

Wikipedia: Clinician Friend or Foe?

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WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

BACKGROUND

Evidence-Based Assessment (EBA):

- EBA uses most current evidence to guide clinical decision-making and avoid bias¹

Barriers to EBA:

- Clinician concern about inaccessibility and cost of high-quality instruments²
- Identifying which instruments are high-quality

Wikipedia as Dissemination Tool:

- Substantial support for effectiveness of dissemination through high-traffic websites³
- Wikipedia is 7th most viewed site in world⁴
- Can be continuously updated to reflect most current empirical research
- Wikipedia content found to be highly accurate⁵

Goals of Research:

- Use Wikipedia to further widespread dissemination of EBA-related content and tools
- Support clinician identification and utilization of best EBA tools available

METHODS

Procedure:

- Collected instruments from recent reviews^{6,7} and Division 12 repository, then screened instruments
- Created Wikipedia pages – or updated those that already existed – for the selected measures
- Uploaded information on instruments to Wikipedia pages (development/history, psychometric data, items on screeners, scoring information, etc.)

Participants:

- 36 free and validated scales, ranked using criteria adapted from Hunsley and Mash (2005)⁸

Measures:

- For new pages (n=31), measured Wikipedia page views from day of creation to January 2016
- For edited pages (n=5), measured page views from date of first edit to January 2016

