Reviewer's report

Title: Is Google Scholar Ready as a Tool for Systematic Literature Retrieval: Relative Recall and Precision Searching Studies for Systematic Reviews

Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2013

Reviewer: Hans Thulesius

Reviewer's report:

Review of 'Is Google Scholar Ready as a Tool for Systematic Literature Retrieval: Relative Recall and Precision Searching Studies for Systematic Reviews'
Martin Boeker, Werner Vach and Edith Motschall

First of all I must admit that bibliometry is not my field of research. I was probably asked to do a review of this ms since I have written an editorial and done some hands-on bibliometry using Google Scholar. I did find that Google Scholar works as a tool for assessing the SCI Impact Factor for two journals - the Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care and the European Journal of General Practice.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

The ms 'Is Google Scholar Ready as a Tool for Systematic Literature Retrieval: Relative Recall and Precision Searching Studies for Systematic Reviews' presents what to me appears to be serious bibliometric critical research and I think the text is well written and the argumentation is logical and makes sense. The abstract and the conclusions are also to the point and balanced in their critique against the shortcomings of Google Scholar as a tool for advanced scientific bibliometry.

Minor Essential Revisions
The only critique as a non expert comes from reading the reference list in which I find a miss - Giustini

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests