

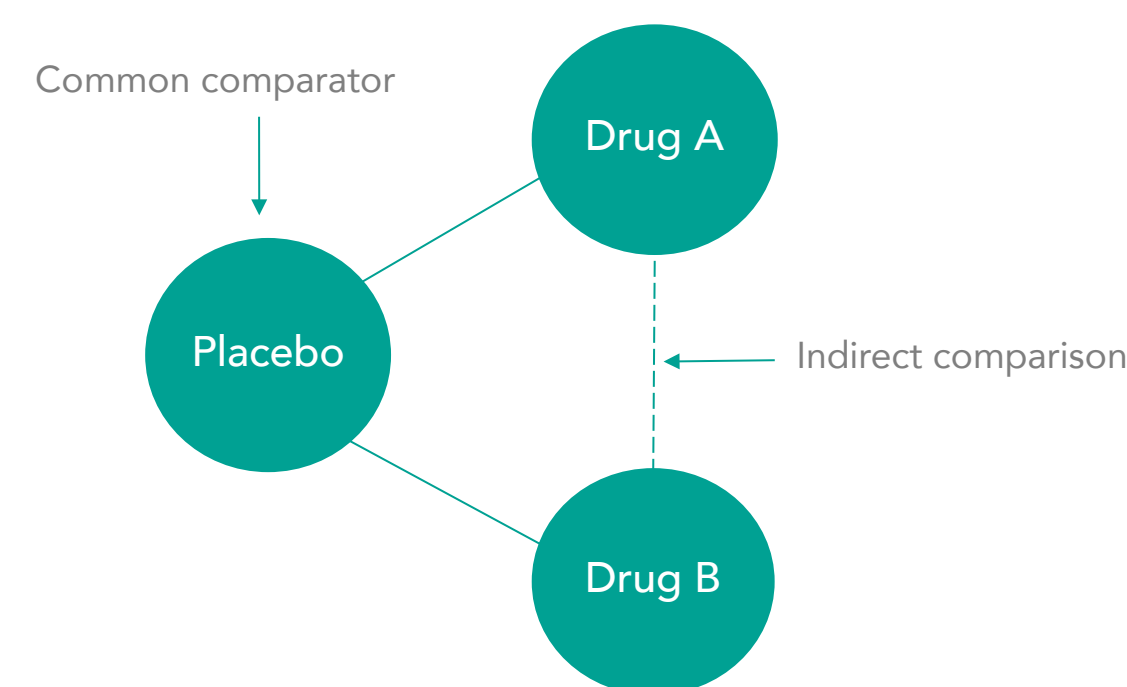
# INVOLVEMENT OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS IN PUBLISHED NETWORK META-ANALYSES



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## INTRODUCTION

Network meta-analysis (NMA) allows researchers to analyze multiple interventions using both direct comparisons from head-to-head trials and indirect comparisons based on a common comparator, such as placebo.

