

Ten years of updating Cochrane reviews: the experience of the Pregnancy and Childbirth Group

Henderson S, Hampson L, Atherton D, Neilson JP

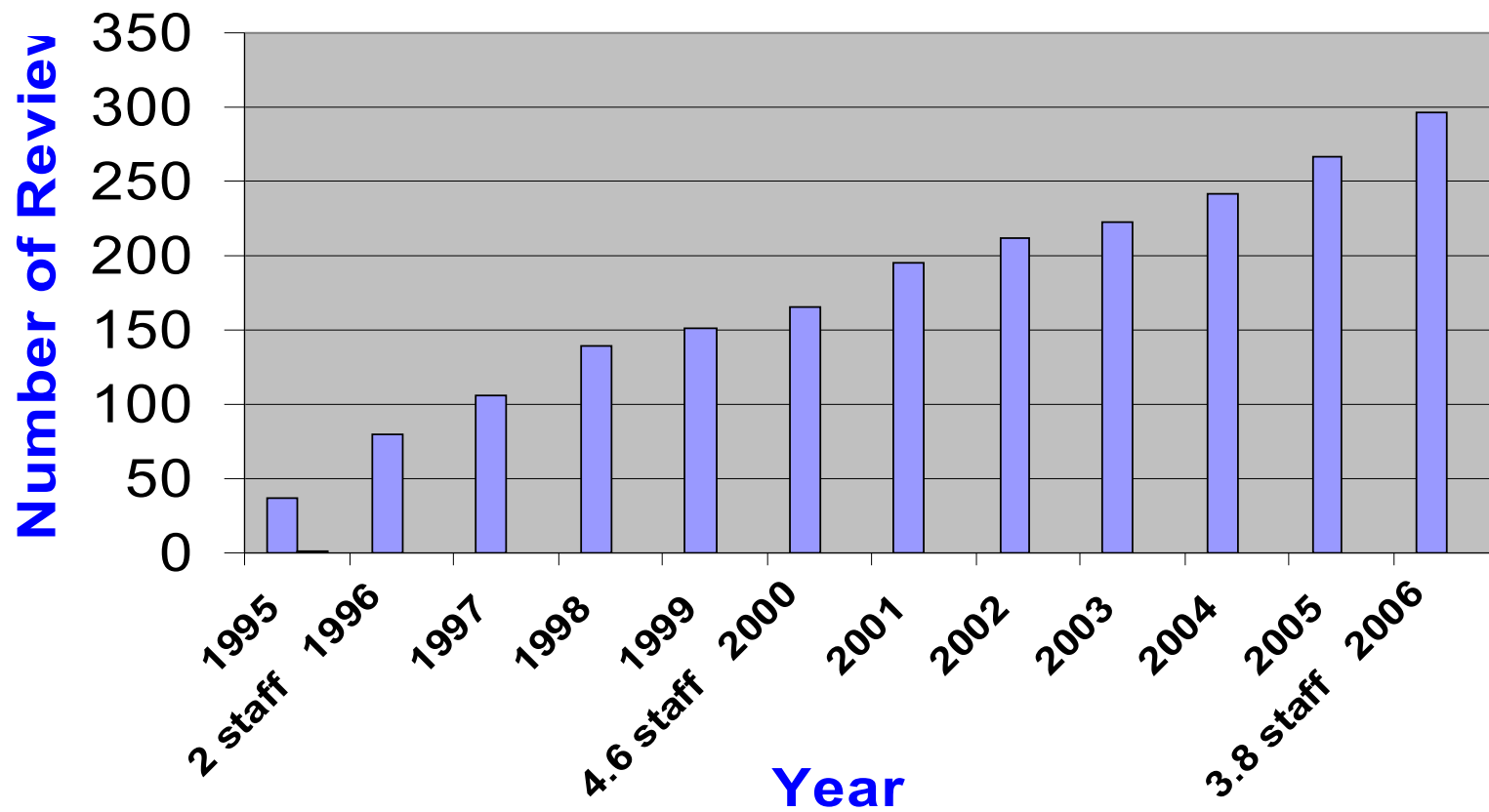
Objective

To determine the current status of reviews published 10 years ago to identify why reviews are out-of-date

Henderson S, Hampson L, Atherton D, Neilson JP

Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group

Annual Growth of Reviews



Definition

Updated review

new search + new trial **reports** incorporated
into revised review
(every 2 years)

