the studies classified as less likely (0-29%).



Or other combinations.

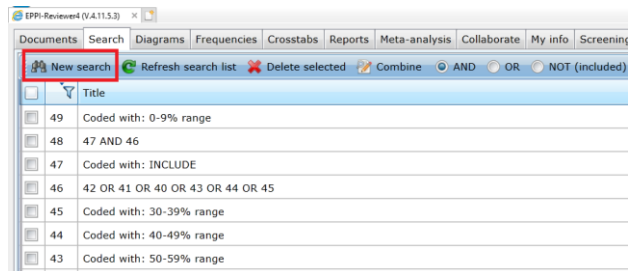
You could also de-prioritize the screening of least likely studies, so that the team proceeds with other tasks, and these least-likely studies are screened whenever people have time.

## 8. a) How to accept the classifier's screening predictions

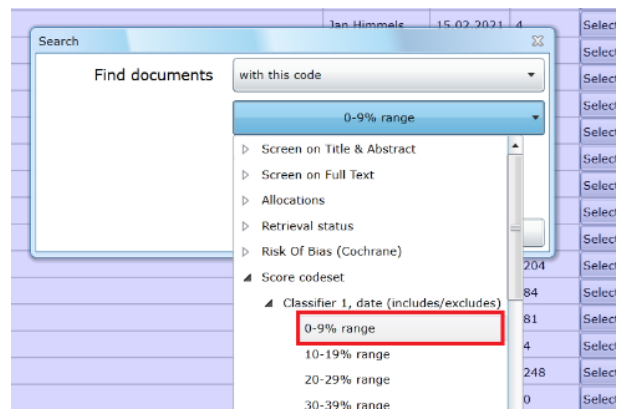
If you want to accept the classifier's prediction of a screening code (without a human screener), you must still be the one to actually assign a code.

You can do this by searching and coding in bulk. E.g. you decide to exclude all studies with less than 10% likely relevance.

Open the search tab and create a new search.



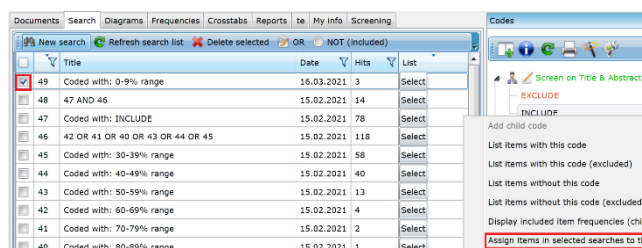
Search for the % range you want to assign the include/ exclude code to (e.g. 0-9% range)



Select the search result via the checkbox

In the Codes menu on the right side, right-click on "EXCLUDE", then click "Assign items in selected searches to this code."

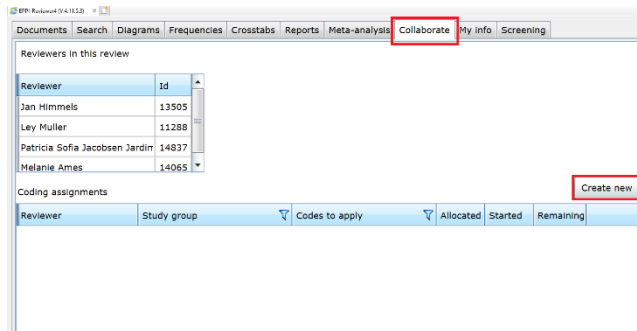
**NB!** If your **Screening on T/A codeset** is set up to require two persons' coding ("Comparison coding"), and you want to keep this set-up rather than change to allow single-person coding ("Normal coding"), then a second person needs to screen these studies. Allocate this same range to a second person with instruction to bulk-screen them as you did, then make a comparison as you normally would to confirm screening.



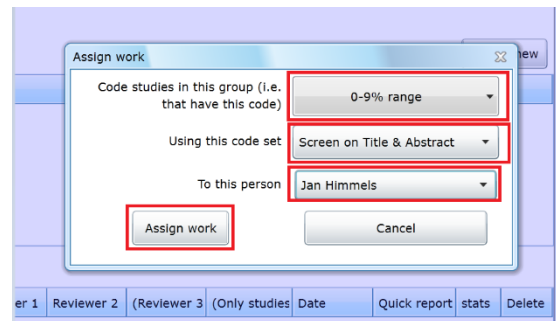
## 8. b) How to allocate studies by likely relevance

If you want certain team members to prioritize screening of certain studies based on likely relevance, you can create specific allocations in the **“Collaborate”** tab.

