Searching and LSRs

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Searching: critical component

**As with any SR, the search for evidence forms a critical component
What happens here has a knock-on effect for the whole review**

Cochrane

Searching: current approach/es

Bespoke, multi-source searches for each individual review

Project Transform

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Searching: current approach/es

Bespoke, multi-source searches for each individual review

Broader searches to create comprehensive specialized register

Searching: current approach/es

Bespoke, multi-source searches for each individual review

Broader searches to create comprehensive specialized register

Around 90% or review groups follow approach 1

Searching: current approach/es

P I C O T S

Population **I**ntervention **C**omparator **O**utcome **T**ime **S**tudy design

Searching: current approach/es

P I C O T S

Most searches aim to maximise sensitivity by focusing on Population and Intervention and Study design

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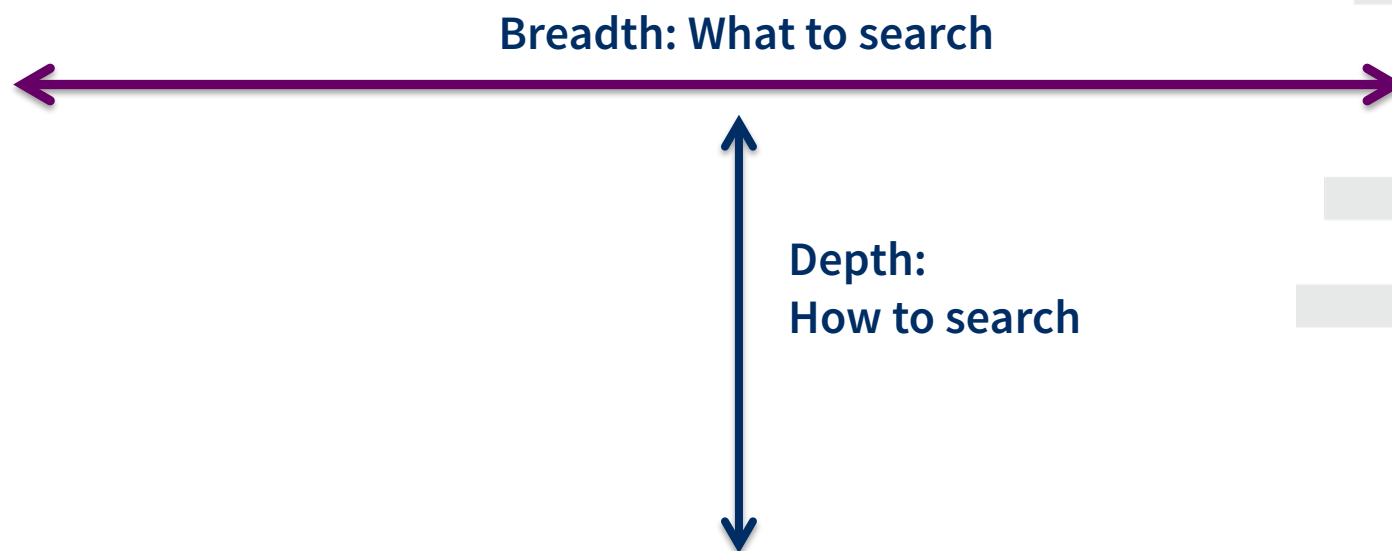**Cochrane**

Searching: current approach/es

P I C O T S

For registers, searches will mainly focus on Population and Study design

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Searching: current approach/es

Breadth: What to search

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Searching: current approach/es