Substantive updates 'flagged'

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Updated Systematic Reviews

P = Protocol R = Review

- [Aerobic exercise for women during pregnancy](#) HTML PDF (Size 233 KB) **Update R**
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- [Growth hormone for children with chronic kidney disease](#) HTML PDF (Size 296 KB) **Update R**

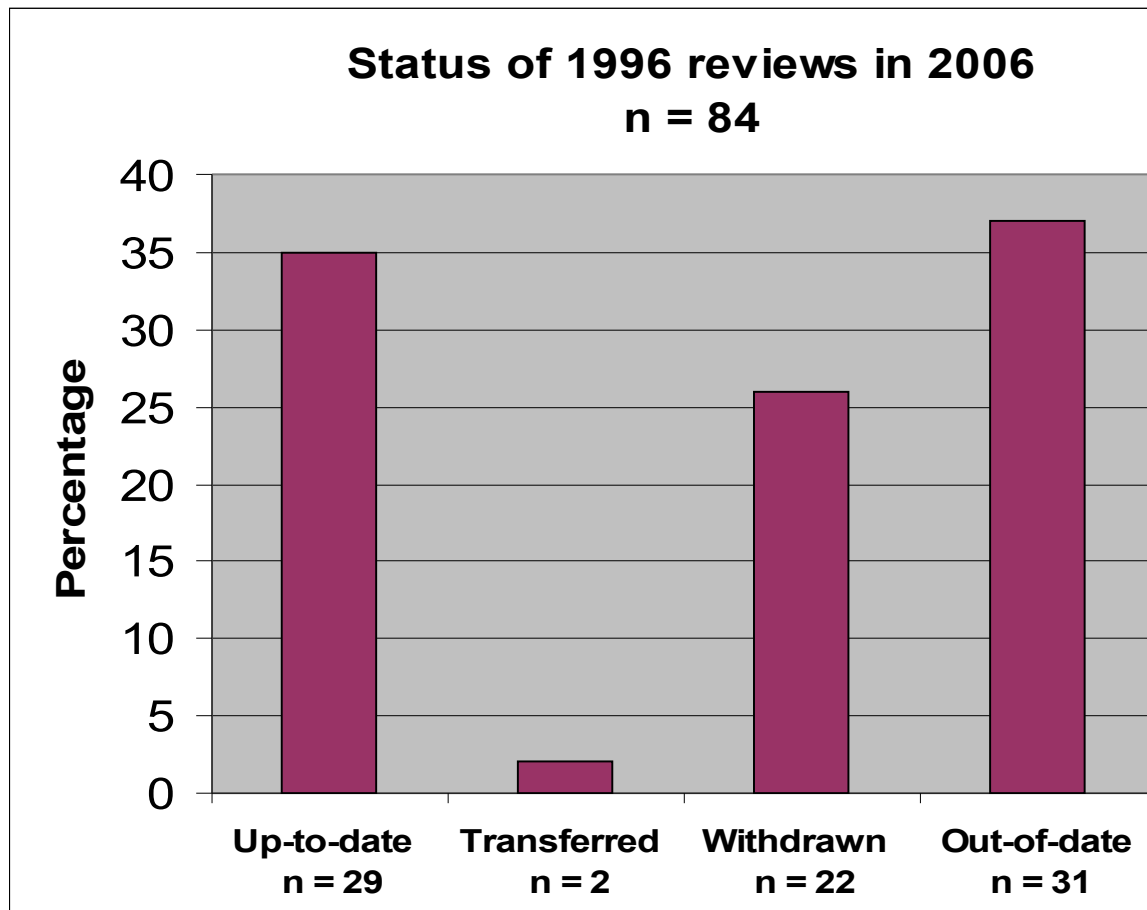
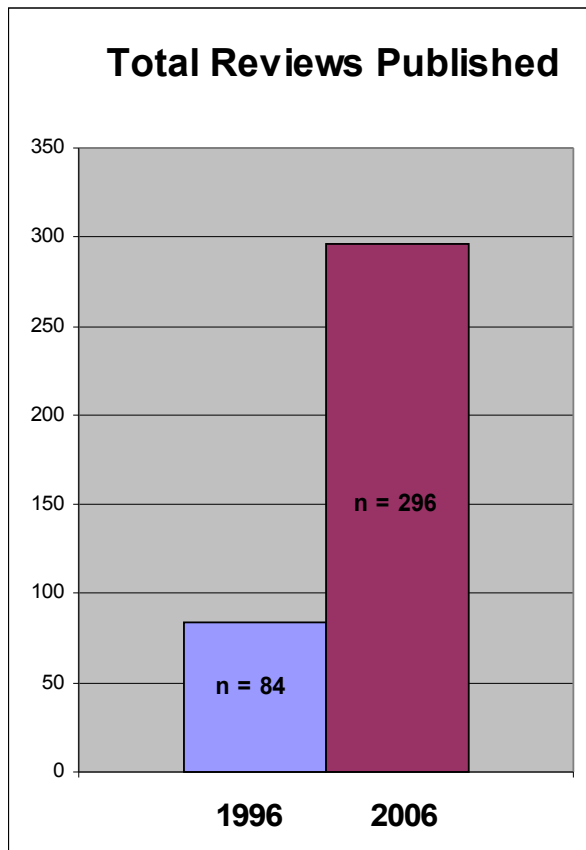
Done