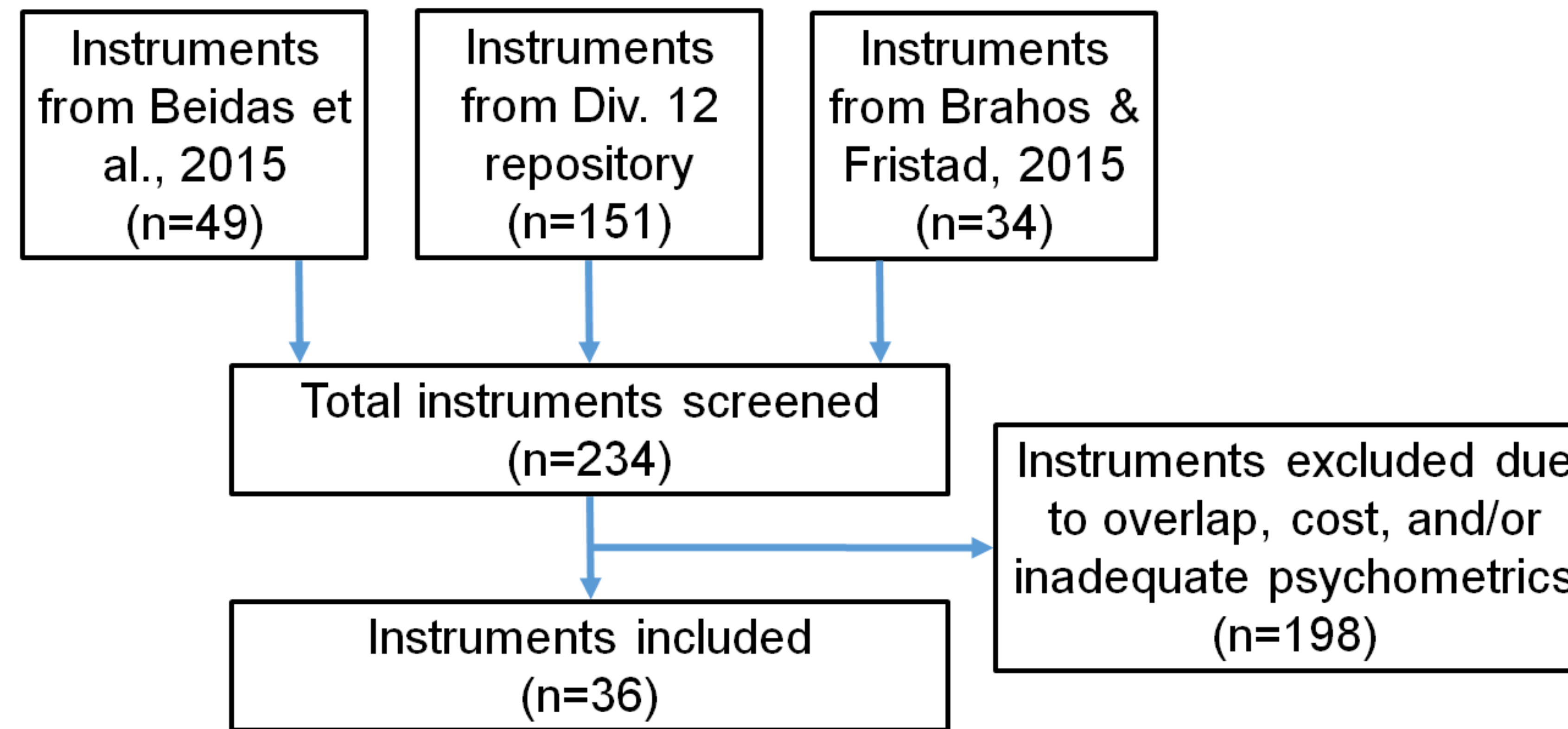


Figure 1. Instrument Identification, Inclusion, & Exclusion Diagram

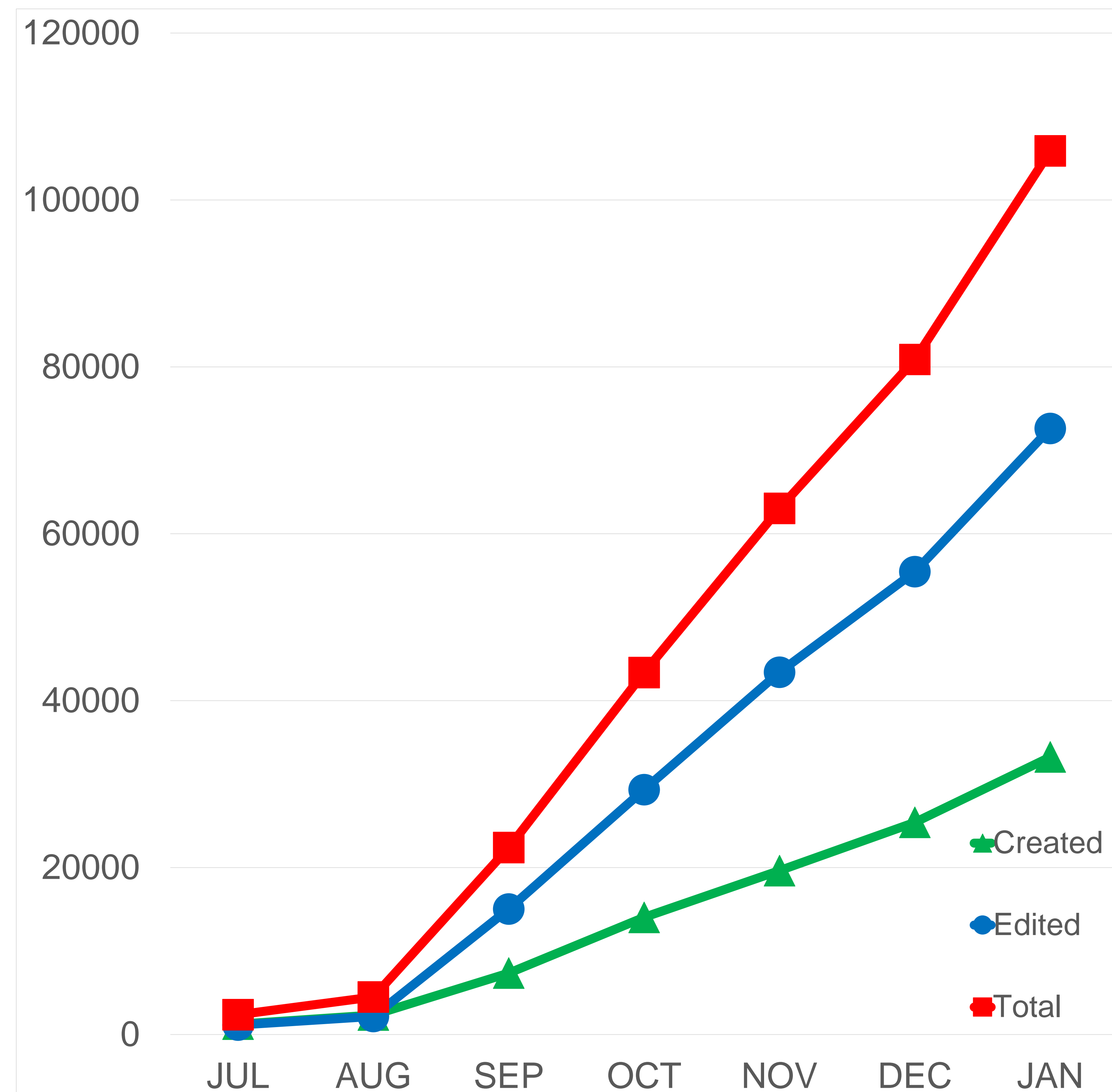


Figure 2. Cumulative Wikipedia Page Hits over Time

RESULTS

Instrument Page Hits:

- 106,155 page hits recorded from 36 total pages
- 33,538 page hits from new pages (n=31)

Hits Categorized by Disorder:

- Anxiety and obsessive-compulsive instrument Wikipedia pages (30,845 hits)
- Substance use pages (14,770 hits)
- Mood disorder pages (14,105 hits)

DISCUSSION

Project Impact:

- Helps make information on EBA and its tools more readily available to clinicians and general public
- Enables clinicians to implement EBA in practices
- Mutual benefit and search engine optimization for both Wikipedia and psychological associations from links to and from their web pages
- Hits continue to accumulate post-data collection

Future Directions:

- Collecting additional data across other constructs
- Creating rubric to evaluate Wikipedia content and measure before-and-after quality of pages
- Measuring impact of links to external pages on viewership and page ranks
- Updating reliable sourcing guide for medical pages
- Inviting content experts to evaluate and rate information on Wikipedia
- Forming inter-university teaching syndicate to continuously update information

REFERENCES

- ¹Hunsley & Mash, 2007
- ²Doss & Hawley, 2010
- ³AHRQ, 2012
- ⁴Alexa, 2016
- ⁵Reavley et al., 2012
- ⁶Beidas et al., 2015
- ⁷Brahos & Fristad, 2015
- ⁸Hunsley & Mash, 2005



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