

# DocToBib: an expanding project of video research training tutorials for interns, health students and practitioners, three years later

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### Abstract

*DocToBib is a project carried out by librarians all over France to create video tutorials on research training in the medical field. This is an update on how the project evolved since 2015, on the topic of video format, collaboration between librarians, communication and practical uses of the tutorials.*

**Key words:** librarians; residents; physicians; PubMed; webcasts as topic.

### A brief summary of the project

DocToBib was created by Ludovic Héry, a resident of medicine whose story was related in an earlier article published in the JEAHIL (1). He noticed how health students, interns and health professionals were too often unable to efficiently use PubMed and other essential research tools in their field. He aimed to fill the need for research training for the time-deprived students and practitioners by providing efficient and sometimes entertaining tutorials. Over the course of a few years, DocToBib evolved to be carried out by health librarians all over France to dispense knowledge on research training in the health sector.

In a nutshell, DocToBib is a series of videos that presents the tools of health research, from documentation monitoring and article research to bibliography and more. It uses a light tone to present information in a concise manner. Each video presents (usually in around three minutes) a functionality of different research tools, databases and gives methodology guidance to its viewers. It was conceptualized with the busy people in mind, but especially towards those that may not have a librarian at hand. It is easily accessible through DocToBib's YouTube channel (2). DocToBib aims to disperse that knowledge to anyone that might need it. The videos are shared on a mainstream streaming platform in an effort to be more visible, but as an experiment, they are soon to be accessible through Framasoft's Peer-

tube (3), a free alternative to Google's product. Although it is less recognizable, it could be more compatible with the open nature of the project; every video is marked under the Creative Commons license (4) that authorizes teachers and student to use the tutorials as they will.

Since 2015, at the time of the first article, the project became more collaborative, adding more librarians to its team. As of today, librarians from thirteen structures (academic libraries, documentation centers etc.) are participating in the production of content, while other documentation professionals are closely following the development of DocToBib. In the month of February in 2015, the participants in the project were all librarians from the following institutions: Université Clermont Auvergne, BIU Santé, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Université Paris Diderot, Université de Tours, Aix Marseille Université, Université Lille 2, Université Rennes 1, Université Paris 13 and Université Montpellier. As of 2018, Sorbonne Université, Université de Bordeaux, Université Caen Normandie joined the project, as well as a colleague from Ascodocpsy, a psychiatry and mental health research network. DocToBib is an informal organization: anybody can help in their capacity and give the amount of time they want to work on the tutorials or just follow the project from afar. It can be a weakness because there are no obligations towards the participants, but also a strength, giving a lot of flexibility to the process,

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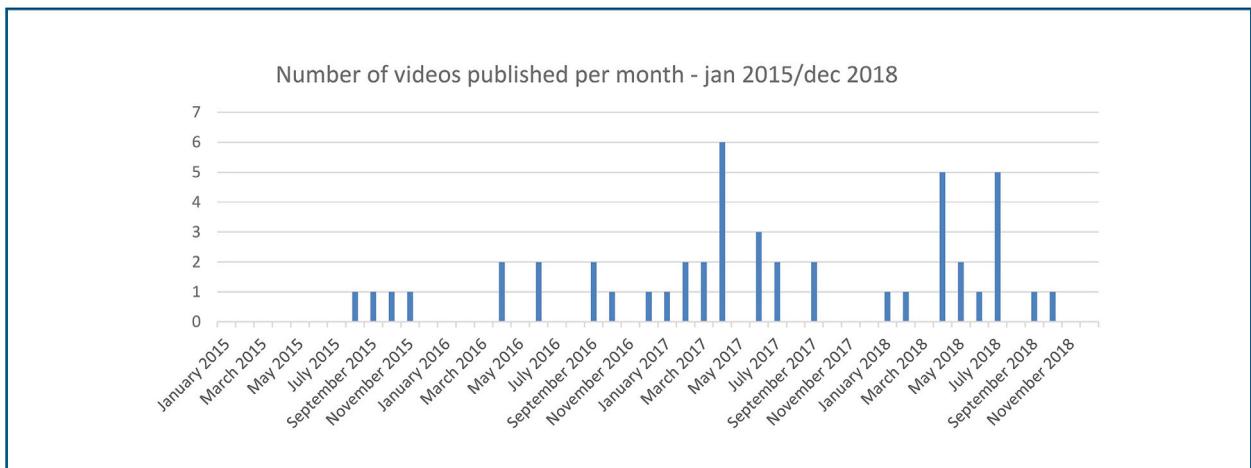
making the filming of the videos quite fluid and leaving some space to experiment.