start BitTorrent: (multiple) The Cochrane Library... http://www.mrw.inte... Office 13:34

Input from editorial office **BEFORE** authors start update

- **Trials Search Co-ordinator (TSC)** searches PCG register + sends results to author
- **PCG specialised register of trials**

Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group



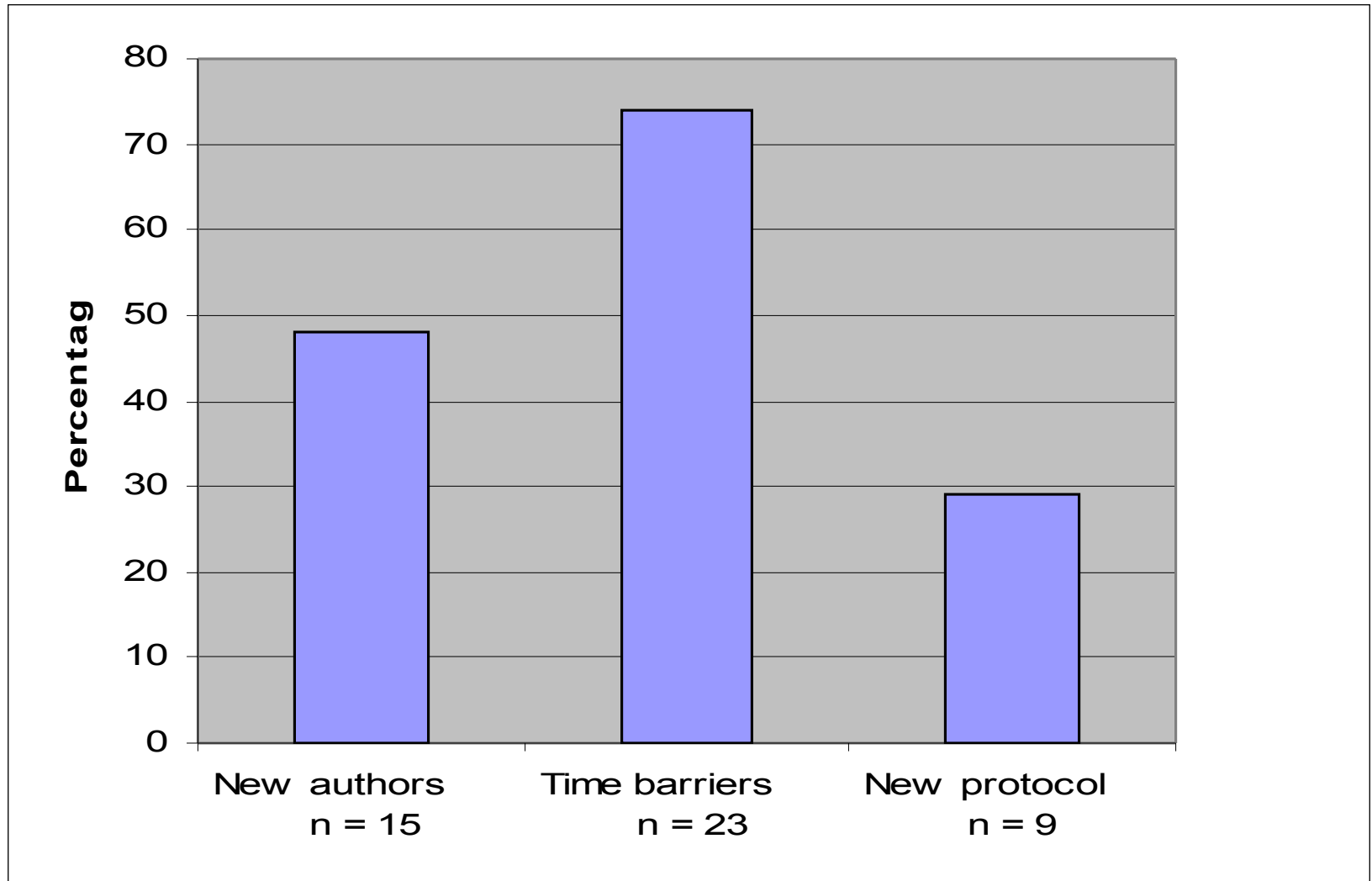
**31 out-of-date reviews from 1996
10 years on**

