



Partnership in developing a bereavement knowledge tool – going beyond national borders

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Background

Bereavement through the death of a loved one is a situation that touches many lives and crosses all geographic boundaries. Caring for bereaved people can benefit from a growing body of literature reporting on research and practice in the field. Accessing such literature could be particularly helpful in bereavement where care is often provided by practitioners working alone or in small teams.

In a partnership with the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement, CareSearch developed the Bereavement Search Filter (BSF) to provide trustworthy and easy access to international published evidence (in English) indexed in the PubMed database.

The searching resources using the BSF are available free to anyone with access to the Web, and can support all practitioners working in the field of bereavement care. They offer one-click access to current global evidence.

Aims

To review how the Bereavement Search Filter was developed.

To describe how the search resources have been promoted and disseminated.

Building the Bereavement Search Filter

An Expert Advisory Group (EAG) was established.

A Gold Standard set of relevant references was derived from a set of systematic reviews sourced from medicine, nursing and allied health evidence databases. The systematic reviews were ratified by the EAG as specific to the topic of bereavement.

Relative recall was analysed to assess the performance of individual terms and the subject filter. All development work was undertaken in Ovid Medline. The resultant best performing search strategy became the Bereavement Search Filter.

Search Strategy	Retrieval performance (Filter Validation Set)	Relevance assessment (Open Medline)
bereavement/ or bereav*.ft, or grief.ft, or grieving.ft, or continuing bond*.ft,ab, or spousal loss.ft,ab, or complicated grief.ft,ab or prolonged grief.ft,ab	224/276 (81.2%)	181/250 (72.4%)

Table 1: Performance of the Ovid Medline Bereavement Search Filter

This search filter was then translated into an equivalent search strategy for the PubMed database, with an additional component created and testing for searching within the non-indexed subset of PubMed. The PubMed translation used established methodology developed by CareSearch.

The search filter was then combined with topic searches and converted to URLs to enable hyperlink based searching.

Facilitating Access and Taking it to the World

We developed a strategy and made use of opportunities to promote awareness of the filter, building on our partnerships.