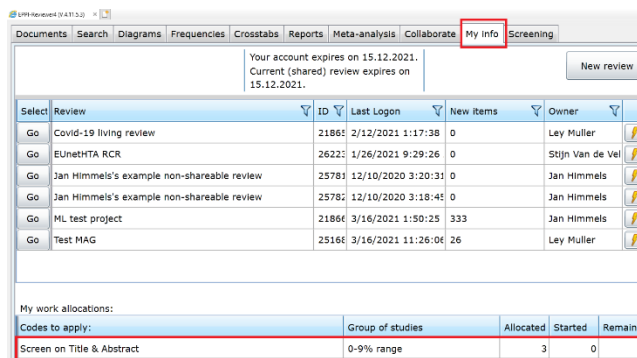
Click **“Create new”**



- i. Select the range you want to allocate.
- ii. Select the codeset you want the individual to code
- iii. Select the person to allocate to
- iv. Assign the work.



The person to whom you allocated will see the assigned references, in the **“My info”** tab, and there under **“My work allocations”**.



# Risk of Bias assessments with machine learning

In EPPI-Reviewer

Instructions for *team leaders*

1

## Technology

- [www.robotreviewer.net](http://www.robotreviewer.net)

The screenshot shows the RobotReviewer website interface. The main heading is "RobotReviewer" with a subtitle "Automating evidence synthesis". Below this is a table of risk of bias assessments for several trials. The table has columns for different bias domains: Random sequence generation, Allocation concealment, Blinding of participants and personnel, Blinding of outcome assessment, Incomplete outcome data, and Selective reporting. The trials listed are Dobson SR, 2013; Gnanapavan AR, 2011; Goldstone SE, 2013; Hillman RJ, 2012; Kreimer AR, 2015; and Levin MJ, 2010. The cells in the table are colored green for low risk, red for high risk, and white with a question mark for unclear risk.

trial	Random sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding of participants and personnel	Blinding of outcome assessment	Incomplete outcome data	Selective reporting
Automating evidence synthesis Dobson SR, 2013	+	+	?	?	?	?
Gnanapavan AR, 2011	+	+	+	+	+	+
Goldstone SE, 2013	?	?	+	?	?	?
Hillman RJ, 2012	?	?	?	?	?	?
Kreimer AR, 2015	+	+	?	?	?	?
Levin MJ, 2010	+	?	?	?	+	?

2

# Before you begin RoB assessments

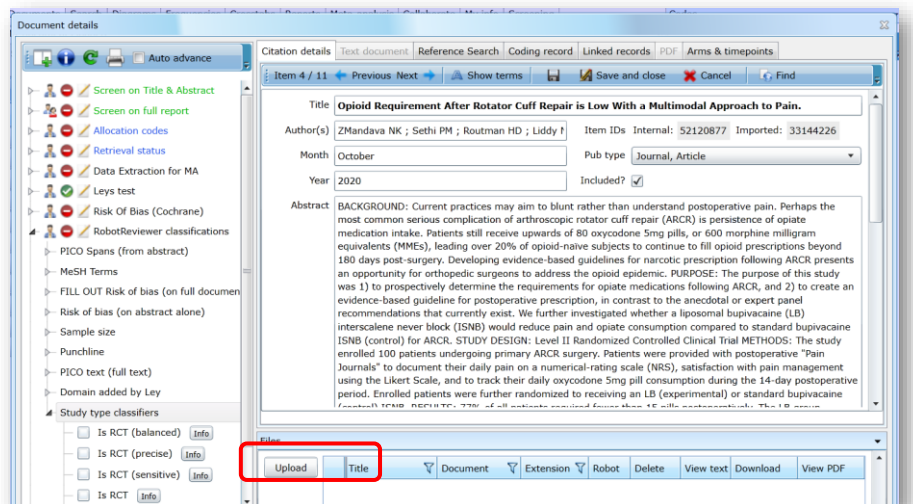
- Request Silverlight access from NHN for you and your team (as early as possible)
- Set your team up in EPPI
- Call in Ley/someone from the machine learning team to talk through possible procedures, such as:
  - Should your team members be blinded to RobotReviewer?
  - Do you want to compare to not using machine learning?
  - Can we collect some data?
- Set up a 1-hour training meeting with your team and Ley, to explain procedures
- Recommended: another 1-hour meeting with your team and Ley, for them to begin assessments

