Leiblein, T, Tucker, MP, Ashall, MC, lee, SB, Gollnisch, C and Hofer, S

Legionella and risk management in hospitals - A bibliographic research methodology for people responsible for built environments and facility management

http://researchonline.ljmu.ac.uk/3975/

LJMU has developed LJMU Research Online for users to access the research output of the University more effectively. Copyright © and Moral Rights for the papers on this site are retained by the individual authors and/or other copyright owners. Users may download and/or print one copy of any article(s) in LJMU Research Online to facilitate their private study or for non-commercial research. You may not engage in further distribution of the material or use it for any profit-making activities or any commercial gain.

The version presented here may differ from the published version or from the version of the record. Please see the repository URL above for details on accessing the published version and note that access may require a subscription.

For more information please contact researchonline@ljmu.ac.uk
Title: Legionella and risk management in hospitals - A bibliographic research methodology for people responsible for built environments and facility management

Article Type: Original Article

Keywords: Facility Management; Hospital; Legionella; water; risk management

Corresponding Author: Mr. Thomas Leiblein,
Corresponding Author's Institution: Liverpool John Moores University

First Author: Thomas Leiblein

Order of Authors: Thomas Leiblein; Matthew Tucker, Dr; Mal Ashall; Susanne Lee, Dr; Carsten Gollnisch, Dr Eng; Susanne Hofer, Prof Dr

Abstract: An ongoing research project investigates the roles and duties of persons responsible for the built environment with respect to risk management of water systems and Legionella prevention from a facility management's perspective. Our literature review provides an approach of selecting and analysing abstracts of initially 177 journal articles, subjected to certain topic-specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. Different decision strategies of either logic 'yes/no', Boolean operators 'OR' or 'AND' and decisions for single counts or cumulative counts of the identified three principal keywords 'Legionella', 'hospital' and 'water', were compiled. A final list of ten principal reference articles from 29 journals was compiled. It suggests that the interconnected perspective of water systems, Legionella and hospitals seems to be underrepresented concerning interdisciplinary activities in the field of the built environment and facility management. The term 'stakeholder', which would refer to decision-makers, was not found more than once. Our result is a nice summary of established sources of information on environmental Legionella research. The results can be helpful for those new to the topic.
Society

Healthcare

Increasing number of incidences of Legionella infections

§§ legislation, standards, norms, recommendations, state of the art

Organisations

Hospitals

public / private

Organisation structure

Processes

Cases

External view

Legal compliance

Internal view

Stakeholders' related activities (processes)

Common patterns currently at the organisational level
Regarding the level of implementation of WSP / RM / Legionella prevention

Water systems

Risk Management

Building owners
Duty holders
Stakeholders

Built Environment /
Integrated research

Evaluating reference system

for uncovering «blind spots» in their businesses to give orientation and to guide people responsible for the built environment to take action on Legionella prevention and to fulfill demands of legislation on water systems.

Persons responsible, FM / FS professionals, HC workers, patients, visitors

Proactive Maintenance Approach

Side-analysis:
Unfocused overlapping points of persons responsible for the built environment

© Thomas Leiblein, 15.04.2016, E-Mail: T.W.Leiblein@2014.ljmu.ac.uk
List of suitable literature

Top 20 most relevant articles

Top 10 principal reference articles

Analysis of Abstracts

- Analysis criteria: Boolean ‘AND’ of all initial 13 keyword clusters

Selection criteria: Boolean ‘AND’ of the 3 defined principal keywords

Rank list of counted keywords over all publications selected ➔ defines principal keywords 'legionella', 'hospital' and 'water'

Inclusion & exclusion criteria

Search for publications

Definition of 13 keyword clusters

Entity of specific journals according to main topics as outlined in the research design