Breadth: What to search

Depth:
How to search
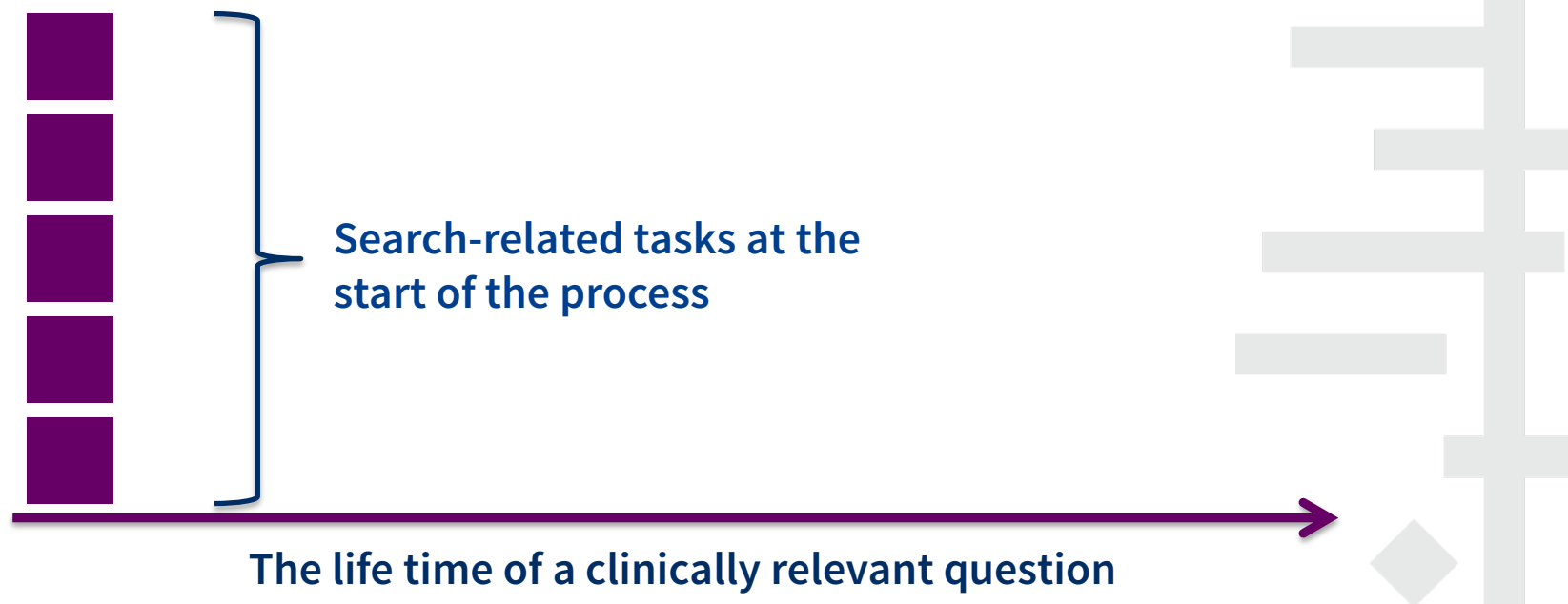
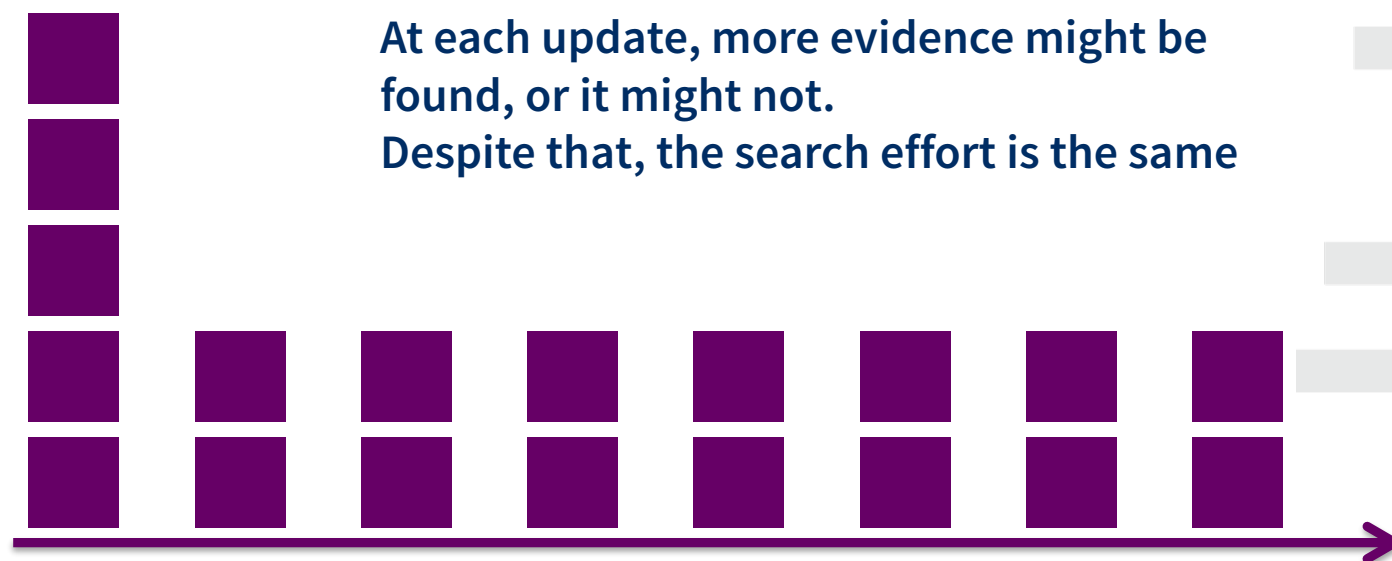For both approaches, it's about breadth and depth:
What to search, and *How to search it*
MECIR offers guidance on minimum acceptable

