# Evidence-Based Practice Resources on Disability

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Looking for evidence on the Internet can often be confusing, not only because so much is available, but also because so much is not geared to the needs of occupational therapy practitioners as well as others working with persons with disabilities. The National Center for Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR; www.ncddr.org) has many useful evidence-based practice resources that are tailored to those working in rehabilitation fields. NCDDR is operated by SEDL, a private, nonprofit education research, development, and dissemination corporation, through funding from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). With a focus on knowledge translation, the long-term goal of NCDDR, as the Web site states, is "to expand production, access, dissemination, and use of disability and rehabilitation research evidence among NIDRR management and grantees; people with disabilities and their families; and disability-oriented professionals, practitioners, and service providers."

John Westbrook, PhD, program manager of SEDL's Disability Research to Practice Program, and principal investigator and director of NCDDR, notes that the original mandate of NCDDR was to provide technical assistance to NIDRR grantees, but that the resources it provides are also extremely useful for clinicians, educators, and researchers who are not NIDRR grantees.

The NCDDR Web site is organized by content areas that include Diversity and Outreach, Knowledge Translation, Logic Models, Quality of Research, Registries of Research, Reporting of Research, Standards of Evidence, and Systematic Reviews.

From the home page of the Web site, one can access a variety of resources that span the content areas. One highlight of the Web site are webcasts that have been previously produced by NCDDR. Archived materials, transcripts, and audio files are available, and topics of potential interest include:

- Documenting Disparities in Obesity and Disability: Parts I & II
- Disability Research Design Issues and Strategies: A Conversation with Researchers
- GRADE—System for Rating Evidence
- Employment Outcomes After TBI: Does Race/Ethnicity Matter?
- Begin with Knowledge Translation; Have the End—Technology Transfer—in Mind

Another valuable section is the Technical Briefs, which can be downloaded from the NCDDR Web site. Although all Technical Briefs are of importance to occupational therapy practitioners interested in learning more about evidence-based practice, several are of particular interest and include:

- The Role of Systematic Reviews in Evidence-Based Practice, Research, and Development (#15)
- Appraising the Quality of Systematic Reviews (#17)
- Low-cost and No-cost Steps in Research Design To Improve the Quality of Evidence (#27)
- Mixed-Methods Systematic Reviews: Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Findings (#25)
- The Role of Single-Subject Experimental Designs in Evidence-Based Practice Times (#22)
- Why Is Knowledge Translation Important? Grounding the Conversation (#21)
- The Use of CIRRIE's Database of International Rehabilitation Research in Conducting Systematic Reviews (#23)

Westbrook says that a variety of collaborations with NCDDR and other agencies and individuals have helped

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practitioners can help in their own way to promote greater interest in academia as a career. Given that education is the cornerstone of any profession, let's do all we can to promote and aid development of academic faculty within our profession, in fulfillment of AOTA's Centennial Vision and through the effort to, as always, help clients of occupation therapy live life to its fullest. ■

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Postprofessional Programs in OT—Doctoral Level Programs**
American Occupational Therapy Association www.aota.org/students/schools/postprofot/35484.aspx

***Learning in Adulthood: A Comprehensive Guide (3rd Ed.)***
By S. Merriam, R. Caffarella, & L. Baumgartner, 2007. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

***The Reference Manual of the Official Documents of the American Occupational Therapy Association, 15th Edition***
By the American Occupational Therapy Association, 2010. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press. ($49 for members, $69 for nonmembers. To order, call toll free 877-404-AOTA or shop online at http://store.aota.org/view/?SKU=1584. Order #1584. Promo code MI)

***Clinical Supervision in Occupational Therapy: A Guide for Fieldwork and Practice***
By D. M. Costa, 2007. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press. ($49 for members, $69 for nonmembers. To order, call toll free 877-404-AOTA or shop online at http://store.aota.org/view/?SKU=1238. Order #1238. Promo code MI)

***The Essential Guide to Occupational Therapy Fieldwork Education: Resources for Today's Educators and Practitioners (w/CD-ROM)***
By D. M. Costa, 2004. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press. ($59 for members, $83 for nonmembers. To order, call toll free 877-404-AOTA or shop online at http://store.aota.org/view/?SKU=1231. Order #1231. Promo code MI)

## CONNECTIONS

Discuss this and other articles on the OT Practice Magazine public forum at **http://www.OTConnections.org.**

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## EVIDENCE PERKS

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move evidence-based disability research forward. A partnership with representatives of the Campbell Collaboration, for example, established a Disability Research Coordinating Group, which provides infrastructure for conducting and disseminating systematic reviews. Also, a partnership with the Cochrane Collaboration helped to facilitate the participation of NIDRR grantees in Cochrane review activities. In addition, an NCDDR Standards and Research Review Board uses consensus-building strategies to develop standards of evidence for NIDRR-sponsored research. The review board forms topic-specific task forces that publish position papers summarizing the outcomes of their consensus-building process. The task forces and those writing the position papers come from a variety of disciplines, including occupational therapy. The most recent position paper is *The Challenge of Evidence in Disability and Rehabilitation Research and Practice*, which is available for download on the NCDDR Web site. The major objectives of the position paper are to clarify what is meant by the term *evidence* and to describe the nature of the contemporary systems used to identify and evaluate evidence in intervention research.

Regardless of the setting where you work, the NCDDR Web site offers valuable evidence-based practice information. Whether your interests lie in finding out about available sources of evidence or are more in the area of designing research or conducting a systematic review, you will find resources to inform, guide, and foster the provision of occupational therapy services from an evidence-based practice perspective. Accessing the information and determining how to incorporate the resources provides a challenge that should be embraced by all practitioners. ■


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