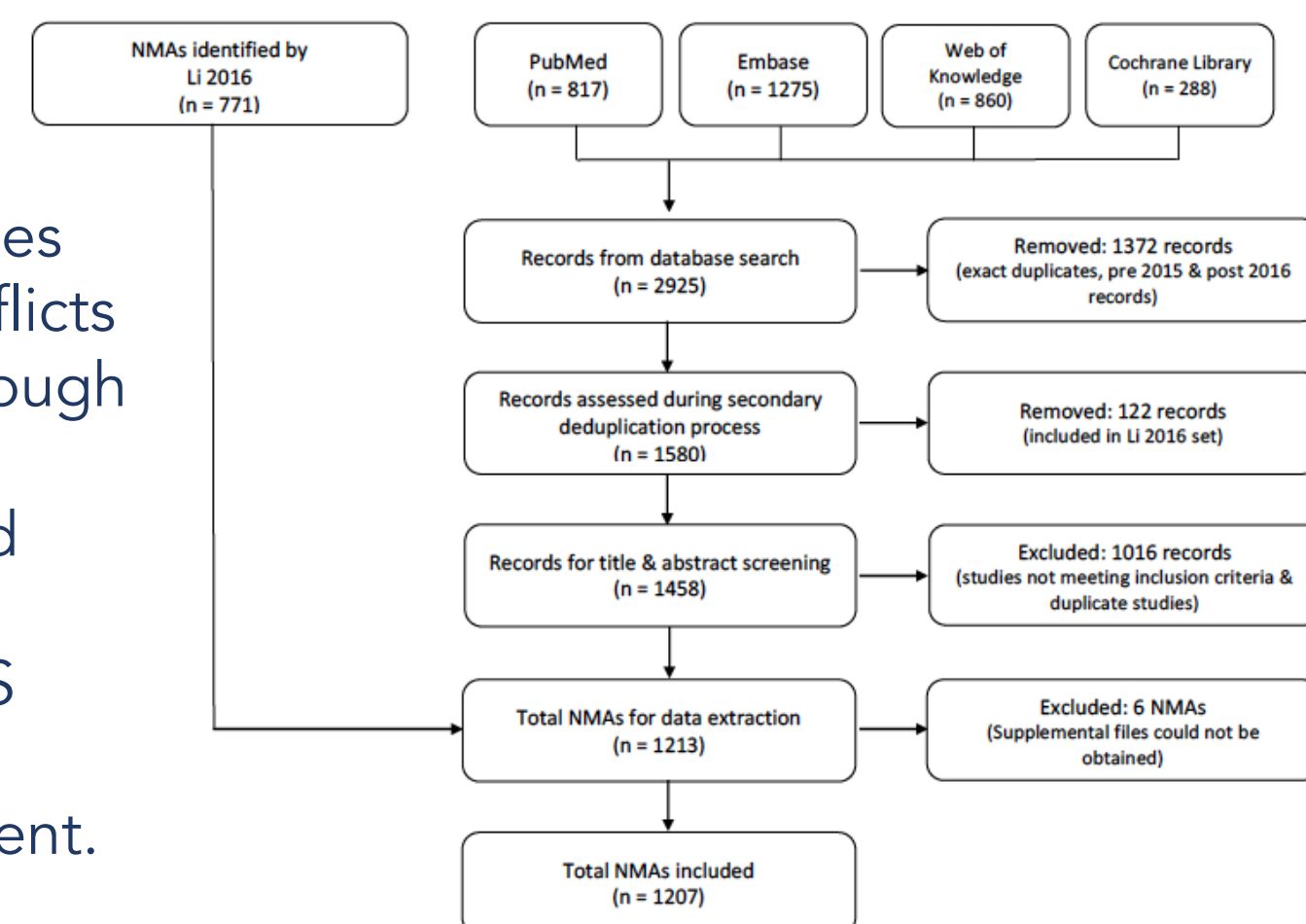


The number of systematic reviews that employ network meta-analysis methods has increased dramatically in the last few years.

## METHODS

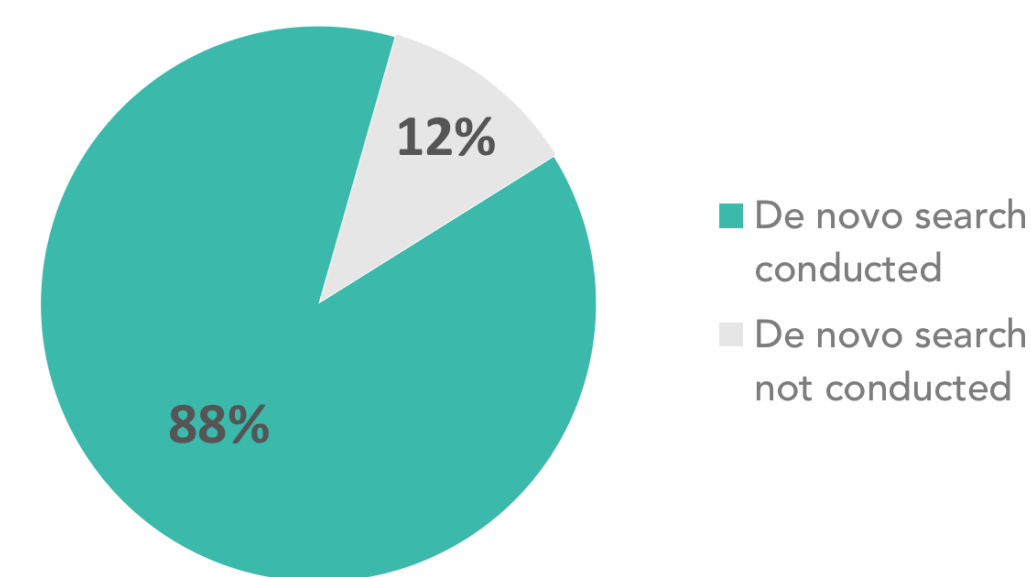
This study builds on a previously published NMA dataset.<sup>1</sup> Database searches were rerun in order to retrieve articles published from Jul 2015 to Dec 2016. References were imported into Endnote for deduplication. Next, articles were uploaded into DistillerSR for screening.