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Searching: updating

Search-related tasks at the start of the process

The life time of a clinically relevant question

The first search you do for a review generally involves the most work:
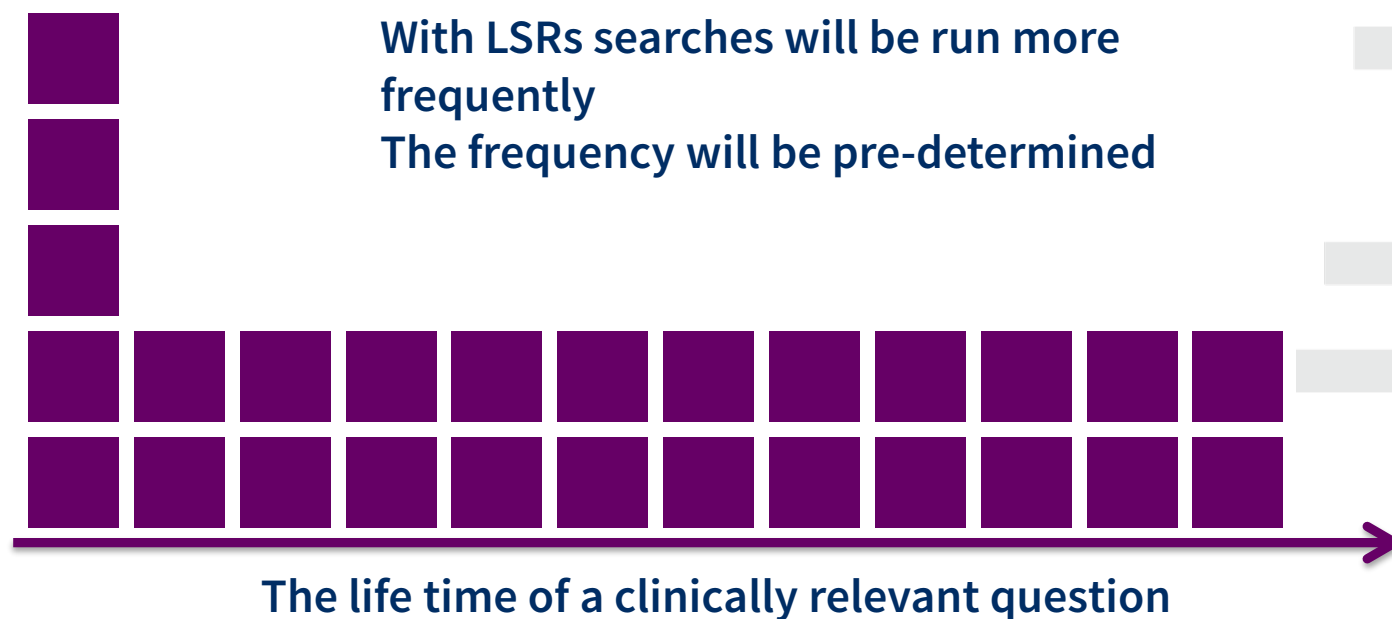Designing searches, running them, downloading, de-duping and reporting

Searching: updating

At each update, more evidence might be found, or it might not.
Despite that, the search effort is the same

The life time of a clinically relevant question

Tasks at update: check search, revise if needed, run it, download, de-dupe, report

Searching: LSRs

With LSRs searches will be run more frequently
The frequency will be pre-determined

The life time of a clinically relevant question

LSRs aim at the outset to achieve a high degree of currency by continuous monitoring of the evidence
Pilot guidance 0.3

Searching: 3 main challenges

1. Argh, Ovid's changed, again (databases change)
2. Reporting
3. Effort vs value

These are not new challenges

Searching: databases change

Re-running a search isn't just a matter of pressing a button

Re-run the search

Searching: reporting

Reporting changes to searches, or search process, even if no new data is identified

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Searching: effort vs value

Same effort in re-running a search even when nothing new is identified time and time again

Searching: CSS

CINAHL — **Takes effort (time and skill) to search for very little yield**

CT.gov — **Important source of ongoing and unpublished trials**

Searching: crowd and machine

The Crowd and the Machine (as part of Project Transform), work closely with CSS to help create a number of 'centralised' searches

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Searching: summary

- The move towards being able to produce living evidence is exciting

- Searching for LSRs will not mean compromising on the quality of searching

- But there will be challenges

- Enablers such as CSS, Crowd and Machine will play a significant role in effective study identification

- The pilots will be critical is helping to explore the challenges and the role of enablers