Text S1. Sources searched for included studies

**Databases**
All databases were originally searched on the 26th or 27th September 2007 with the most recent update searches carried out between the 22nd October and 6th November 2009.

- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR): methodology reviews only: 2009 Issue 4
- Cochrane Methodology Register (CMR): 2009 Issue 4
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE): November 2009
- EMBASE: 1980 to 2009 Week 42
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database: November 2009
- Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC): September 2009
- Index to Theses: November 2009
- MEDLINE: 1950 to October Week 3
- MEDLINE in process: 22 October 2009

**Handsearching of Journals**
- BMC Clinical Pharmacology - 2001;1(1) to 2009;9(17)
- BMC Medical Research Methodology - 2001;1 to 2009;9(69)
- Drug Safety – 1998;18(1) to 2009;32(11)
- Health Information and Libraries Journal (formerly Health Libraries Review) - 1994;11(1) to 2009;26(3)
- Journal of Information Science - 1979;1(1) to 2009;35(5)
- Journal of Librarianship and Information Science - 1969;1(1) to 2009;41(3)
- Journal of the Medical Library Association (formerly the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association) - from 2000;88(2) to 2009;97(4)
- Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety – 1992;1(1) to 2009;18(11)

**Handsearching of Conference Proceedings**
- Cochrane Colloquia 1994 - 2009
- HTAi 2004 - 2009
- Pharma-Bio-Med Conference and Exposition 2006 - 2008
- Symposium on Systematic Reviews 1998 - 2002

**Web Sources**
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) via http://www.ahrq.gov/ Searched: 28/10/09
- Health Technology Assessment Programme (HTA) via http://www.hta.ac.uk/index.shtml Searched: 28/10/09