



Knowledge and Library Services (KLS)

Impact stories

Title: A series of KLS literature searches supported the Serology Working Group in production of rapid reviews; and provided a SAGE subcommittee with the latest evidence on immunity and COVID-19

User testimonial:

“KLS provided advanced information retrieval services to find both published and preprint research on immunity and COVID-19. They ensured the prompt and consistent delivery of literature searches, providing us with the most up to date evidence for synthesis. This allowed us to produce rapid literature reviews on COVID-19 immunity for the Serology Working Group, a subcommittee of SAGE. These reviews were used to update national experts on the most recent discoveries on SARS-CoV-2 immunity, ensuring any decisions made were based on the most up to date science available. The reports produced were highly praised by the committee and shared nationally with both the NHS and national research councils”

Dr Danielle Eddy, Clinical Fellow to Professor Yvonne Doyle, PHE

Challenge:

SARS-CoV-2 is the biggest health challenge of our generation. The novel pathogen has impacted the whole nation's health and it is essential that we understand any potential immunity in order to guide decisions and policies. Given its novel nature, huge amounts of research and reports were being published and we were tasked with conducting a rapid literature review to further the understanding of immunity to SARS-CoV-2.

Solution:

KLS advised on an approach to finding relevant evidence that avoided being overwhelmed by the huge volume of research that was being produced on Covid-19. A member of the KLS team was dedicated to undertaking regular and timely searches of the published and preprint literature. A process was developed that involved searching specific resources, de-duplicating and managing the results so that they were delivered in time to be synthesised before the working groups meetings (the timings of which changed more than once!).

Impact:

A rapid literature review and an update were produced using the search results provided by KLS. These were presented at two national serology working group meetings. They were taken forward by members of the group to both the Department of Health and Social Care and the national research bodies, who were able to utilise the research gaps identified to guide their future commissioning practices. The rapid review was published on Dec 31 2020 in PLOS ONE: [Antibody response to SARS-CoV-2 infection in humans: A systematic review](#)

Success factors:

KLS were able to be flexible with our constantly moving deadlines, were quick and efficient in conducting the searches and ultimately provided us with the most rigorous search results given the fast-paced nature of our demands.

Contact:

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