

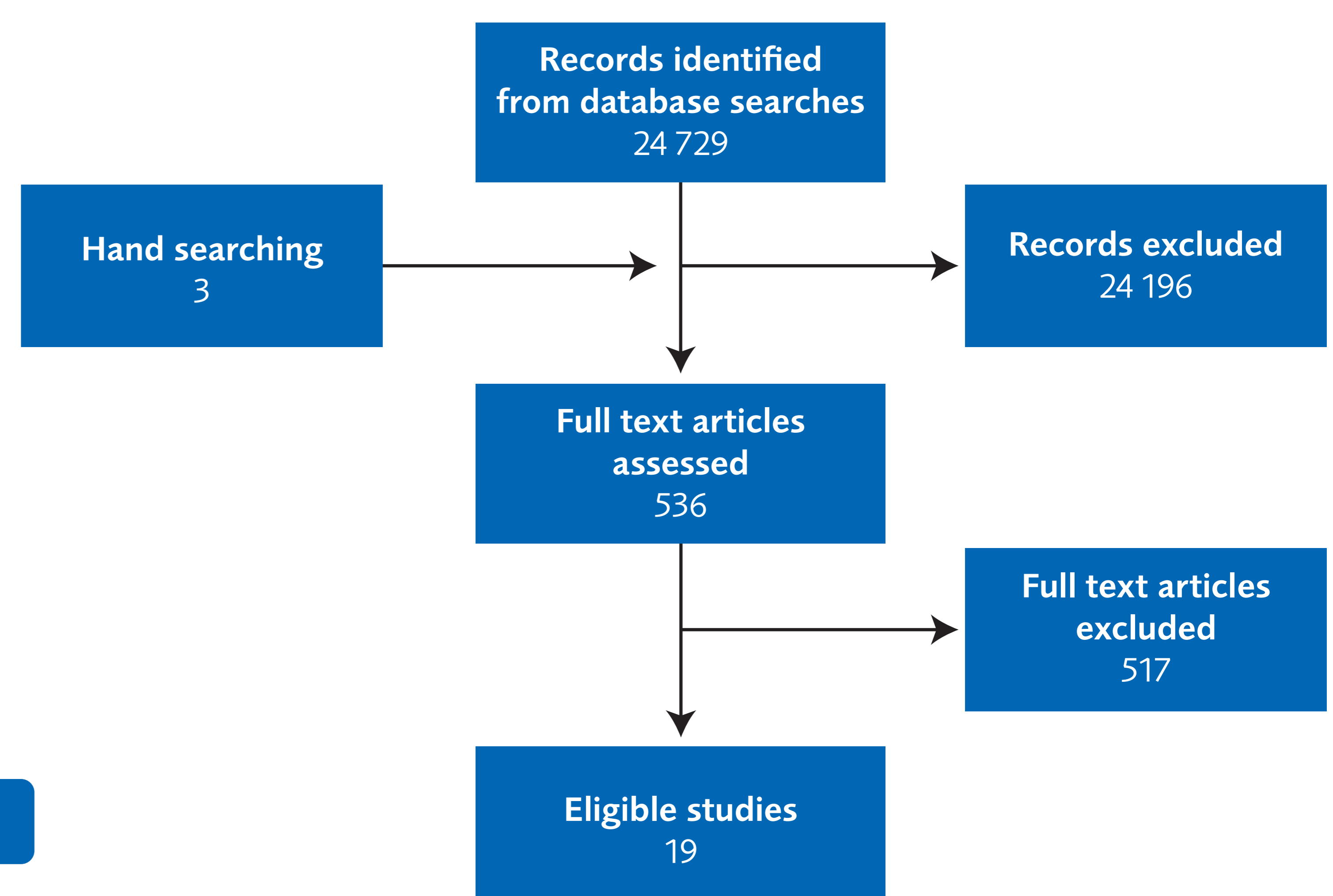
Humans still matters: endurance and flexibility in living systematic literature searching

Post COVID-19 – lessons from a living systematic literature search on treatment and rehabilitation

Background: In 2021, the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU) was commissioned by the Swedish Government to continuously evaluate the scientific evidence for treatment and rehabilitation of patients with Post COVID-19. A living systematic review was launched with regularly updated literature searches and the results published on the SBU website on a weekly basis: www.sbu.se/328e.