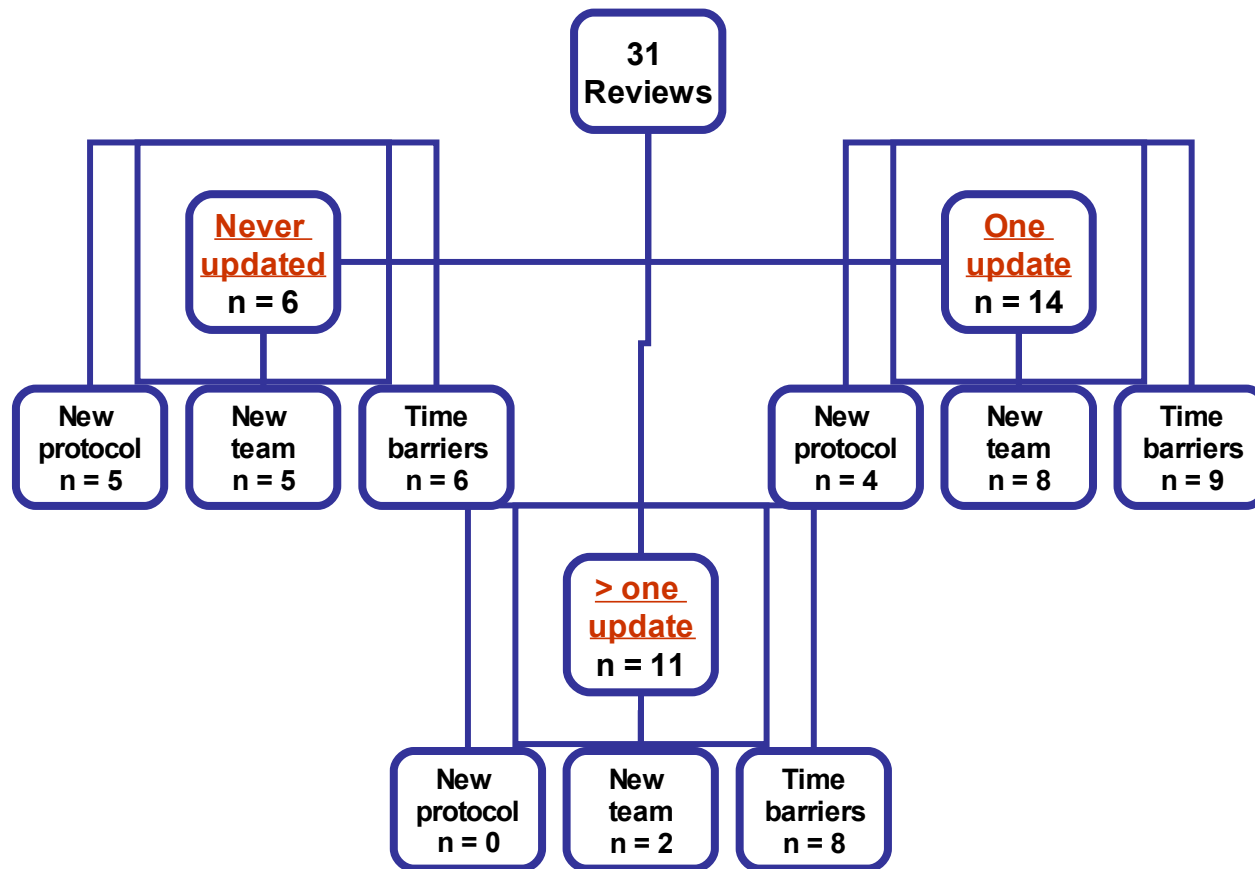
**Collaboration policy (every 2 years) = 31 x 5
155**