116 publications for analysis

29 different journals

177 publications

61 excluded

116 publications for analysis

20 rank lists of 20 papers

a) Single counts

b) Cumulative counts

Result

10 principal reference articles

Rank list of 116 papers

Abstracts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstracts - number of keywords counts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legionella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LD (Legionnaires’ Disease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Health care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Water system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Water distribution system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterborne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) nosocomial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) HAI hospital/healthcare/healthcare acquired infection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Risk assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Risk management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Title

Legionella and risk management in hospitals – A bibliographic research methodology for people responsible for built environments and facility management

Authors

Thomas W. Leiblein1,*, Matthew Tucker1, Mal Ashall1, Susanne Lee3, Carsten Gollnisch4 and Susanne Hofer2

1 Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Department of the Built Environment, Byrom Street, Liverpool L3 3AF, United Kingdom
2 Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Department Life Sciences and Facility Management, Institute of Facility Management, Grüental, 8820 Wädenswil, Switzerland
3 Legionella Ltd., 5 Ribblesdale Place, Preston PR1 8BZ, United Kingdom
4 Hygieneinspektionsstelle für Trinkwassersysteme, Hauptring 35, 04519 Rackwitz, Germany

* Corresponding author E-mail address: T.W.Leiblein@2014.ljmu.ac.uk

Keywords

Facility Management, hospital, Legionella, water, risk management

Abstract

An ongoing research project investigates the roles and duties of persons responsible for the built environment with respect to risk management of water systems and Legionella prevention from a facility management's perspective. Our literature review provides an approach of selecting and analysing abstracts of initially 177 journal articles, subjected to certain topic-specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. Different decision strategies of either logic 'yes/no', Boolean operators ‘OR’ or ‘AND’ and decisions for single counts or cumulative counts of the identified three principal keywords ‘Legionella’, ‘hospital’ and ‘water’, were compiled. A final list of ten principal reference articles from 29 journals was compiled. It suggests that the interconnected perspective of water systems, Legionella and hospitals seems to be underrepresented concerning interdisciplinary activities in the field of the built environment and facility management. The term 'stakeholder', which would refer to decision-makers, was not found more than once. Our result is a nice summary of established sources of information on environmental Legionella research. The results can be helpful for those new to the topic.

1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to present a literature review strategy and the results of a combined search and analysis procedure applied to an ongoing research project: Legionella and water systems in healthcare (HC) facilities – a framework for the built environment and implications for facility management (FM). The aim of the research project is to systematically uncover the present situation of Legionella prevention of water systems in selected HC organisations in different countries. It contributes to developing out a ‘reference system’ guiding people responsible in HC organisations to identify, understand and properly take
action for prevention. Merely complying with existing legislation and guidance not necessarily means that a system is safe or operates reliably.

An important novel aspect of the research project is taking a FM perspective considering FM and facility services (FS) related aspects of likewise the business organisation, processes and legal aspects.

To better understand different roles and duties on the prevention of *Legionella* in water systems within an HC organisation at present, a comprehensive literature review was seen mandatory. For that publications were searched and analysed with respect to an already elaborate research design. Epidemiological and environmental aspects were also taken into account.

The methodological approach of defining a search and analysis strategy to develop a concise literature review not only supports the ongoing research project mentioned above, but will also provide orientation for FM specialists who may be interested in relevant aspects of *Legionella* risk management. It is interesting especially for those, who are new to the topic or who seek for deeper knowledge or understanding of interdisciplinary efforts.

Four fundamental dimensions were defined to be considered simultaneously, as shown in the research project design (Figure 1). These four dimensions provide a framework for the study, represent the idea behind the research project, and provide selection criteria for journals and journal articles. The four dimensions have been characterized in a previous publication, which emphasized the context of the research project (Leiblein et al., 2015). They are summarised below:

**Legionella**
- colonization of water systems / waterlines in buildings and associated systems
- existing standards, national legislation and guidance
- surveillance schemes
- amplification of *Legionella* may be favoured by technical factors like temperature or stagnation (Hoebe and Kool, 2000; Völker et al., 2016)

