

RefNet - Network of Reference Librarians

October 29 2024

BIREME - Main products and services

Main products and services



[Virtual Health Library](#)



[Latin American and Caribbean Health Sciences Literature](#)



[DeCs MeSH Health Sciences Descriptors](#)

WHAT is RefNet - Network of Reference Librarians?

- RefNet is a network of expert librarians in developing search strategies, retrieve and evaluate the health information for multiple purposes



RefNet's goals

- ✓ To give visibility to search strategies developed across various health topics;
- ✓ To allow the reuse of search strategies by different audiences, in different locations and contexts;
- ✓ To share the skills and competencies for this activity;
- ✓ To promote the connection between search experts and researchers, public managers and others who need the information;
- ✓ To promote cooperation and contributions among members of the VHL Network.

WHO can contribute to the Network?

Reference librarians who work in health information retrieval in various contexts and different environments like universities, government agencies, hospitals, research institutes, among others.



WHICH skills are desirable to a reference librarian?

- ✓ **To be Expert in Information Retrieval:** Ability to search for and obtain accurate and relevant information from various databases and information sources.
- ✓ **To Search and Evaluate Evidence:** Finds and assesses information that support decision-making.
- ✓ **To have Knowledge of Specialized Databases:** Familiarity with subject-specific databases, particularly in fields such as health, science, and technology.
- ✓ **To be Attentive to New Tools and Technologies:** Keeps up-to-date with tools and technologies that facilitate the steps of the search, such as tools for evaluating study type methodologies.

WHY should I join the network?

To be able to have access to:

- ✓ Web conferences for training and skills improvement;
- ✓ Contributing and accessing repository management system;
- ✓ Publishing search strategies in the repository;
- ✓ Promote the production of search strategies created within your institution or area of expertise, ensuring this documentation remains accessible;
- ✓ To be a member of the VHL Network.



RefNet

RefNet has an informational page on the VHL Portal



VHL Network Portal



BIREME
Latin American and Caribbean Center on
Health Sciences Information

RefNet - Network of Reference Librarians

The RefNet coordinated by BIREME, is the result of an activity under the Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Health of Brazil and the Pan American Health Organization.

The development of search strategies is a regular activity of reference librarians in the universities, hospitals, research centers, and organizations. These search strategies meet the demands of filters for the efficient retrieval of evidence and scientific and technical information to support clinical or management decision-making processes, health policy development, evidence mapping, infometrics, as well as supporting publications and academic work such as systematic reviews and evidence syntheses. In the health field, major information sources considered for searches include databases like LILACS, MEDLINE, Cochrane, EMBASE, among others.

In light of this production, RefNet has a source of information for the recording, sharing, and dissemination of search strategies: the **Search Strategies Repository**.

Search Strategies Repository on VHL

The Search Strategies Repository allows for documenting, sharing, and disseminating the strategies developed by the Referencists Network, as well as providing access to evidence and scientific and technical information on health issues.

Repository Goals:

- To provide visibility to the search strategies developed by the BVS Referencists Network for retrieving various health topics;
- To enable their reuse by different audiences, in different locations and contexts;
- To share the skills and competencies required for developing these activities;
- To promote cooperation and contributions from other BVS network members, associated networks, and experts for the continuous improvement and updating of the published search strategies.

RefNet Webinars

▶ Access the playlist

Strengthening Health Information Networks in LA&C (2024)
Network of Reference Librarians

Coordination:
Maruca Barretto, BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Opening remarks
Victoria Crookbank-Taylor, regional coordinator of MedCarib network

RefNet - Network of Reference Librarians:
Join this network!
Rosemeire Pinto, BIREME/PAHO/WHO

Oct. 29
3 p.m. (Brazil, GMT-3)
*Language: English

Register:
<https://bit.ly/refnet-caribbean>

Repository of Search Strategies

[Tutorial Repository of Search Strategies-2024](#)

To cooperate with RefNet

[Form for new RefNet contributors](#) (individual)

[Form for Registration of Cooperating Centers in the VHL Network](#)

HOW to join the network?


- 1) Fill out the collaborator form.
- 2) Complete the registration for cooperating centers.

Access these forms at the page here



Register of librarians for RefNet

Thank you for your interest in joining the network. This is an individual form; please complete one per collaborator, even if there is more than one from the same institution.

bireme.sci@gmail.com [Mudar de conta](#) 

** Indica uma pergunta obrigatória*

E-mail *

Sua e-mail

1. First name and last name *


Sua resposta

How can I contribute to this network?

✓ Depositing search strategies in the repository

The Repository has available more than a thousand themes with search strategies

Leave a comment / Report an error Espanol | Portugues

 **Repository of search strategies on the VHL**
Topic-specific queries

About

Set of search strategies developed by BIREME | PAHO | WHO and Virtual Health Library Reference Network

Search
Search by

Subjects

Latest

LILACS Plus Filter
17 de outubro de 2024 17:03
Filter applied to the regional databases (LA&C) that contain documents from outside the region and also to the Medline database, to compose part of the LILACS Plus collection.

COVID-19 – Suicide
9 de setembro de 2024 14:48
Thematic filter about suicide and COVID-19 for Window of Knowledge

Processed Meats Consumption
3 de setembro de 2024 12:56
Search strategy developed for "Evidence map of global interventions to reduce processed meat consumption".

