

# A Collaboration-wide survey of Cochrane authors

## Author Survey



Dear Author

To help us get a better understanding of your experience as an author with The Cochrane Collaboration, we would like all authors of published protocols and/or reviews to complete the following questionnaire. It should take about 10 to 15 minutes.

This questionnaire includes the following sections: Experience as a Systematic Review Author, Registering a title, Working in English, Working on Protocols, Working on Reviews, the Editorial and Peer Review Process, Updating Reviews, Barriers for reviewers, Support Resources and Suggestions for Improved Author Support.

You can close down the survey and come back to it at a later time if you are working through the same IP address.

The last date to complete the survey is October 10 2008.

Regards

Donna Gillies

Author Representative,

Cochrane Collaboration Steering Group

AND

The Author Survey Working Party: Heather Maxwell, Karen New, Vicki Pennick,

Zbys Fedorowicz, Hans van der Wouden, Agustin Ciapponi, Jos Verbeek, Joy Oliver and Rob Scholten

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## Experience as a Systematic Review Author

1.

What do you consider to be your main role in health care?

- Consumer
- Health professional
- Researcher
- Other, please specify

2.

Have you published in a peer-reviewed journal?

- Yes
- No

3.

Have you been an author on any protocols published in *The Cochrane Library*?

- Yes
- No

4.

If yes, how many?

5.

Have you been the contact author for any protocols published in *The Cochrane Library*?

- Yes
- No

6.

If yes, how many?

7.

Have you been an author on any reviews published in *The Cochrane Library*?

Yes

No

8.

If yes, how many?

9.

Have you been the contact author on any reviews published in *The Cochrane Library*?

Yes

No

10.

If yes, how many?

11.

Have you been an author (primary or co-author) on a non-Cochrane systematic review?

This does not include other versions of reviews that have been published in *The Cochrane Library*.

Yes

No

12.

If yes, how many?

13.

When did you start working with The Cochrane Collaboration as an author?

14.

How many Cochrane Review Groups have you worked with as an author?

15.

Have you another role with The Cochrane Collaboration?

Yes

No

16.

Have you taken courses in Cochrane review methods?

Yes

No

17.

Would you do another review with The Cochrane Collaboration?

Yes

No

Not Sure

18.

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statement.  
'Overall, working with The Cochrane Collaboration as an author has been a positive experience'.

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree or Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

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## Working in English

19.

Is English your first language?

Yes

No

20.

Do you have difficulty with reading in English for a Cochrane review?

Yes, a lot

Yes, a little

No

IF YES

21.

Do you have difficulty writing in English for a Cochrane review?

Yes, a lot

Yes, a little

No

22.

Do you know anyone working within The Cochrane Collaboration who can help you with translation?

Yes

No

23.

If not, do you think it would help if there was someone working within The Cochrane Collaboration who could help you with translation?

Yes

No

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## Registering a title

24.

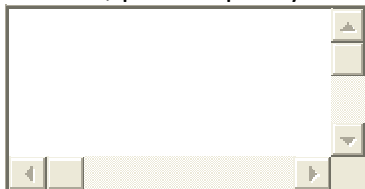
Have you had any problems getting a title registered?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Not applicable

25.

If yes, Please Mark with a  $\checkmark$  next to items which were a problem.

- Identifying who to approach
- Finding a title which interested you
- Finding a title which hadn't been registered
- Overlap with other registered titles
- Communicating with the relevant Cochrane Review Group
- Other, please specify

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## Working on Protocols

26.

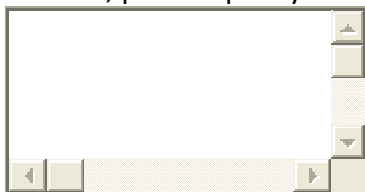
Did you have any problems publishing the protocol/s?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Not applicable

27.

If yes, Please mark with a ✓ next to items which were a problem.

- Finding co-authors
- Writing the background
- Writing the methods
- Cochrane review format/style
- Defining the search strategy
- Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- Developing statistical methods
- Communicating with the Cochrane Review Group
- Other, please specify

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## Working on Reviews

28.

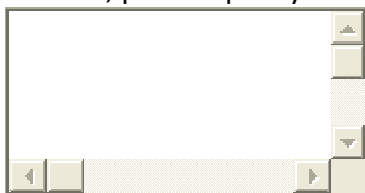
Did you have any problems publishing your review/s?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Not applicable

29.

If yes, Please Mark with a ✓ next to items which were a problem

- Doing the search
- Obtaining copies of study paper/abstracts
- Commitment from co-authors
- Translation of articles
- Assessing the studies for inclusion or exclusion
- Assessing the quality of included studies
- Extracting the data
- Obtaining unpublished information from study authors
- Using RevMan
- Analyzing the data
- Writing in the Cochrane style/format
- Writing the Results
- Writing the Discussion and/or Recommendations
- Communicating with the Cochrane Review Group
- Other, please specify



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## The Editorial and Peer Review Process

30.

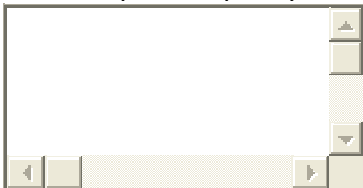
Have you had any difficulties with the editorial and/or peer review process during protocol or review stages?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Not applicable

31.

If yes, Please Mark with a  $\checkmark$  next to items which were a problem.

- Delay in receiving comments
- Number of comments
- Contradictory comments
- Knowing which comments to respond to
- Knowing how to respond to comments
- Other, please specify

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## Updating Reviews

32.

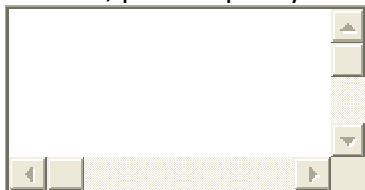
Have you had any difficulties with updating your review?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Not applicable

33.

If yes, Please Mark with a  $\checkmark$  next to items which were a problem.

- Knowing when your update was due
- Time
- Changed priorities
- Searching for new studies
- Getting copies of new studies
- Review co-authors unavailable
- Other, please specify



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## Barriers for reviewers

Please indicate to what extent the following factors impact on your ability to undertake Cochrane reviews.

34.

Time

- A lot
- A little
- Not at all

35.

Not having suitable mix of authors

- A lot
- A little
- Not at all

36.

Coordinating and communicating with co-authors

- A lot
- A little
- Not at all

37.

Communicating with the Cochrane Review Group

- A lot
- A little
- Not at all

38.

Insufficient information about the review process

- A lot
- A little
- Not at all

39.

Limited academic credit for Cochrane reviews

- A lot
- A little
- Not at all

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## Support Resources

The Cochrane Collaboration provides a number of resources to help review teams complete their reviews. Please indicate whether or not you found these helpful.

40.

The Cochrane Collaboration website (cochrane.org)

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Didn't know about it

41.

The *Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions*

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Didn't know about it

42.

Cochrane Open Learning Materials

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Didn't know about it

43.

The *Cochrane Style Guide*

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Didn't know about it

44.

The *RevMan User Guide*

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Didn't know about it

45.

Cochrane workshops

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Not applicable
- Didn't know about it

46.

Specific Cochrane Review Group resources

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No
- Didn't know about it

47.

Contact with Cochrane Review Group staff

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- No

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### Suggestions for Improved Author Support

48.

Is there any other support from The Cochrane Collaboration that you have found helpful?

49.

Do you have any suggestions on how The Cochrane Collaboration could improve support for authors?

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THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE - YOUR RESPONSES WILL HELP US TO IMPROVE AUTHOR SUPPORT.