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Abstract Information

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Evidence for policy and practice: the UK Educational Evidence Portal (eep)

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Abstract:

Introduction This session provides an update on the development of the UK Educational Evidence Portal, introduced at the 2007 Campbell Collaboration conference in London. It describes the work, membership and rationale of a consortium of UK educational bodies who have come together to make research evidence more accessible. It sets out some of the tensions in collaborating over evidence and the solutions adopted, including the placing of systematic reviews in the wider context of evidence. More particularly, it sets out current developments within its research and development programme, particularly in relation to text mining and taxonomy development. eep can be accessed online at: <http://www.eep.ac.uk/> About eep eep – the educational evidence portal is an online resource dedicated to and for educational professionals, bringing together research and evidence from multiple sources. It is an innovative and exciting development for education practitioners, policymakers and all interested in education – providing practical evidence and research materials to underpin practice and policymaking. Documents from leading education organisations have been collated in one, easily accessible, searchable, site making information and evidence on a wide and ever-growing range of topics freely available. Research and development Two programmes of research and development are described. 1. The development of an education taxonomy that is accessible to users. The eep consortium is evaluating a new taxonomy that will be used to index documents on the portal. Its aims are to give users a user-friendly way into the database and to facilitate efficient searching. Both the evaluation and its findings are described. 2. The possibilities of using text mining to function as a search engine for the portal are currently being explored. In a JISC-funded project, in collaboration with the EPPI-Centre, Institute of Education, London and the UK National Centre for Text Mining, a search engine that utilises this new technology is being developed and evaluated. Specific functions include the automatic ‘clustering’ of search results into conceptual groups and the automatic classification of documents according to the eep taxonomy. Screenshots and the results from early evaluations are shown.