3

## 6 steps

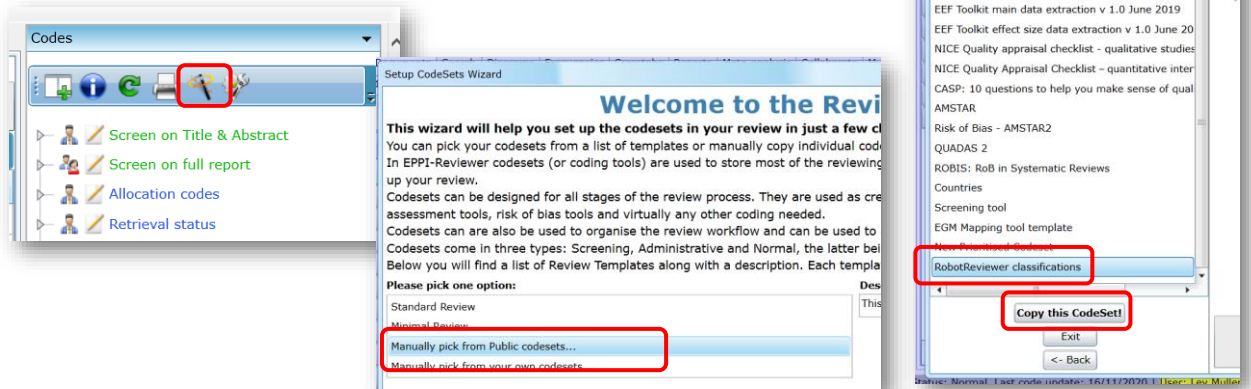
### 1. Upload pdfs

<http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/eppireviewer4/eppireviewer4.aspx>



4

## 2. Add RobotReviewer code set

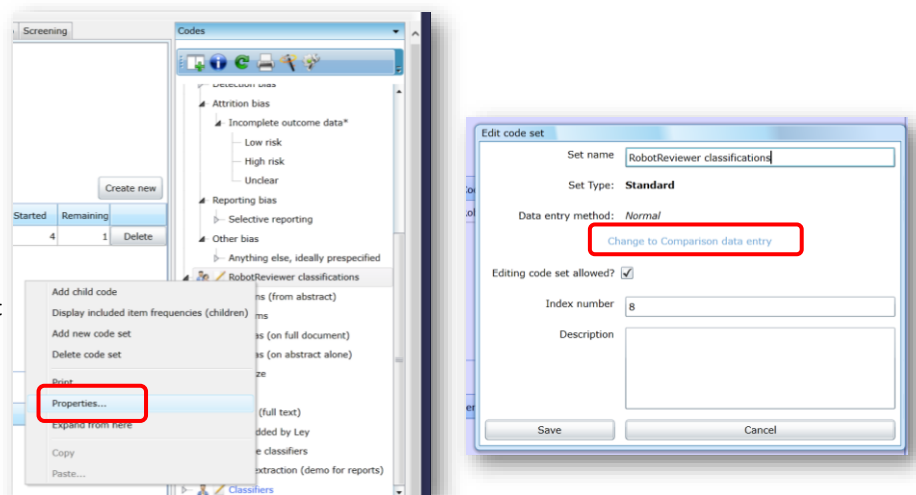


5

## 3. Change RobotReviewer codeset to «comparison» type

so that each researcher's assessments are tracked but not immediately visible to others

Right click on codeset → Properties

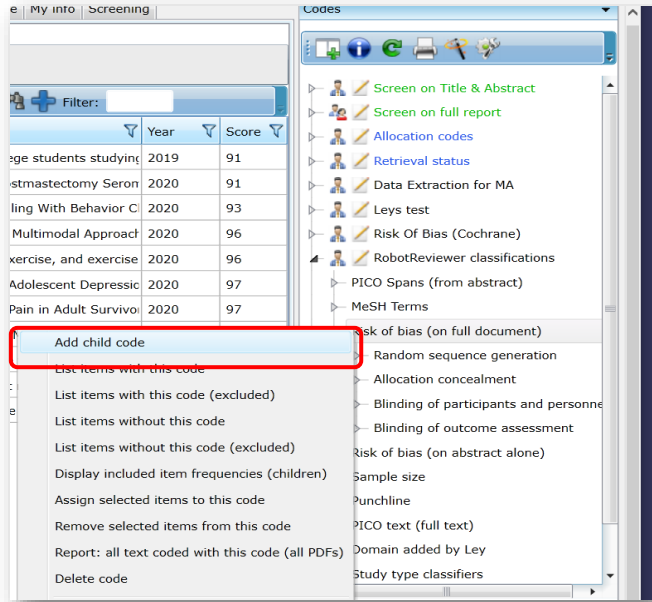


6

RobotReviewer only completes the first 4 domains, so you need to add the rest.