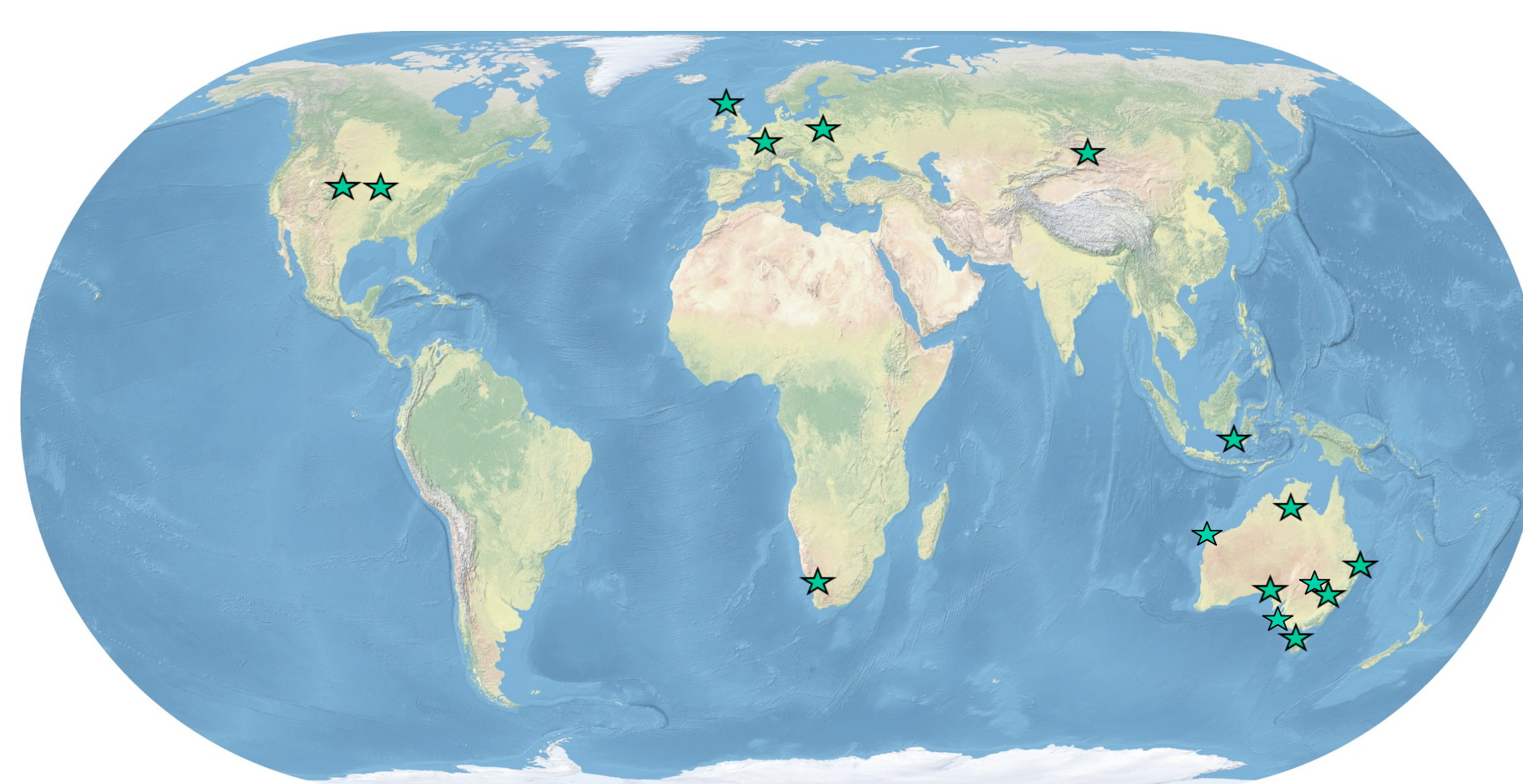
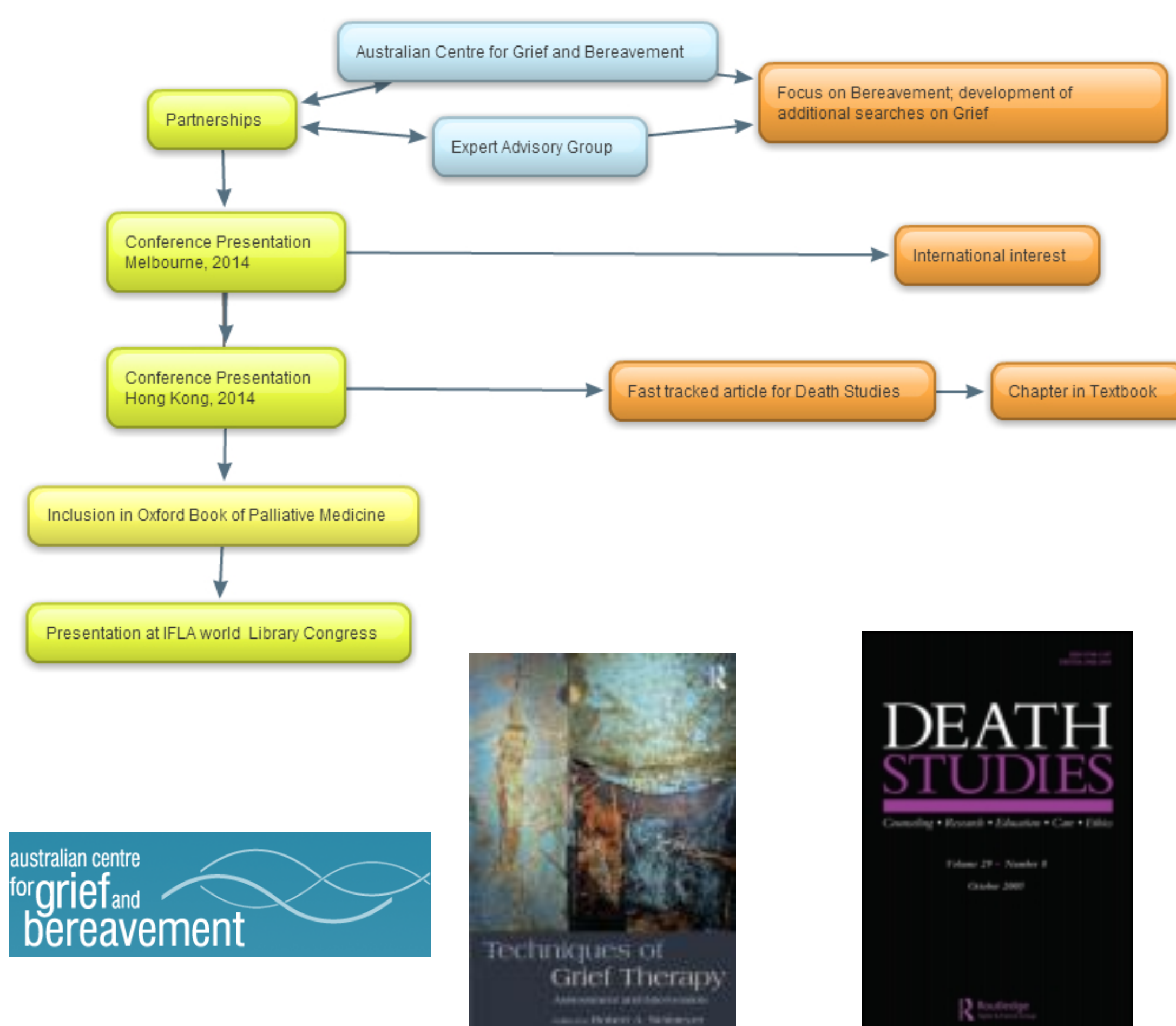


Figure 1: Countries and states most actively using the bereavement search resources

The CareSearch Bereavement PubMed Searches have received 1700+ page visits (Nov 2013 – July 2015).

