

A Description of Further Dissemination (as published manuscripts) of Scientific Evidence Initially Presented at a Nursing Research Conference
Marsha E. Fonteyn, PhD, RN, OCN
The Phyllis F. Cantor Center Research in Nursing & Patient Care Services, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Problem:

When scientific evidence presented at a conference is not widely disseminated through subsequent full-text publications in professional journals, that evidence is never easily accessible to use to guide practice. A number of studies have been published examining the dissemination patterns after conference presentations in a variety of disciplines, but this phenomenon has never been examined in nursing. Additionally, the methodology used to locate and describe the further dissemination of conference presentations has not become standardized and has been inadequately described for replication and cross-disciplinary comparisons.

Evidence:

Abstracts of full-text articles found in PubMed and Cinahl.

Strategy:

Our search method was developed from information in scientific literature describing projects examining the publication patterns of a variety of biomedical disciplines. A standardized process using specific search terms helped us locate, in PubMed and Cinahl, the full text publications; two independent raters identified and confirmed the hits. A database was created to house the search results and to facilitate categorization of the characteristics of the journals in which the publications appeared.

Practice Change:

The search strategy and database that we created could serve as a model for use in other projects examining the subsequent dissemination patterns of conference presentations.

Evaluation:

The outcome measures included: number of confirmed hits; level of confidence that search was exhaustive; usefulness of the database categories in providing a full description of the extent of dissemination.

Results:

Our standardized search strategy was successful in reliably identifying published conference abstracts. Our database proved useful in adequately describing the type of journals in which the full text articles were found.

Recommendations:

Future projects that seek to determine the full-text publication rate of conference abstracts in nursing and other disciplines could model our strategy.