4. Add remaining 3 domains to the **Risk of bias (on full document)** codeset.

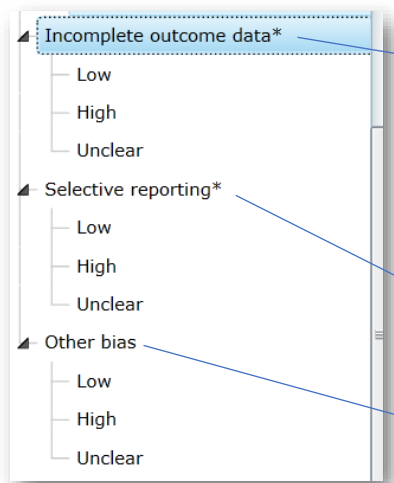
Right click on this code → Add child code.



7

Add Cochrane’s instructions to each code description:

This is how your 3 new domains should look:



Describe the completeness of outcome data for each main outcome, including attrition and exclusions from the analysis. State whether attrition and exclusions were reported, the numbers in each intervention group (compared with total randomized participants), reasons for attrition or exclusions where reported, and any reinclusions in analyses for the review

\*Assessments should be made for each main outcome or class of outcomes.

State how selective outcome reporting was examined and what was found.

\*Assessments should be made for each main outcome or class of outcomes.

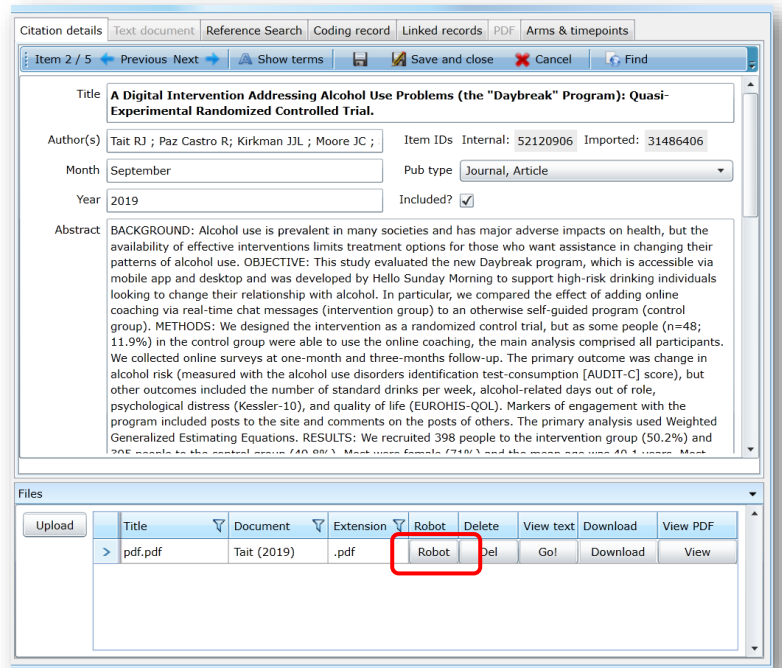
State any important concerns about bias not covered in the other domains in the tool

8



## 5. Run each pdf through RobotReviewer

If you get an error message at the end, just click through it.



9

6. Allocate to your team members as appropriate, making it clear who is the primary researcher who fills out the entire form and who is checking their work.

Send them the instructions for [team members document](#).

Schedule a 1.5-2 hours meeting with your team and someone from the machine learning team, to train and begin assessing together.

10

# Risk of Bias assessments with machine learning

In EPPI-Reviewer

Instructions for *team members*

1

## Technology

- [www.robotreviewer.net](http://www.robotreviewer.net) (drag and drop a pdf of an RCT to see what happens)
- EPPI Reviewer has RR's technology built it, so researchers can skip the website.
- RR completes the first 4 of 7 domains in Cochrane's Risk of Bias. Developers suggest using RR as a support, not as an independent researcher.
- What is potentially even more helpful, is that it provides the text it used to make each judgement. That text by itself can be used by researchers.

RobotReviewer

LOAD / REPORT

Automating evidence synthesis

trial	Random sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding of participants and personnel	Incomplete outcome data	Selective reporting
Dobson SR, 2013	+	+	?	?	?
Goldstone SE, 2013	?	?	+	?	?
Hillman RJ, 2012	?	?	?	?	?
Kreimer AR, 2015	+	+	?	?	?
Levin MJ, 2010	+	?	?	?	?