**Actual number of updates
40**

**Number of trial reports in register for
assessment
348**

31 out-of-date reviews from 1996





Barriers to updating

2. Methodological

3. Content

4. Technological

5. Personal

6. Time

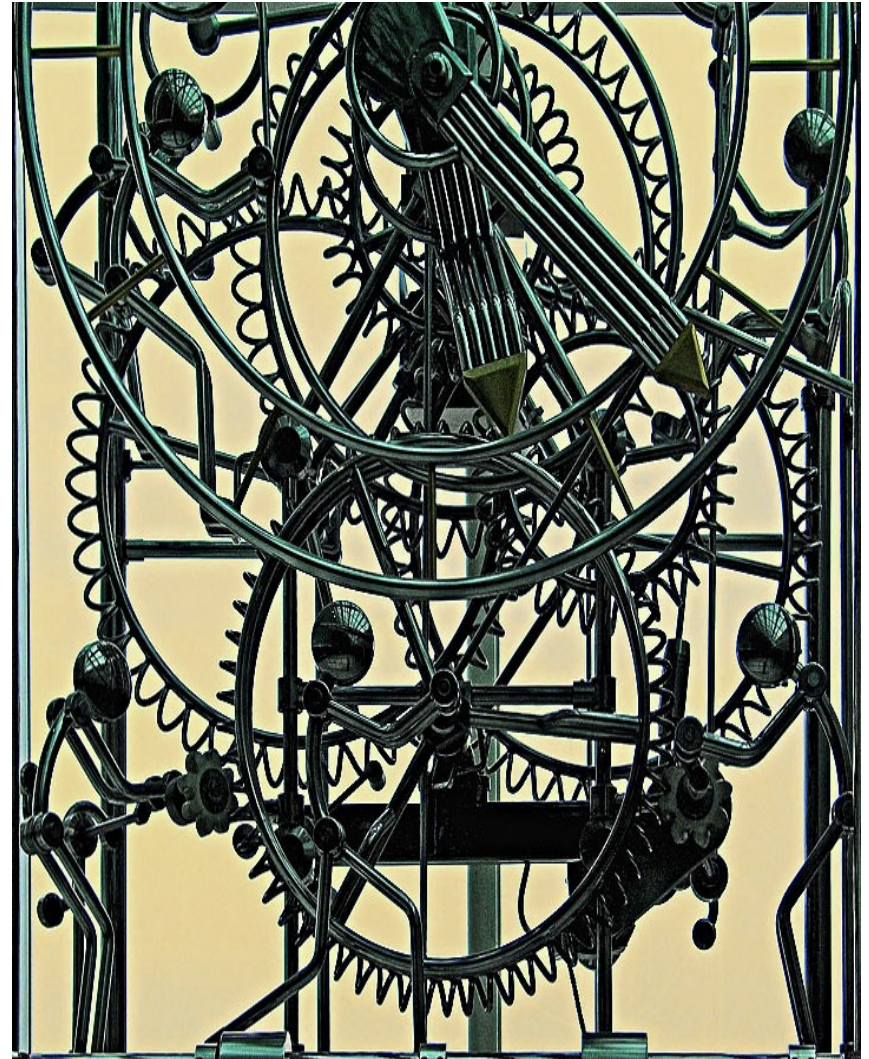
Strategies

1. General reminder
2. Individual reminders
3. **Updating work-ins (eg, Australian satellite; Australian CC; UKCC, CRG at Colloquium)**
4. **Visit to editorial office**
5. Withdrawal of complimentary CD
6. **Prioritise updates with editor taking lead**
7. **Editorial base updating support**
8. **Funding by other interested parties (UK Department of Health; Health Technology Assessment; Cochrane Fields)**
9. **Updates written by member of editorial office staff**

