Appendix 7: Search and Description of Databases

Medline Search Strategy Example: Tuberculosis
Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to Present with Daily Update
Search Strategy:

1     Tuberculosis/ (95731)
2     tuberculo$.tw. (166967)
3     tb.tw. (28286)
4     lti.tw. (1032)
5     or/1-4 (198720)
6     exp Mass Screening/ (106988)
7     (screened or screening?).tw. (413981)
8     Early Diagnosis/ (18853)
9     ((case? or early) adj2 (detected or detection? or diagnos$ or discover$)).tw. (148142)
10     exp Population Surveillance/ (55545)
11     (disease? adj2 surveillance).tw. (4019)
12     Contact Tracing/ (3498)
13     contact tracing.tw. (1150)
14     Interferon-gamma Release Tests/ (735)
15     interferon gamma release.tw. (1044)
16     igra.tw. (478)
17     Tuberculin Test/ (12830)
18     tuberculin test$.tw. (2353)
19     Radiography, Thoracic/ (27994)
20     Mass Chest X-ray/ (1903)
21     (chest$ adj2 (radiograph$ or x-ray$)).tw. (33699)
22     cxr.tw. (1139)
23     cxr.tw. (1139)
24     or/6-23 (704330)
25     meta analysis.mp,pt. (89638)
26     review.pt. (2024759)
search$.tw. (250979)
or/25-27 (2209597)
animals/ not (humans/ and animals/) (4177583)
28 not 29 (2053500)
5 and 24 and 30 (2319)
31 and (2011$ or 2012$ or 2013$ or 2014$ or 2015$ or 2016$).ed. (694)
remove duplicates from 32 (683)

Description of the selected electronic databases:

- CINAHL includes more than 3.4 million records and allows access to standards of practice, healthcare books and book chapters. It includes clinical trials, full-text journals, research instruments, clinical innovations, legal cases and critical paths. It is easy to use and has basic and advanced search features.

- Cochrane CENTRAL compiles comprehensive reports of randomised and quasi-randomised controlled trials. In addition to Embase and Medline, CENTRAL derives its records from other published and unpublished sources. It does not have restriction on language or date of publication.

- Embase is a database specific for biomedical research, systematic reviews and pharmacovigilance. It contains more than 30 million indices and abstracts from conferences, published, peer-reviewed biomedical literature and press publications.

- Epistemonikos is a multilingual database of evidence that systematically searches electronic databases and other sources for systematic reviews and broad syntheses of reviews.

- Medline is a database that has over 20 million references to journal articles in life sciences, focusing on biomedicine. It contains records that are indexed with NLM Medical Subject Headings.