Countries include: United States, Russia, Germany, Indonesia, Canada and France.

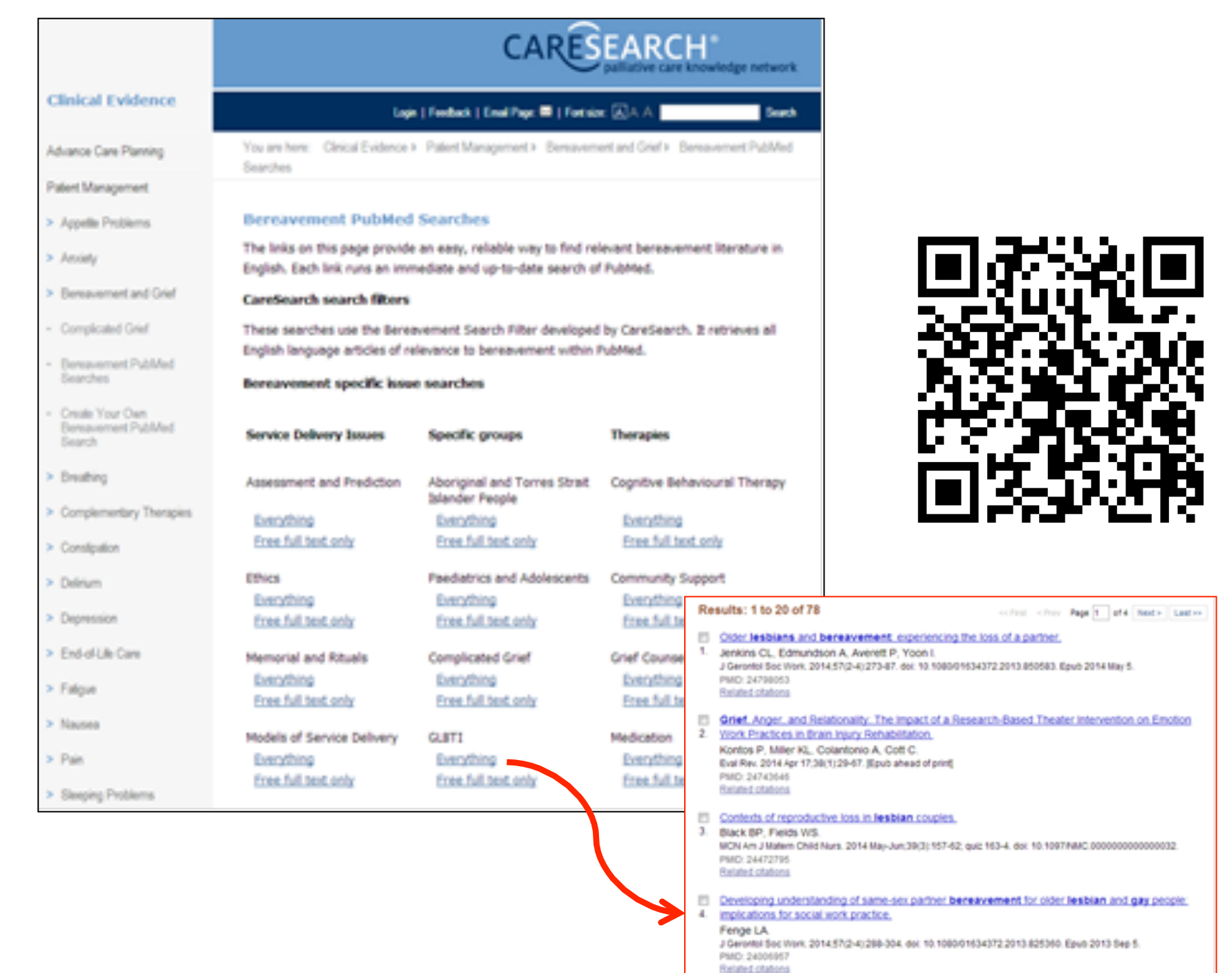
After Australia, United States ranks highest with 13.75% of visits.

Where Next?