Two reviewers independently screened references for inclusion. Conflicts were resolved through discussion. One reviewer extracted data on search reproducibility, LIS involvement and industry involvement.

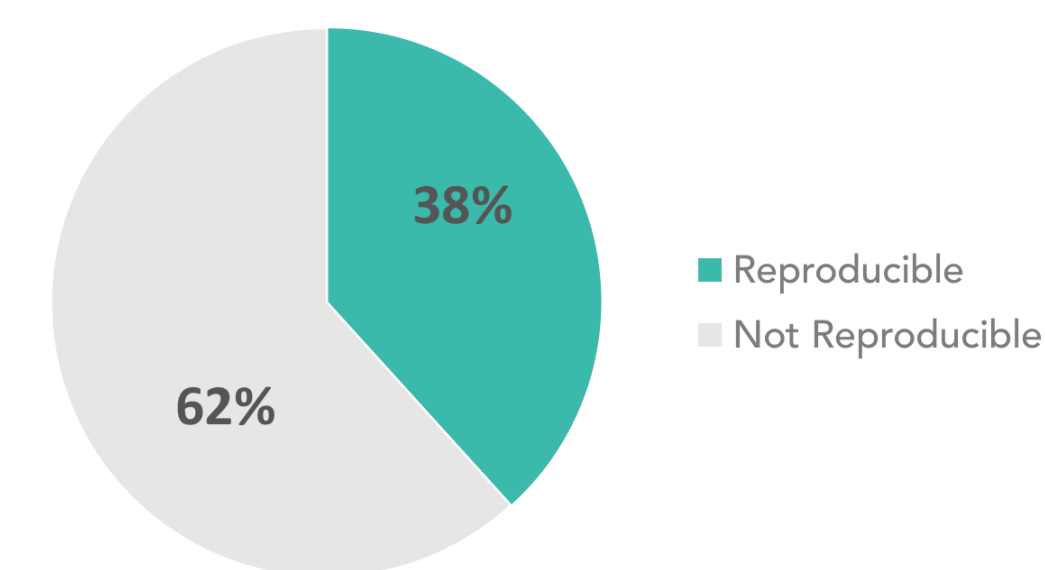


## RESULTS

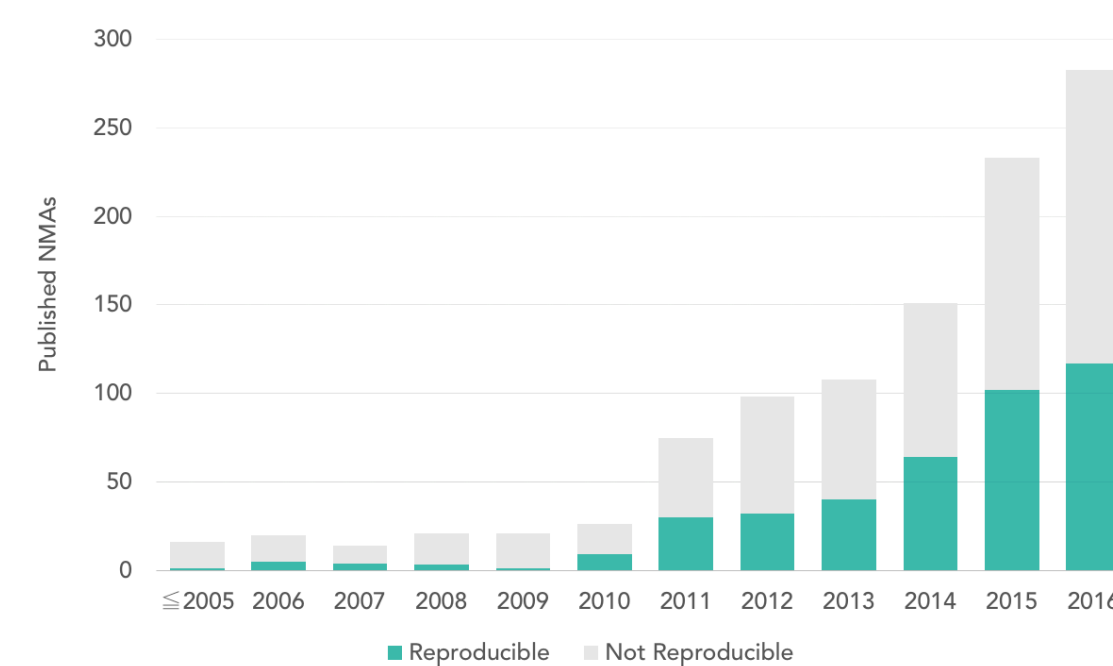
Was a De Novo\* Search Conducted? (n = 1207)