Updating: complex + time consuming

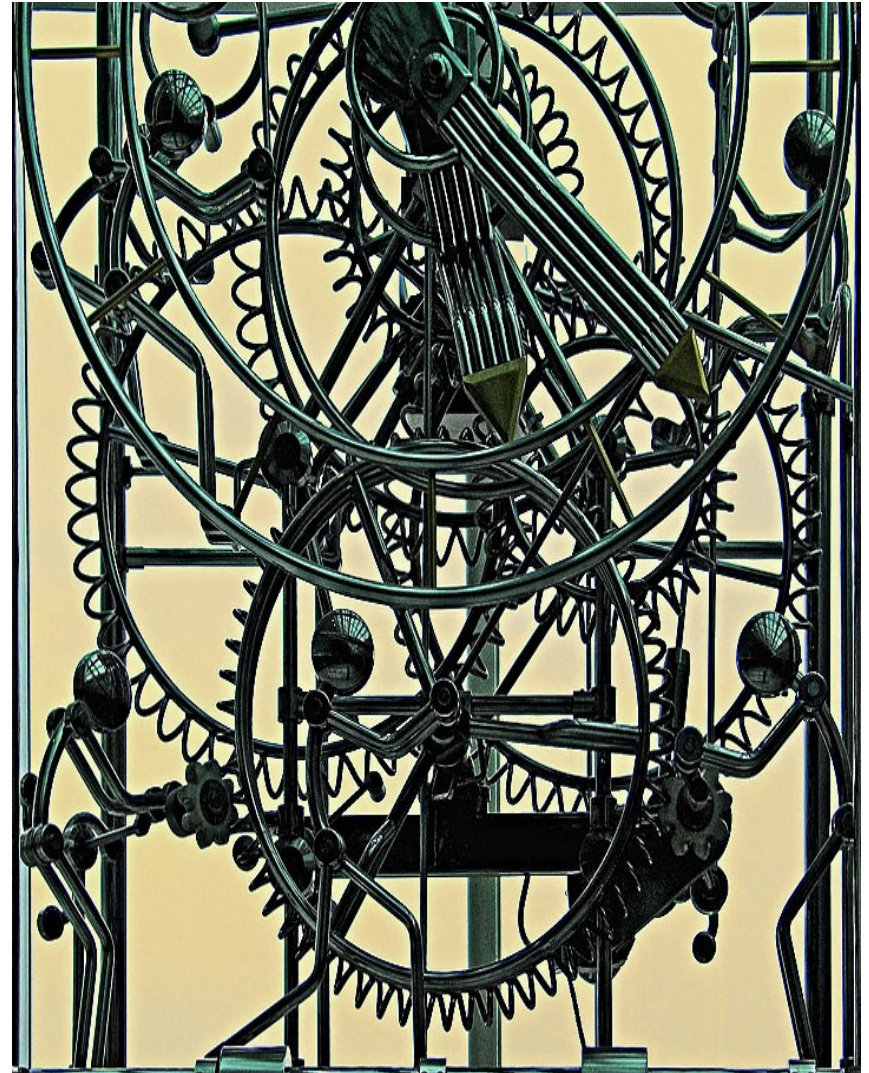
To improve **quality**:

- RevMan x 4
- Cochrane Handbook x 4
- Guidelines for titles
- Abstracts
- Plain language summaries (Synopses)
- Feedback (Comments and criticisms)
- Cochrane Style Guide x 3



Updating: complex and time consuming

1. Developed editorial process
(statistical/consumers)
2. Moved from trial driven
to question driven
reviews
3. New proposals can
have impact on
updating
4. More and more RCTs
1996 = 200 per year
2006 = 800 per year



Case study

Antenatal corticosteroids for accelerating fetal lung maturation for women at risk of preterm labour



**THE COCHRANE
COLLABORATION®**

(1996 title = Corticosteroids prior to preterm delivery)

What's new?

- **New team of authors**
- **Methodology updated**
- **New protocol published**
- **Search updated**
- **Results from recent follow-up studies included**
- **Standardised with other relevant published reviews**
- **Responses to feedback**
- **Improvement in readability**

- **Conclusions** **little change**

new information

- **Recommendation for practice + research** **no change**

Are we asking too much of authors and editorial teams?

2007

- Number of published reviews = **300**

2017

- 2-YEARLY updating policy = **1500 new** versions (+ new protocols + new reviews)