DEMO SOURCE CODE ABOUT PUBLICATIONS BLOG/NEWS

2

- Web version in Chrome, Firefox, Edge, Safari  
<https://epi.ioe.ac.uk/epireviewer-web/>
- Find your assignment
- Are you using version 4?  
[Skip to those instructions](#)

The screenshot shows the EPI Reviewer web interface. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Review Items:** Includes 31 items, Excluded: 7143, Deleted: 0, Duplicates: 0.
- Coding Progress:** Shows progress for various tools.
- Screening Tools:**
  - Screen on Title & Abstract: 6778 (green), 396 (red)
  - Screen on Full Text: 73 (green), 2 (red)
- Standard Tools:**
  - Risk Of Bias (Cochrane): 0 (green), 0 (red)
  - Data Extraction: 0 (green), 0 (red)
  - Data Extraction: 0 (green), 0 (red)
  - A&J: 0 (green), 0 (red)
  - RobotReviewer classifications: 1 (green), 15 (red)

On the right side, there is a table with the following data:

Codes to apply	Group	Allocated	Started	Remaining
RobotReviewer classifications	in EPI: Line #1, Marie #2	8	5	3

The 'Remaining' value of 3 is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from the 'My Work 1' tab to the 'Remaining' column.

3

## How has your project leader told you to assess RoB?

- Blinded to your other team members (but not blinded to machine learning)
  - Use [slides 5-9](#)
- Not blinded to your other team members
  - Use [slides 10-12](#)

4

Blinded to your team members



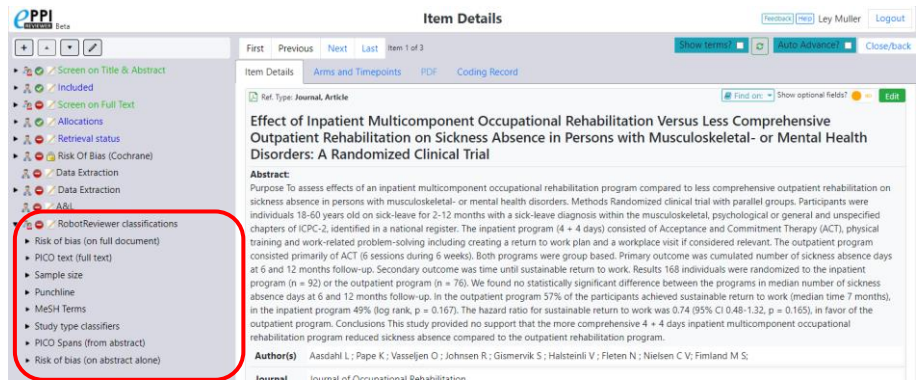
- First, download the pdf and move it to a different window



5

Option 1: Blinded to your team members

- Codeset you are interested in: RobotReviewer classifications



6

### Option 1: Blinded to your team members

- Turn on live comparisons to see machine learning assessments (this breaks blinding):
- Coding record → View the person whose codes represent machine learning (your project leader will tell you).

The screenshot shows the PPI REVIEWER Beta interface. The main content area is titled 'Item Details' and shows 'Item 1 of 3'. Below this, there's a 'Live Comparison' section with a message: 'No coding to compare/show. Please select any code (or coding tool) on the left: if coding is present for children of the selected code/node'. Below that, there are tabs for 'Item Details', 'Arms and Timepoints', 'PDF', and 'Coding Record'. The 'Coding Record' tab is active and shows a table with columns: 'Coding Tool', 'Reviewer', 'Completed', 'Locked?', and 'View'. A red box highlights the 'Coding Record' tab, and another red box highlights the 'View' button for the 'Screen on Title & Abstract' row.

Coding Tool	Reviewer	Completed	Locked?	View
<input type="checkbox"/> Allocations	Heid Nakkleby	✓	No	View
<input type="checkbox"/> Included	Ley Muller	✓	No	View
<input type="checkbox"/> RobotReviewer classifications	Line Hollet Evensen	✓	No	View
<input type="checkbox"/> RobotReviewer classifications	Maria Ejerik	✗	No	View
<input type="checkbox"/> RobotReviewer classifications	Alexander Tingulstad	✗	No	View
<input type="checkbox"/> Screen on Title & Abstract	Melanie Arnes	✗	No	View
<input type="checkbox"/> Screen on Title & Abstract	Heid Nakkleby	✓	No	View

7

### Option 1: Blinded to your team members

- A new window will pop up displaying the automated risk of bias assessments.
- Any text extracted will be in italics