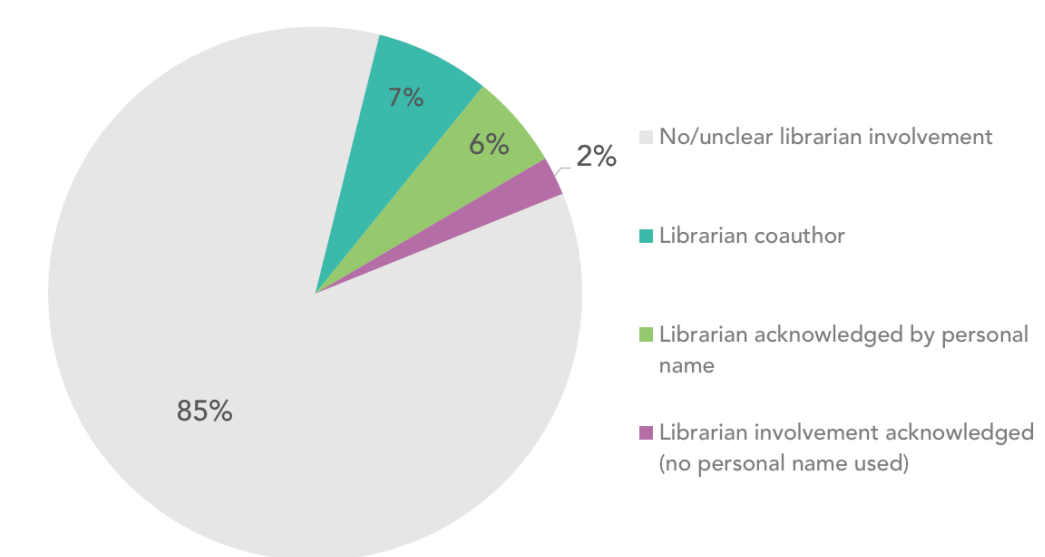
Was the Search Reproducible\*\*? (n = 1066)



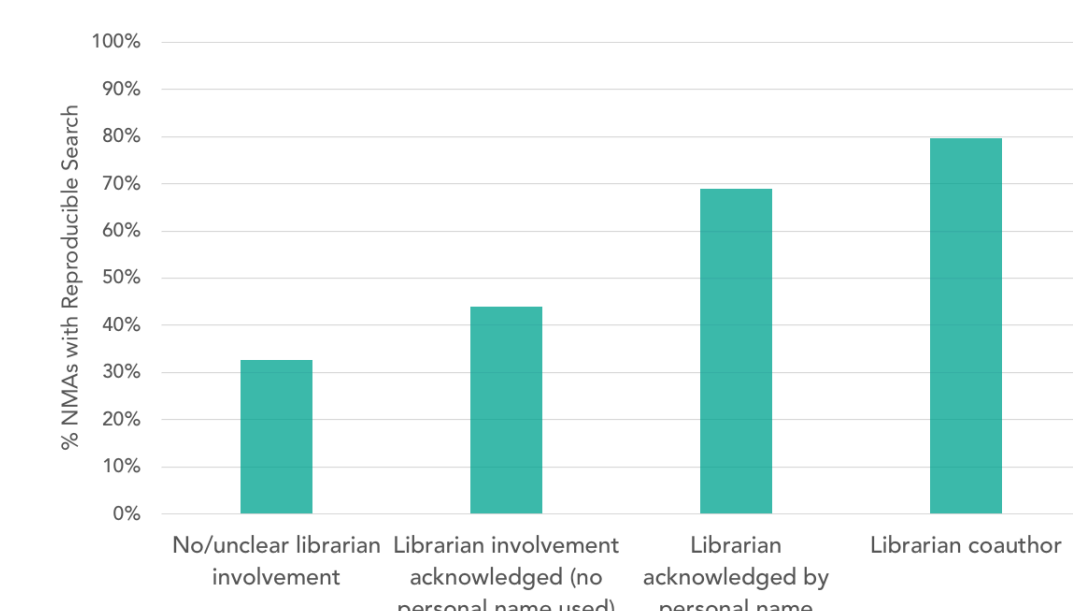
Search Reproducibility (by year)



