

Evidence Summary Theme: Information Access and Retrieval

Fiona Inglis

Volume 18, Number 1, 2023

URI: <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1098878ar>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip30328>

[See table of contents](#)

Publisher(s)

University of Alberta Library

ISSN

1715-720X (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this document

Inglis, F. (2023). Evidence Summary Theme: Information Access and Retrieval. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 18(1), 1–2.
<https://doi.org/10.18438/ebliip30328>

© Fiona Inglis, 2023



This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

<https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/>

This article is disseminated and preserved by Érudit.

Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

<https://www.erudit.org/en/>



Editorial

Evidence Summary Theme: Information Access & Retrieval

Fiona Inglis
Associate Editor (Evidence Summaries)
Liaison Librarian, Science
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
Email: finglis@wlu.ca

© 2023 Inglis. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons-Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike License 4.0 International (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly attributed, not used for commercial purposes, and, if transformed, the resulting work is redistributed under the same or similar license to this one.

DOI: [10.18438/ebli30328](https://doi.org/10.18438/ebli30328)

The Evidence Summaries in this issue take a very broad view of information access and retrieval. Koufogiannakis et al. (2004) define this domain of librarianship as “Creating better systems and methods for information retrieval and access” (p. 233), but these Evidence Summaries expand the scope a little to include information seeking behavior as an important indicator of how our spaces, services, and systems need to function to enable access.

Barriers to access can have deep roots. Prince reviews a study of a public library system that reveals the impact of historical and ongoing systemic inequities on children’s access to library spaces and materials.

Information cannot be accessed if it does not exist. This is an issue highlighted in the study appraised by Shen that explores the challenges of accessing accurate breast cancer information for transgender and gender non-conforming populations.

Understanding information seeking behaviour is essential if we are to improve access. Fena and Jasmin review two different studies on information seeking behaviour, one focused on 2SLGBTQ+ students and the other on older adults.

The layout of both physical and virtual library spaces can also be a barrier to access. Bridgemen discusses a multi-method wayfinding study exploring the experiences of students who speak English as an additional language.

Outside of the library, online communities are creating their own methods for providing access to information. Patterson discusses a study that highlights what libraries and data enthusiasts can learn from each other.

As always, each Evidence Summary includes a discussion of how findings from the research can be applied to other settings. We hope these will inspire you to ask questions and explore ways to reduce barriers within your own context.

References

Koufogiannakis, D., Slater, L., & Crumley, E. (2004). A content analysis of librarianship research. *Journal of Information Science*, 30(3), 227–239. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0165551504044668>