Alcohol consumption
3 de setembro de 2024 11:16
Search strategy developed for Evidence map on global interventions to reduce alcohol consumption.

Mpox (Monkeypox): Diagnosis
20 de agosto de 2024 22:48
Thematic filter on Mpox for Window of Knowledge

<https://bvsalud.org/queries>

Repository of Search Strategy

Processed Meats Consumption



About the search

Responsible:

Instituto Nacional de Câncer (INCA)

Description:

Search strategy developed for "[Evidence map of global interventions to reduce processed meat consumption](#)".

Main subjects:

Meat, Processed Food

Search result:

[BVS Prevenção e Controle de Câncer](#)

<https://bvsalud.org/queries>



Search strategy

iAHx search strategy:

```
(bacon OR "blood pudding" OR "black pudding" OR burger OR hamburger OR "canned food*" OR "canned anchovies" OR "canned beef" OR "canned chicken paste" OR "canned cockles" OR "canned fish" OR "canned liver" OR "canned sardines" OR sausage* OR "canned stew" OR "canned tongue" OR "canned tuna" OR "canned turkey" OR "canned veal" OR "canned yellowtail" OR "chicken nuggets" OR "chicken steak" OR "chicken sticks" OR "breaded mini chicken" OR chorizo OR cod OR "corned beef" OR "convenience food*" OR "cured food*" OR "dehydrated stew" OR dishes OR fastfood* OR "fast foods" OR "fermented food*" OR "fish canned in oil" OR "fish sticks" OR "breaded fish cakes" OR "breaded fish pieces" OR "food product*" OR foodstuff* OR frankfurter* OR "frozen food*" OR gravies OR gravy OR ham OR "hot dog" OR "jerked beef" OR "beef jerky" OR "junk food" OR kamaboko OR "pickled mullet" OR "kani kama" OR mortadella OR meat OR meats OR nuggets OR pastrami OR pate OR pepperoni OR pickled OR "pickled salmon" OR gravlax OR "prepared pork skin" OR crackling OR "processed food*" OR "prepared food*" OR pre-frying OR "preserved food*" OR "ready prepared food*" OR "ready-to-eat meal" OR salami OR "salted fish" OR sardella OR "seasoned food*" OR "shelf stable meal" OR "shelf stable
```

How can I contribute to this network?

The image shows a screenshot of a webinar slide and a video call interface. The slide has a red background and contains the following text:

Rede de Referencistas 2024

O BIBLIOTECÁRIO NA PRODUÇÃO DE EVIDÊNCIAS CIENTÍFICAS: Como eu faço em um instituto de pesquisa?

Camila Belo & Mayara Rodrigues
INSTITUTO NACIONAL DO CÂNCER - INCA

Julho/2024

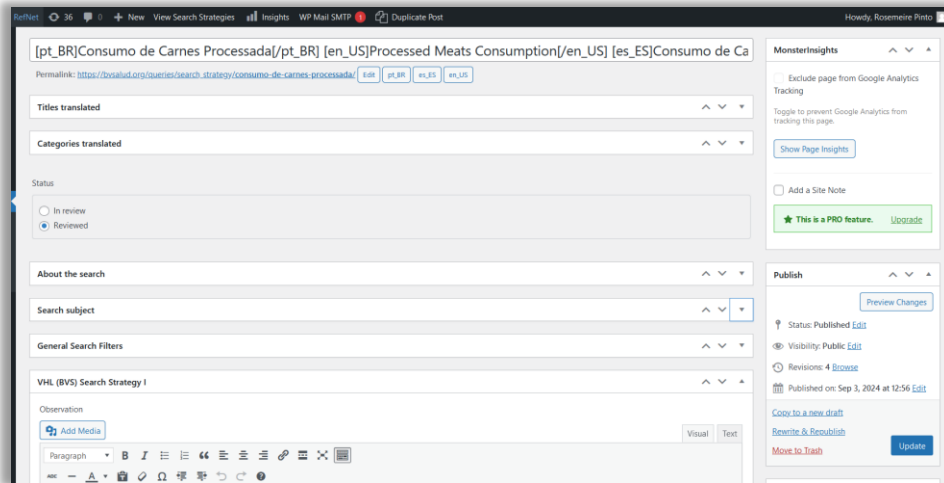
The slide also features the INCA logo at the top right and logos for OPAS, Organização Pan-Americana da Saúde, Organização Mundial da Saúde, and BIREME at the bottom right. The video call interface on the right shows three participants: Mayara Rodrigues, Pinto, Rosemeire (BIR), and Camila. A '+71' icon indicates more participants.

- ✓ Sharing your expertise in webinars organized for the network.

Thank you!

Rosemeire Pinto: pintoros@paho.org

Submitting a Search Strategy to the Repository



- ✓ Conduct a prior search in the repository;
- ✓ Ensure the search strategies are original or new;
- ✓ Fill in all required fields;
- ✓ Follow the search syntax guidelines for the VHL;
- ✓ Test the strategy before publishing

Access the tutorial

<http://red.bvsalud.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Repository-of-Search-Strategies-2024.pdf>

Review and Publication



Editors are responsible for reviewing search strategies submitted by contributors.

Comments and Updates



Once a search strategy is published, contributor is responsible for it. However, any RefNet collaborator or user can suggest updates to the published version using the "comments" field available in the public interface of each search strategy.