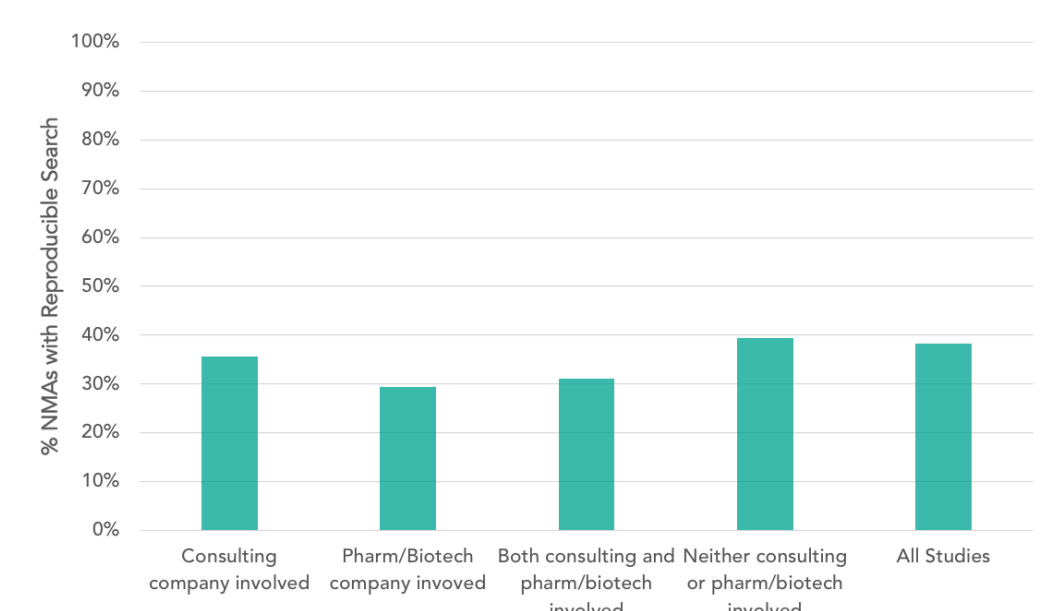
Librarian/Information Specialist Involvement\*\*\* (n = 1066)



Search Reproducibility & Librarian Involvement



Search Reproducibility & Industry Involvement



\* Network meta-analyses publications may utilize data from previously published, well-conducted systematic reviews, rather than newly conducted (de novo) searches.<sup>2</sup>  
 \*\* Searches considered reproducible if they present a "full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated".<sup>3</sup>  
 \*\*\* If unclear, a web search was conducted to determine if the individual held a library science related degree (MLIS, MIS etc.) or was affiliated with a library or information services department.

## CHALLENGES & LIMITATIONS

- There is disagreement in the literature about what constitutes a network meta-analysis.<sup>4</sup>
- Search strategies often included as supplemental files; can be difficult to access.
- Did not assess search quality, only reproducibility.
- Relying on documented librarian involvement in published NMAs likely underreports actual librarian involvement.
- Descriptive statistics presented; results not necessarily statistically significant.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Much like prior publication studies of systematic reviews,<sup>5,6</sup> this study suggests search reporting in NMAs could be improved.
- A higher percentage of published NMAs that acknowledge librarians or include a librarian coauthor include at least one complete search strategy, as compared to published NMAs with no documented librarian involvement.

## REFERENCES

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