**Hospital**
- complex types of buildings
- organizational structures, stakeholders, interdisciplinary work
- demands regarding hygienic quality of water and infection prevention
- risks arising from built environments, e.g. water systems

**Risk Management**
- provision of prevention strategies; preparedness for legal conformity
- revised (international) standards
- mandatory hazard analysis
- technical, structural and organisational levels to meet strategic and operative goals

**FM / built environment**
- covers roles of normative, strategic and operational levels (EN, 2006)
- FM adds value to an organisation whilst fulfilling non-core business tasks of clients (EN, 2006; Gerber and Läuppi, 2015)
- involved in the management of systems, maintenance and service processes
In the hospital environment, several stakeholders work in a complex and interdisciplinary HC setting. Duties and responsibilities towards third parties with respect to Legionella detection and prevention need to be fulfilled. Among the stakeholders there might be facility managers and FS staff, whose responsibilities include risk management approaches to the maintenance, monitoring, assessment and prevention of contamination of water systems by Legionella (Spagnolo, 2013). Some hospitals employ external FM / FS, others operate in-house. To manage tasks properly their roles and duties need to be evident.

Ongoing research will contribute to the common understanding of certain topics for all stakeholders involved in the process.

Figure 1: Research project design and contextual framework

2. Methods

2.1. Search strategy

Figure 2 is an illustration of the incremental search, selection and analysis strategy used to locate publications relevant for a research project. There are three major steps to analysing an abstract once publications have been located in journals and journal databases. Initially the top most relevant 20 abstracts are identified from a set of more than 100 established peer reviewed publications. A final step identifies the top 10 principal reference articles.

Figure 2: Illustration of incremental search, selection and analysis of publications relevant for a research project

2.2. Literature search

Initially, literature was searched and articles were collected during November 2015 to February 2016. The data was collected using the Scopus (www.scopus.com), Europe PMC (http://europepmc.org/), Elsevier (https://www.elsevier.com/) and Emerald (www.emeraldinsight.com/) citation databases of peer-reviewed literature using a number of search terms. A total of 13 keyword clusters were defined (see below) and a search was performed using the Boolean operator ‘OR’:

1) Legionella
2) LD (Legionnaires' Disease)
3) healthcare, health care
4) hospital
5) environment
6) facilities, facility
7) water, water system, water distribution system
8) waterborne
9) nosocomial, HAI, hospital / healthcare / health care acquired infection
10) prevention
11) surveillance
12) risk, risk assessment, risk management
13) stakeholder
Where practical, variations or abbreviations of terms were checked (i.e. 2, 3, 6 and 9) or grouped to a meaningful cluster (i.e. 7, 12). No restrictions were made in terms of language, country or date of publication. A total amount of 177 publication titles and corresponding abstracts resulted. The titles and abstracts were obtained for those publications that seemed to be relevant to the scope of the research as outlined (Figure 1).

2.3. Selection of journals

From the set of 177 articles obtained during literature search, appropriate journals were chosen on the basis of the four main research dimensions (Legionella, hospital, risk management, FM / built environment). The impact rating of a journal was not considered a selection criterion. The different fields of interest were found to be covered by 29 different journals, which consider (built) environmental, constructional, FM and managerial issues as well as epidemiological, microbiological, technical, water system, and non-medical issues. In an alphabetic order, these journals are:

- American Journal of Infection Control (Am. J. Infect. Control)
- Applied and Environmental Microbiology (Appl. Environ. Microbiol.)
- Clinical Infectious Diseases (Clin. Infect. Dis.)
- Clinical Microbiology and Infection (Clin. Microbiol. Infect.)
- Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases (Curr. Opin. Infect. Dis.)
- Emerging Infectious Diseases (Emerg. Infect. Dis.)
- Engineering, Construction and Architectural Management (Engineering, Construction and Architectural Management)
- Environmental Science and Technology (Environ. Sci. Technol.)
- Environmental Technology (Environ. Technol.)
- Epidemiology and Infection (Epidemiol. Infect.)
- Eurosurveillance (Euro Surveill.)
- Facilities (Facilities)
- Health Facilities Management (Health Facilities Management)
- Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology (Infect. Control Hosp. Epidemiol.)
- International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health (Int. J. Hyg. Environ. Health)
- Journal of Facilities Management (Journal of Facilities Management)
- Journal of Hospital Infection (J. Hosp. Infect.)
- Journal of Infection (J. Infect.)
- Journal of Infectious Diseases (J. Infect Dis.)
- Lancet Infectious Diseases (Lancet Infect. Dis.)
- Pathogens (Pathogens)
- Public Health (Public Health)
- Reviews in Medical Microbiology (Rev. Med. Microbiol.)
- Science of the Total Environment (Sci. Total Environ.)
- The Lancet (The Lancet)
- Water Environment Research (Water Environ. Res.)
- Water Research (Water Res.)

2.4. Selection criteria for publications to be considered for analysis

The search strategy focused on both journal articles and reviews. The publications selected were required to have a title, an abstract and a text body in the main publication. For each
publication selected a specific search was performed. 116 publications met the criteria and were included for analysis; 61 publications failed to meet all criteria.

The following publication types were excluded from the analysis:

letters to the editor, secondary articles, abstracts of presentations or poster abstracts, abstracts only, announcements for codes and standards, questions to the author, ‘newdesk’ communications, commentaries, reports.

The following types of publication were included in the analysis:

journal articles, major articles, short articles, supplement articles, reviews, critical reviews, book reviews, short communications, original research, research papers, concise communications, research notes, brief reports.

2.5. Selection process for analysis of abstracts

The selection process was conducted in three consecutive steps.

Step 1

First, the title and abstract of all 116 publications, which met the inclusion criteria for analysis, were assessed and scanned for the occurrence of any of the keywords from the 13 keyword clusters. Each keyword was counted both in the title and in the abstract. Two rank lists were compiled, according to the occurrence of the keywords. One list considered the total counts of the keywords in the abstract, the other those in the title.

Figure 3 summarises the total counts of the keywords occurring in the abstracts of all 116 selected publications.

Step 2

In the second selection step, three principal keywords - ‘Legionella’, ‘hospital’ and ‘water’ - were identified as a result of the total counts of keywords in the abstract. Those three words were used most frequently in the abstracts. A search applying the Boolean operator ‘AND’ was performed in all 116 publications. Those 20 abstracts with the most hits were ranked using ‘publication date’ as the secondary criterion. Where a rank position was shared by two or more publications, recent publications had a higher priority than older ones in direct comparison. On the one hand this procedure avoided shared ranks, on the other hand the most recent publications seem to reflect the tendencies of Legionella prevention in a more up-to-date context.

Two rank lists were compiled based on the analysis of the abstracts. One rank list refers to single counts, the other to cumulative counts of the three key words.

Criterion used to sort papers in the rank list for single counts was the presence of the three principal keywords, tested by logic y/n. Each of the keywords present in the abstract was counted once. The Boolean operator ‘AND’ was then applied to rank the list of the 20 publications.
Criterion used to sort papers considering cumulative counts was the occurrence of all three principal keywords - 'Legionella', 'hospital' and 'water' - in the abstract. The total count of the principal keywords was then compiled.

**Step 3**

In a third step, the top 10 principal reference articles were identified considering the publications in both rankings from step 2. For this purpose, the abstracts of the corresponding publications were ranked using ‘publication date’ as the secondary criterion. Duplicates were omitted so that each publication only appeared once. Cumulative counts of occurring keywords were admitted. The sum of the words from all 13 keyword cluster counts was calculated. Where a rank position was shared, recent publications were preferred to older ones, for the same reasons as mentioned in step 2.

