TRIAGE website

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The TRIAGE (Trent Institute for Health Services Research's gateway) website at www.shef.ac.uk/uni/academic/R-Z/scharr/triage/ provides access to hundreds of websites containing teaching tools, tutorials, articles and other educational materials relating to health research.

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The TRIAGE website is produced by the Trent Institute for Health Services Research (Figures 1 and 2). The institute was formed in December 1994 as a collaborative venture between the Universities of Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield, the main objective being to increase the capacity and capability in the Trent area to plan and execute health services research. The website helps facilitate and disseminate advice and support.

The TRIAGE website has been online since February 2000. It provides numerous links to a diverse selection of material related to health research. The site concentrates on material that introduces particular topics and supports study in health research areas. It does not, however, focus specifically on medical topics but rather deals with broad subject areas:

- Critical appraisal
- Diagnostic instruments

- Evidence-based medicine
- Epidemiology
- Ethics
- Health economics
- Literature searching
- Presentation and writing
- Qualitative research
- Reference management
- Research
- Software
- Statistics
- Systematic reviews
- Trials

The overall layout and presentation of the website is clear and easy to navigate. Each of the main subject areas have clear subgroups (Figure 3). The Trent Institute has biased the identification of sites to those of educational value in health research which match courses run by the Institute. That said, the range is

Figure 1. The TRIAGE homepage.

Figure 2. TRIAGE main index page.

Figure 3. Triage literature-searching page.

broad enough to be of interest to anyone involved in health service research.

The site is regularly maintained and more grading and reviewing of the sites is planned. As always when there are a wide range of links — here there are over 400 — from time to time one or more are broken. Nevertheless, TRIAGE does provide a wide range of material introducing and supporting health service research, its main objective, and I warmly recommend people to pay it a visit.