Developing a common framework for documenting case studies in occupational therapy

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Background: The problem

In occupational therapy:

• Lack of evidence to underpin practice$^{1,2}$

• Limited research skills (research capacity)$^{2,3}$

• Situation is changing$^4$ (too?) slowly

$^1$Bannigan et al (2008); $^2$Lin (2013); $^3$Morris and Smyth (2017); $^4$White et al (2013)
## Background: A solution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common framework</th>
<th>Database of case studies</th>
<th>Pooling case studies to create larger studies</th>
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<td>A common framework to guide the systematic documentation of the logic, process and outcome(s) of occupational therapy intervention will be developed.</td>
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### Case study as basic paradigm for the creation of practical knowledge\(^5\)

### Pragmatic single case research

### Create large database of practitioner-generated single case studies\(^6\)

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\(^5\)Fishman (2000); \(^6\)Fishman (2001)
Aim

To create ‘a common framework’ for systematically documenting case studies in occupational therapy
Method: 3 Stages

1. Literature review
2. Developing a prototype
3. Consensus conferences
1. Literature review

a. **Case study research** – Not a clinical case study
   - Systematic so can be ‘pooled’
   - Explanatory – outcome focussed
   - Limitations

b. **Goal setting** – Writing occupational goals
   - Occupation focus
   - SMART goals

c. **Outcome measurement** – Goal Attainment Scale (Light)
   - copyright free
   - different ages
   - various conditions
   - range of service settings
   - more options for therapists

d. **Occupational therapy** – What does an occupational therapist do? 

\[^7\]Creek (2014)
2. Developing a prototype

   a. Developing a prototype – Literature used to draft a common framework

   b. Consensus conferences – Five conferences hosted by Bridges to Learning & Devon Partnership Trust with occupational therapists (n>150)
      - Common framework → manual
      - Step by step process in main body of manual
      - Refined content (Version 1.4)
      - Debated and agreed measure
      - Database to capture data
Findings: A manual and a database

Unfolding occupational therapy: Case by case

The IHC Case Study Research Project database

This database is for occupational therapists documenting case studies about their practice.

Please see the manual “Unfolding occupational therapy: Case by case” for more information.

If you do not have a copy of the manual please contact IHCPlvmCaseStudy@plymouth.ac.uk

- I have read and understood the information about the research
- I understand that personal identifiable information cannot be added to the database.
- I know that I can stop taking part in the study at any time.
Findings: A manual and a database

2. **Start date** (Please record the date you started working with the person in your case study highlighted in red in the screenshot below).

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DD MM YYYY

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Next steps

• Pilot study with Devon Partnership NHS Trust
  – Road test manual and database
  – Ethics and governance
• Finalise manual and database
• Make all materials available open access
Some practical considerations

• Children’s version

• Open access - Data access procedures

• ‘Train the trainer’: Podcasts to increase numbers who can be involved?

• N=1,000,000 a possibility?
Today Devon...

...Tomorrow the World?
Thank you for listening

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References