**Figure 3:** Occurrences of keywords in abstracts of 177 journal publications of 29 journals. 13 keyword clusters were distinguished. Keywords ‘healthcare’ (n=29), ‘health care’ (n=30), ‘facilities’ (n=46), ‘facility’ (n=30), ‘water’ (n=467), ‘water system’ (n=92), ‘water distribution system’ (n=26), ‘nosocomial’ (n=43), ‘HAI or hospital acquired infection, or healthcare acquired infection or health care acquired infection’ (n=54), ‘risk’ (n=144), ‘risk assessment’ (n=16) and ‘risk management’ (n=5) were combined in clusters as shown.

### 3. Results

Rank lists were compiled based on the analysis of the abstracts. We found that the 20 papers with the greatest number of total counts of keywords in abstracts met at least two of the three principal keywords. Papers selected on the basis of the presence of keywords in the title are no longer considered, but only papers selected on the basis of the presence of keywords in abstracts.

#### 3.1. Rank list 1

This is a rank list of the top 20 most relevant articles by presence of the three principal keywords (Table 1).

#### 3.2. Rank list 2

This is a rank list of the top 20 most relevant articles by the total counts of the principal keywords (Table 2).

Each of the two rank lists (rank list 1 and rank list 2) is followed by a corresponding figure (Figures 4 and 5), which indicate the frequency of sources of the 20 journal publications. It gives a rough estimate in which journals the publications were mainly found in.

#### 3.4. Rank list 3

This is a rank list of the top 10 principal reference articles. All publications contained in the rank lists 1 and 2 (Tables 1 and 2) were selected and abstracts were analysed according to the occurrence of all the keywords from the initial 13 keyword clusters.

The rank list from step 3 is followed by a figure (Figure 6) which indicates the frequency of sources of the 10 journal publications, providing a rough estimate of which journals the publications were mainly found in.
Table 1: Rank list of top 20 most relevant articles. All publications were selected according to the occurrence of the three principal keywords 'Legionella', 'hospital' and 'water' in the abstract. The presence of the principal keyword(s) was tested by logic y/n. Each publication contained the 3 principal keywords. The second criterion for ordering was the publication date, with more recent publications placed above older ones. Column 2 indicates the sum of counts of these three principal keywords in the abstract. Columns 3 and 4 show the type of publication and the reference. (See the list of references at the end of this paper.)

Figure 4: Frequency of sources from the 20 journal publications which were compiled in the rank list shown in Table 1

Table 2: Rank list of top 20 most relevant articles. All publications were selected according to the occurrence of the three principal keywords 'Legionella', 'hospital', 'water' in the abstract. The total count of the principal keyword(s) was considered. The second criterion for ordering was the publication date, with more recent publications placed above older ones. Column 2 indicates the sum of the counts of the three principal keywords in the abstract. Columns 3 and 4 show the type of publication and the reference. (See the list of references at the end of this paper.)

Figure 5: Frequency of sources from the 20 journal publications which were compiled in the rank list shown in Table 2

Table 3: Rank list of top 10 principal reference articles. All publications contained in the rank lists 1 and 2 (Tables 1 and 2) were selected and abstracts were analysed according to the occurrence of the keywords in the initial 13 keyword clusters. The second criterion for ordering was the publication date, with more recent publications first. Column 2 indicates the sum of the counts of all keywords present in the abstract. Column 3 indicates the source (journal); columns 4 and 5 show the type of publication and the reference. (See the list of references at the end of this paper.)

Figure 6: Frequency of sources from the 10 journal publications which were compiled in the rank list shown in Table 3

4. Discussion

Rank lists were compiled to identify the relevant literature for the given research project. The lists present appropriate literature and designate the 20 most relevant articles and the 10 principal research articles based on certain search and analysis criteria. The criteria were chosen to identify relevant literature that considers issues relating to four dimensions, namely Legionella, hospital, risk management, FM / built environment.