#### Aasdahl (2018) [ID: 47249610]

Reviewer: Alexander Tingulstad

#### RobotReviewer classifications (incomplete)

- Risk of bias (on full document)
  - Random sequence generation
    - **Low**  
*Between October 2012 and November 2014, 12 007 potential participants from the regional area were identified in the National S. program. A lexibly weighted randomization procedure was provided by the Unit of A. Sickness absence data was registered and provided by employees at the Norwegian V.*
  - Allocation concealment
    - **Low**  
*Sickness absence data was registered and provided by employees at the Norwegian Welfare and Labor Service whom were unaware of grou. Between October 2012 and November 2014, 12 007 potential participants from the r randomized to receive an invitation to the short program.*
  - Blinding of participants and personnel
    - **High / unclear**  
*It was not possible to blind neither the participants nor the caregivers for treatment. This affected group-sizes differentially, and therefore the researchers were or the outpatient program.*
  - Blinding of outcome assessment
    - **High / unclear**  
*This affected group-sizes differentially, and therefore the researchers were not blinde. It was not possible to blind neither the participants nor the caregivers for treatment. and during (monthly) the intervention.*
- PICO text (full text)
  - **Population**  
*Eliaible participants were 18 to 60 years of aae sick*

8

Option 1: Blinded to your team members

## Your assignments

1. Fill out all 7 domains in **Risk of bias (on full document)**
  - a) Check the correct code (Low or High/unclear)
  - b) Click on **Info** and add in support for your assessment. Copy the text extracted by machine learning, if you agree, otherwise copy from the pdf, or write in your own text. Specify «high» vs «unclear» in the info box.

The screenshot shows the PPI Beta interface. On the left, a navigation menu lists various domains, with 'Risk of bias (on full document)' expanded. Under this domain, 'Random sequence generation' is selected, showing two radio button options: 'Low' and 'High / unclear'. The 'High / unclear' option is selected, and the 'Info' button next to it is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this 'Info' button to an 'Additional Text' dialog box that is open, showing a text input field and 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. The main content area shows the details for the 'Effect of Inpatient Multicomponent Occupational Rehabilitation Versus Less Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation on Sickness Absence in Persons with Musculoskeletal- or Mental Health Disorders: A Randomized Clinical Trial'.

9

Option 2: Not blinded to your team members

- Codeset you are interested in: RobotReviewer classifications
- Open pdf: Download

The screenshot shows the PPI Beta interface. On the left, a navigation menu lists various domains, with 'RobotReviewer classifications' expanded. Under this domain, 'Risk of bias (on full document)' is selected, and the 'Info' button next to it is highlighted with a red box. The main content area shows the details for the 'Effect of Inpatient Multicomponent Occupational Rehabilitation Versus Less Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation on Sickness Absence in Persons with Musculoskeletal- or Mental Health Disorders: A Randomized Clinical Trial'. Below the main content, there is a 'Documents' table with the following data:

Id	Ref	File Name	Actions
501768	Aasdahl (2018)	Aasdahl 2018. Effect of Inpatient Multicomponent Occupational Rehabilitation Versus Less Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation pdf.pdf	Download

10

### Option 2: Not blinded to your team members

- Turn on live comparisons to see machine learning assessments (this breaks blinding):
- Coding record → Live comparison → Citation details → click on the specific code you want to see. The child-codes immediate subordinate will be shown, so you might have to use the arrows to expand a code.

Coding Tool	Reviewer	Complete
<input type="checkbox"/> Allocations	Heid Nøkleby	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> Included	Ley Muller	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> RobotReviewer classifications	Alexander Tingulstad	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Screen on Title & Abstract	Melanie Ames	✗
<input type="checkbox"/> Screen on Title & Abstract	Heid Nøkleby	✓

11

### Option 2: Not blinded to your team members

- Take a look at the information already available.
- The code relevant to you is **Risk of bias (on full document)**, while this can be helpful: **PICO text (full-text)**. But the others also have interesting info.
- NB! You won't see any coding on the left side, because the assessment isn't completed yet. Look at the **top of the screen** for RR's coding, which will be marked under your team leader's name (or someone else on the machine learning team).
- Any text extracted will be displayed after **[Info]**

**Effect of Inpatient Multicomponent Occupational Rehabilitation Versus Less Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation on Sickness Absence in Persons with Musculoskeletal Disorders: A Randomized Clinical Trial**

**Abstract:**  
Purpose To assess effects of an inpatient multicomponent occupational rehabilitation program compared to less comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation in persons with musculoskeletal- or mental health disorders. Methods Randomized clinical trial with participants 18-60 years old on sick-leave for 2-12 months with a sick-leave diagnosis within the musculoskeletal, psychiatric or mental health disorders. Results The inpatient program (4 + 4 days) consisted of Acceptance and Commitment Training and work-related problem-solving including creating a return to work plan and a workplace visit if considered relevant. The outpatient program (6 sessions during 6 weeks). Both programs were group based. Primary outcome was cumulative sickness absence days at 6 and 12 months follow-up. In the inpatient program 57% of the participants achieved sustainable return to work at 6 and 12 months follow-up. In the outpatient program 49% (log rank, p = 0.167). The hazard ratio for sustainable return to work was 0.74 (95% CI 0.48-1.12). Conclusions This study provided no support that the more comprehensive 4 + 4 days inpatient multicomponent occupational rehabilitation program reduced sickness absence compared to the outpatient rehabilitation program.

