

## 2009 International Campbell Collaboration (C2) Colloquium

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### Abstract Information

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A Disability Subgroup within the C2 Education Coordinating Group

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**Abstract:**

The National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR; Disability Research to Practice program at SEDL, Austin, Texas, USA) has worked with the Campbell Collaboration (C2) to establish a Disability Subgroup that will provide an infrastructure for conducting and disseminating systematic reviews in the area of disability/rehabilitation research. This responds to a concern for increasing the effective use of research results sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR, the funding agency located in the U.S. Department of Education), in shaping new technologies, improving service delivery, and expanding decision-making options for people with disabilities and their families. A need exists to build capacity and promote the development of high-quality evidence-based information that is relevant to disability, such as that produced through C2. Population demographics suggest a growing expectation for evidence-based information in many areas under the disability umbrella. The field of disability, as used here, is broad and encompasses research in areas such as employment, community integration, quality of life, rehabilitation engineering, and independent living. The presentation describes the planning and communication with representatives in the C2 Education Coordinating Group (ECG) and Steering Group (SG), resulting in approval in March 2008 of a Disability Subgroup as part of the ECG. NCDDR Director John Westbrook and Ralf Schlosser of Northeastern University serve as co-chairs. The NCDDR has reorganized its Community of Practice on Research Quality to help facilitate Subgroup activities. The paper addresses the status of several preliminary objectives established for the Disability Subgroup: \* Undertake and maintain a series of high-quality and timely systematic reviews of interventions aimed at improving the quality of life and outcomes of individuals with disabilities. These reviews focus attention on substantive disability topics through the summary and analysis of the best available, high-quality research evidence provided through randomized and non-randomized quasi-experimental designs. \* Establish and maintain a network of individuals with disability expertise or experience who are interested in developing and/or contributing to disability-related systematic reviews. \* Encourage involvement of consumers with disabilities, their family members, and other disability-oriented stakeholders in all steps of the systematic review development process, including the development and dissemination of appropriate user-friendly interpretations of review results. \* Provide training opportunities for interested systematic review authors in the production of C2 reviews in the disability area, including workshops, webcasts, and online course instruction.

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