The literature search and analysis included 29 different journals which cover topics relevant to the given research project. From the perspective of the research, to which this short literature review and analysis will contribute, the keywords are essential for a comprehensive, interdisciplinary literature search, with two exceptions: ‘waterborne’ and ‘stakeholder’. The last term in particular was underrepresented in the search. It is interesting the term 'stakeholder', which would refer to decision-makers responsible for certain areas, was not found more than once. However, the design and contextual framework of the ongoing research project show, managerial and organisational issues concerning Legionella and water systems in hospitals must not be neglected.

With respect to the methodology of this bibliographic research, the interconnected perspective of water systems, Legionella and hospitals seems to be underrepresented in the literature in the field of the built environment and FM. This may be evidenced by the rank lists of tables 1 to 3, in which no journal of either FM or built environment appeared. Admittedly, the selection of 29 different journals was made under the authors’ criteria of including
journals of different research areas such as represented by the journals in the methods section ‘2.3. Selection of journals’. The selection was thought to match best the four dimensions of research set out by the framework for the research project as outlined in the introduction.

Underlying the methodical approach presented here, selection criteria for publications to be considered for analysis were expected to having a title, an abstract and a main text body. Although some rather interesting publications on Legionella management have been letters to the editor or reports, they were excluded, because they did not meet the criteria. To qualify the content and the relevance of a publication searched for a certain field of interest, the text category or the structure of the text may be of minor importance.

Additional sources than those 29 journals presented here can be ascribed to bear representative literature for FM or the built environment, too. Such are for example the ‘Journal of Construction Engineering and Management’, ‘Facilities Management Journal’, ‘Property Management’, ‘Building Operating Management’, ‘Facility Maintenance Decisions’ or ‘Health Facilities Management Magazine’. In this study they were not considered. It might be correct that the identified 13 keyword clusters would have given more hits than those in the 29 journals selected by the authors. It may also be argued that only a limited number of FM or built environment journals were included. But focusing on only FM or issues of the built environment would be a new perspective for deeper analysis. In addition, the selections made were found to pay tribute to the interdisciplinary demands of Legionella prevention in an adequate intensity.

But in spite of the potential of FM and built environment-related issues towards topics of Legionella prevention at present, the majority of publications concerning risk management of water systems in hospitals focus fields of core-disciplines in HC (i.e. articles with medical content). Nevertheless, non-core-disciplines (e.g. FM or FS) play also important roles in serving hospitals and their environments. Especially when thinking about maintenance, the operating of systems, or regarding in-depth knowledge of technical systems. Maybe keywords like ‘disinfection’, ‘pipes’, ‘stagnation’ and ‘maintenance’ may have resulted in more FM-specific articles in the rank lists.

5. Conclusion

This article is a good example of what can happen, when collaboratively determining keywords that origin from different disciplines while they are deemed to meet a specific research context. Some of the terms originated more from the technical side; others came from the field of HC or from management disciplines. Maybe a common understanding about the wording or the importance of some words preferred to others can be a motivator to tackle interdisciplinary topics - such as risk management of Legionella in hospitals - with an interdisciplinary perspective.

Nevertheless our proposed literature review strategy can be useful in practice to systematically gather comprehensive information by focusing on certain keywords in titles and abstracts. Yet it must be admitted, that omitting specific sources of information (journals, text types) or the omission of certain keywords may lead to unsatisfactory search results. Selection must be considered carefully, context-specifically and to a given main-focus.
Risk management may be an important field in FM and FS. Both serve the built environment. Thus, research in the field of risk management and prevention of *Legionella* in water systems of hospitals needs an integrated approach. Research in this specific area of risk management needs, at least in certain parts, more weight to the perspectives of facility managers and other persons serving responsibly for the built environment.

**Acknowledgements**

The authors wish to thank Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Department Life Sciences and Facility Management, Institute of Facility Management and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Department of the Built Environment for supporting junior scientists in their research fields of hygiene and risk management in built environments.

**References**