Challenges for information retrieval:

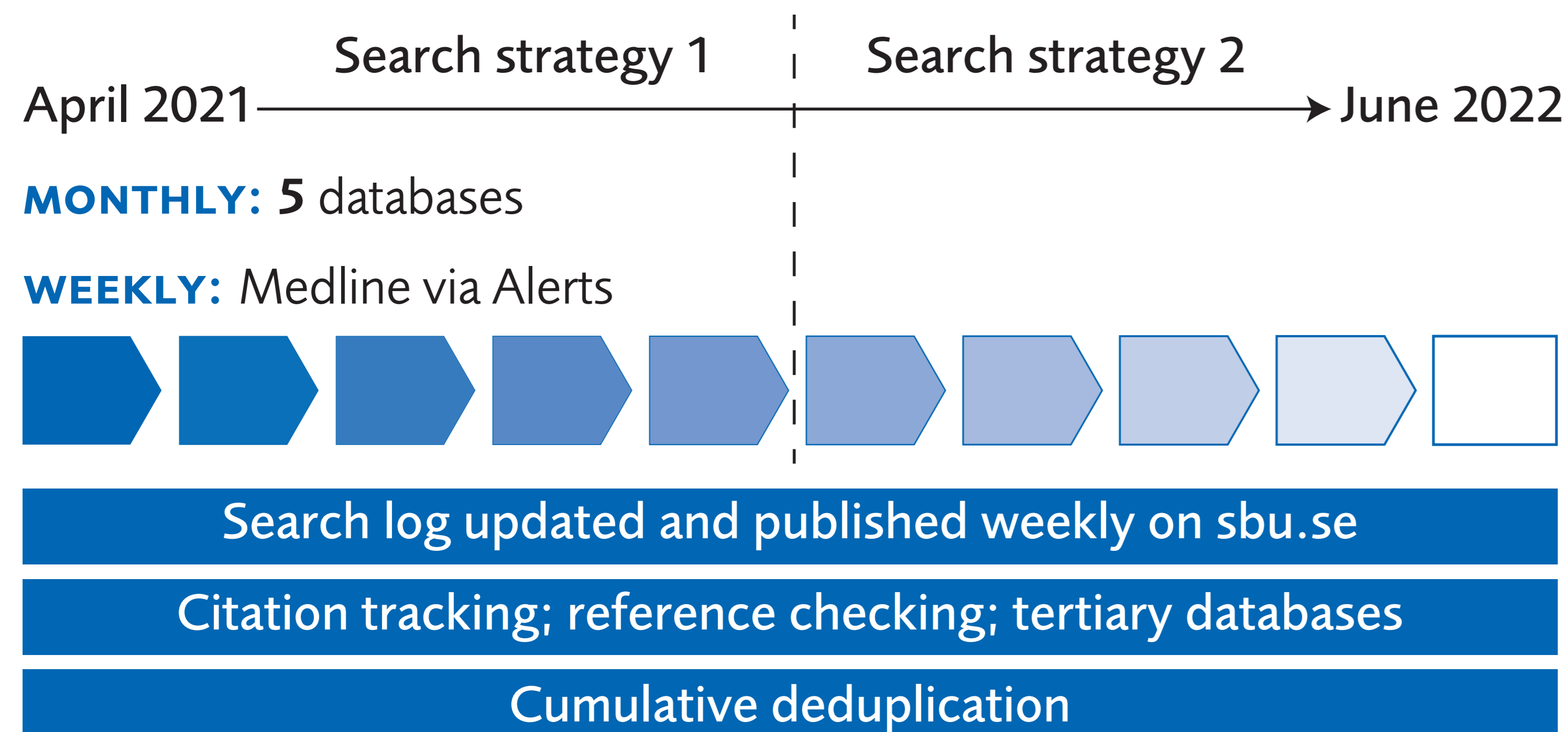
- A new disease – an evolving terminology.
- Searching for a moving object.
- Defining the "long", "post" and "after" aspect.
- To stay systematic when living.
- As always: sensitivity visavi limited resources.



Methods

Living review

Information retrieval



Lesson learned:

1. Endurance: define a workflow early and stick to it.
2. Flexibility: prepare to modify the search strategy on the way, but be cautious.
3. Humans (i.e. experts) still matters – in addition to tertiary databases, AI resources and search filters.

Performance of search filter on Post COVID-19: The eligible studies (n=18; 1 not in Medline) was tested against the *PubMed Clinical Queries filter for Long COVID* (in November 2022). The search filter had a low sensitivity: only 6 of 18 eligible studies were retrieved by the PubMed filter. Thus 12 of our included studies would have been missed by PubMed users selecting the Long COVID search filter.



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