**Author(s)** Aasdahl L ; Pape K ; Vasseljen O ; Johnsen R ; Gismervik S ; Halsteini V ; Fleten N ; Nielsen C V ; Fimland M S

**Journal** Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation

12

Option 2: Not blinded to your team members

## Your assignments

1. Fill out all 7 domains in **Risk of bias (on full document)**
  - a) Check the correct code (Low or High/unclear)
  - b) Click on **Info** and add in support for your assessment. Copy the text extracted by machine learning, if you agree, otherwise copy from the pdf, or write in your own text. Specify «high» vs «unclear» in the info box.

The screenshot shows the Eppi software interface. On the left, a navigation pane lists various assessment domains. The 'Risk of bias (on full document)' domain is expanded, showing sub-sections like 'Random sequence generation' and 'Allocation concealment'. The 'Random sequence generation' sub-section has two radio buttons: 'Low' and 'High / unclear', each with an 'Info' button. A red box highlights this area, and a red arrow points from the 'Info' button to a pop-up window titled 'Additional Text'.

13

## Eppi version 4 Interface

- Version 4 in internet explorer: <http://eppi.ioe.ac.uk/eppireviewer4/eppireviewer4.aspx>
- Find your assignment

The screenshot shows the Eppi version 4 interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Documents', 'Search', 'Diagrams', 'Frequencies', 'Crosstabs', 'Reports', 'Meta-analysis', 'Collaborate', 'My info', and 'Screening'. The 'My info' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a table of reviews. A red box highlights the 'My info' tab and the 'Remaining' column in the work allocations table.

Select	Review	ID	Last Logon	New items	Owner
Go	143 Barn med atferdsvansker, p	2457	11/30/2020 2:56:00	0	Ley Muller
Go	146 samværsvegring	2516	12/1/2020 1:52:44	0	Ley Muller
Go	2019-nCov mapping	2182	10/6/2020 1:28:35	8241	Theo Lorenc
Go	Barn og unges medvirkning i be	2142	11/16/2020 2:59:33	0	Sari Ormstad
Go	CFS aetiology and risk factors	1671	11/13/2020 4:55:26	0	Lillebeth Larun
Go	chemsex	2229	11/10/2020 4:23:01	0	Eirik Amundsen
Go	Covid19 konsekvenser for barn	2480	12/1/2020 11:49:50	0	Ley Muller
Go	Covid-19 living review	2186	11/23/2020 2:44:35	0	Ley Muller
Go	Labor activation	2135	11/12/2020 2:36:48	0	Ley Muller

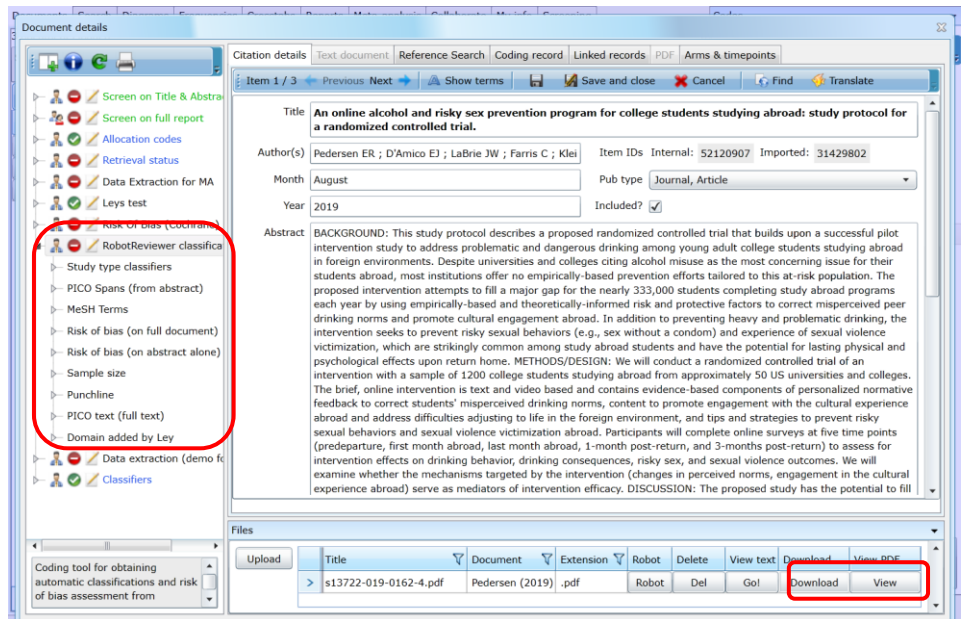
  

My work allocations:				
Codes to apply:	Group of studies	Allocated	Started	Remaining
RobotReviewer classifications	Risk of Bias	5	2	3