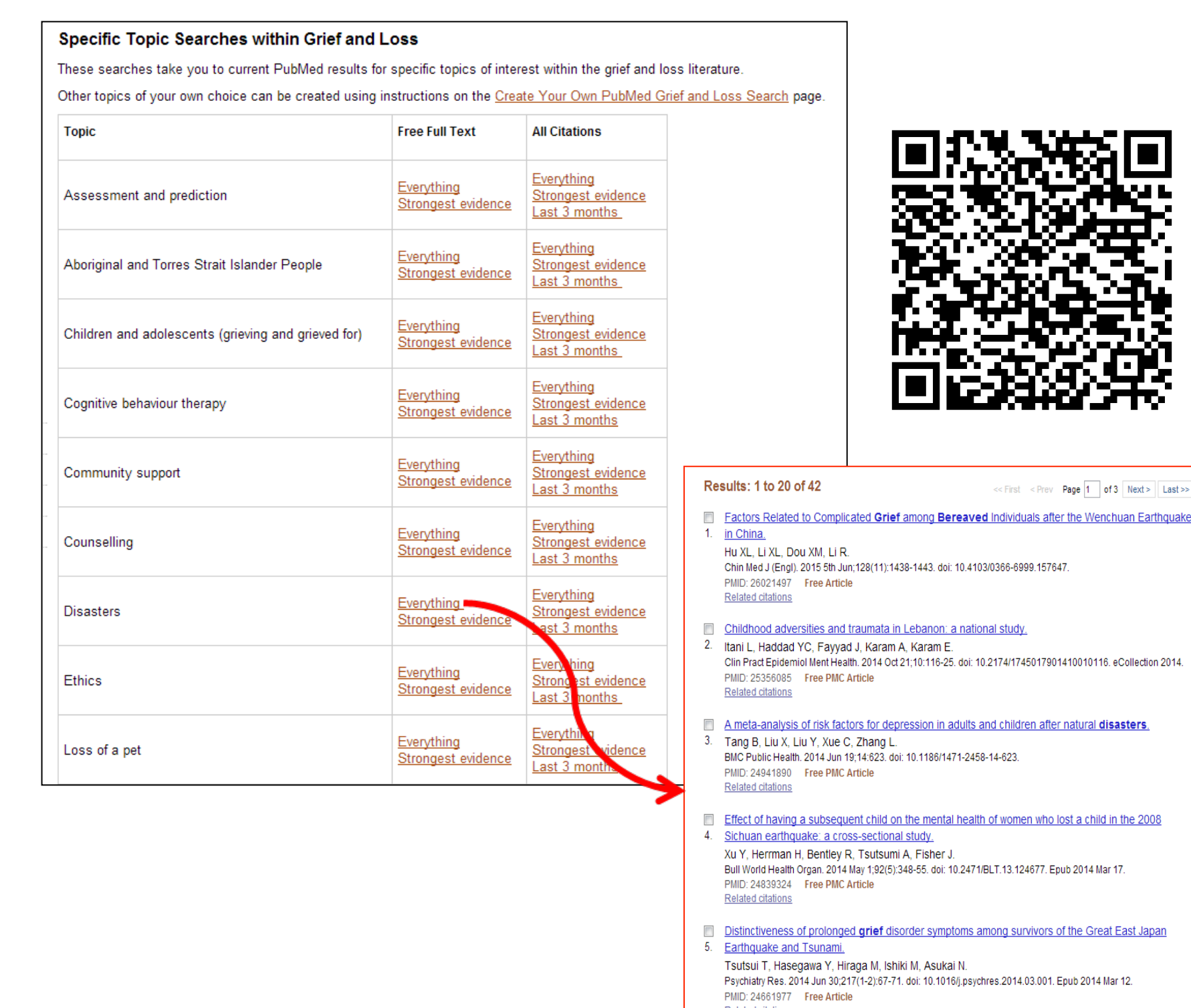
- How else can we promote this resource to raise awareness?
- Continue tweeting
- Add "How to" video to Youtube
- Promote search alerts using the BSF searches
- Target grief and bereavement organisations internationally
- Target librarians and other knowledge managers
- Contact educational providers

How You Can Use it

Bereavement PubMed Searches on CareSearch



Grief and Loss Searches on Flinders Filters



Concluding Comments

Search filters can facilitate access to relevant literature and evidence globally and thereby reduce the searching burden for the diverse health professionals working around the world in the field of bereavement care. There has been international interest in the Bereavement Search Filter, developed to support care of the bereaved and clinical decision-making.

For further information:

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References

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2. Tieman JJ, Hayman S, Hall C. Find Me the Evidence: Connecting the Practitioner With the Evidence on Bereavement Care. Death Stud. 2015 39(5):255-262. DOI:10.1080/07481187.2014.992498.

Funding: This work is part of the CareSearch project funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Acknowledgements: The project team gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution of the members of the Expert Advisory Group.