14

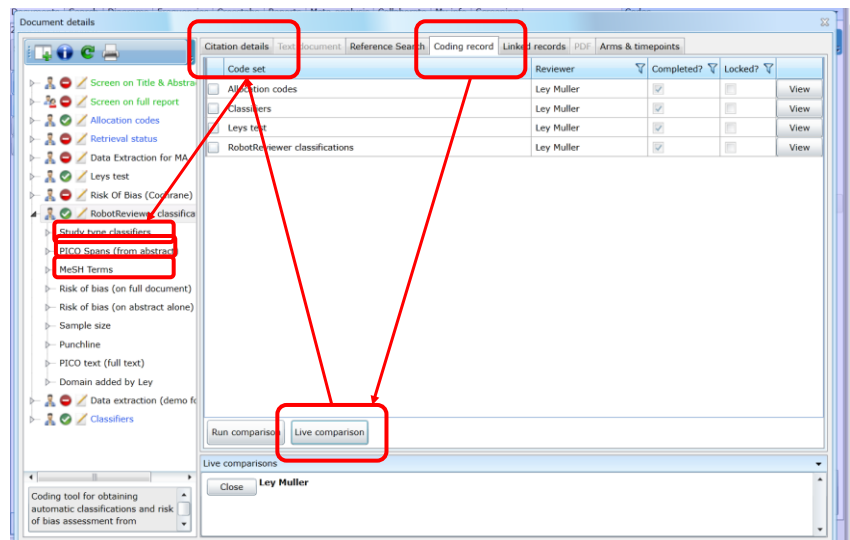


- Codeset you are interested in: RobotReviewer classifications
- Open pdf: Download



15

- Turn on live comparisons to see machine learning assessments (this breaks blinding):
- Coding record → Live comparison → Citation details → click on the specific code you want to see. The child-codes immediately subordinate will be shown, so you might have to use the arrows to expand a code.



16

- Take a look at the information already available.
- The code relevant to you is **Risk of bias (on full document)**, while this can be helpful: **PICO text (full-text)**. But the others also have interesting info.
- NB! You won't see any coding on the left side, because the assessment isn't completed yet. Look at the **bottom of the screen** for RR's coding, which will be marked under your team leader's name (or someone else on the machine learning team).
- Any text extracted will be in italics.

The screenshot shows the RobotReviewer interface. On the left, a tree view lists various classification tasks, with 'Risk of Bias (Cochrane)' and 'RobotReviewer classifications' expanded. Under 'RobotReviewer classifications', 'Study type classifiers' is expanded, showing options like 'Is RCT (balanced)', 'Is RCT (precise)', 'Is RCT (sensitive)', 'Is RCT', and 'Is human study'. The main panel on the right displays 'Citation details' for a document titled 'A Digital Intervention Addressing Alcohol Use Problem Randomized Controlled Trial'. Below this, a 'Live comparisons' table is visible, which is highlighted with a red box. The table lists comparisons for 'Ley Muller' with scores of 3.935029 for 'Is RCT (balanced)', 'Is RCT (precise)', and 'Is RCT (sensitive)'.

17

## Your assignments

1. Fill out all 7 domains in **Risk of bias (on full document)**
  - a) Check the correct code
  - b) Click on **Info** and add in support for your assessment. Copy from RR, if you agree, otherwise copy from the pdf, or write in your own text. Specify «high» vs «unclear» in the info box.

This screenshot shows the 'RobotReviewer classifications' tree with 'Risk of bias (on full document)' highlighted in yellow. A red arrow points from this item to a detailed view of the 'Risk of bias (on full document)' domain. This view shows a tree structure with seven domains: 'Random sequence generation', 'Allocation concealment', 'Blinding of participants and personnel', and 'Blinding of outcome assessment'. Each domain has two sub-options: 'Low' and 'High / unclear', each with an 'Info' button next to it.

18

Published by the Norwegian Institute of Public Health

September 2021

P.O.B 4404 Nydalen

NO-0403 Oslo

Phone: + 47-21 07 70 00

The report can be downloaded as pdf

at [www.fhi.no/en/publ/](http://www.fhi.no/en/publ/)