### The choice of concision

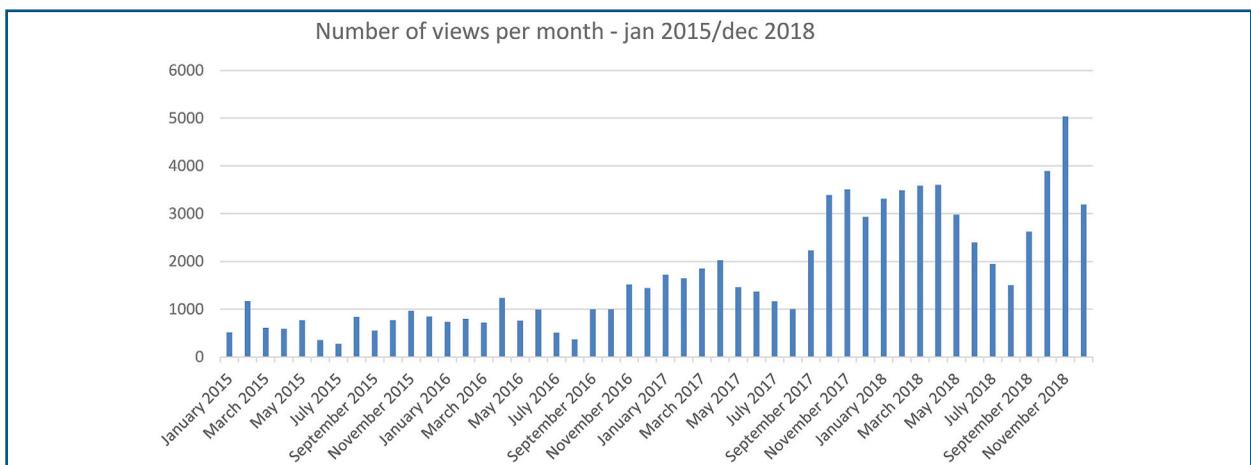
In late 2014, the videos had been watched more than 5000 times. In November 2018, they have been watched more than 80000 times, and the channel reached a thousand followers. This seems to show that there is a need for health documentation guidance that the channel seems to reach. 66 videos have been published since January of 2015 as of November 2018, which means the videos have been produced quite regularly since then. The rate at which the tutorials have been made available is linked to the way the video production process evolved since the beginning of the project.

At the beginning of DoctoBib, the tutorials were acted by librarians on camera, with a focus on production value. The « Doctor H. » videos, presented in the earlier article in the *JEAHIL* (1), which were a parody of the television show *House M.D.*, are yet to be continued by another team. In 2018, there are no longer actors on camera: the way to direct videos has been simplified for easier execution by the widening circle of members.

The tutorials will sometimes still use a conversational style, mostly representing a student, a doctor or an intern looking for information being helped by a librarian in their research, although it can also just be a librarian explaining the subject. The visuals are made using video capture on a computer screen (mainly with the program *Camtasia*) to guide the



**Fig. 1.** Publication rate of the videos on the DoctoBib Youtube Channel – January 2015/December 2018. Source: YouTube analytics)



**Fig. 2.** Number of views per month on the DoctoBib Youtube Channel – January 2015/December 2018. Source: YouTube analytics)

viewer through their search, with a visual intro and outro, and a musical cue. Although the format of the videos evolved over time for practical reasons, the tone of the tutorials can be easy-going, although it is less humorous than it used to be. The effort of the librarians taking part in the project is focused on delivering practical information in a short amount of time (a resource often lacking in the health field) while remaining entertaining for the viewer. In fact, another thing that DocToBib took its focus away from is the aspect of collaboration between a doctor and a librarian that was thought to be the basis of any video. Now, librarians are mostly working by themselves. Once more, it became that way because of practical reasons, to facilitate the production of the tutorials.

For concision purposes, every short video focuses on a precise functionality of each service, allowing viewers to quickly find what they are looking for. A subject is usually developed as a series of videos developing different aspects. The YouTube channel uses playlists to create learning programs on different topics. There is one course on PubMed, another one on Zotero, each video exploring a different side of those tools. PubMed was one of the earlier series (because of the unavoidable usefulness of the tool), and it is consistently updated for the new functionalities of the database. Starting with those basics in the health documentation field, DocToBib explores more Francophone databases, offering more ways to find the information one might be looking for.

Meeting the audience's documentation needs  
The apparent need of guidance through PubMed by students and interns was the initial drive behind the project, and it remains one of its main draws for the public, but there are tutorials on other services such as the soon to be missed BDSP (5) ("Base de Données en Santé Publique", a French resource on public health that will close down in 2019). A new initiative from DocToBib is a series of videos on Evidence-Based Medicine. A first video has been published on the topic, specifically on the PICO model (6), and more videos are being produced on systematic reviews. This is a new direction for DocToBib, as it no longer focuses only on using specific databases but on more general research skills. There are also tutorials on how to make a better use of Zotero, and although it is not a health resource properly speaking it is widely used by students of medicine,

and they are some of the most popular videos on the channel. These videos in particular have been shared by non-medical publications, specifically a blog on European legislation. This seems to indicate that some of the tools presented are reaching beyond the medical field. This has been a moment of questioning for the participants in the project, and a time to reevaluate who they can be useful to. While DocToBib remains centered on health and medicine, the topics it discusses could be important for any person in need of search methodology.

Although DocToBib can be a resource for those that do not have a librarian at hand, it can be useful to librarians themselves to complement their teaching. The videos have proven to be a useful learning tool: librarians have given feedback to the service, documenting their use of the tutorials through the "flipped classroom" method (7). They asked the students to watch the videos before a class on research training, in the comfort of their own home (or library), so they could grasp the fundamentals before a class on PubMed or Zotero. When comes the time to meet the teaching librarian, they were able to discuss their own difficulties that were not addressed in the video directly with the teacher so they could offer their guidance and expertise.



**Fig. 3.** *DocToBib's logo*

Librarians on the field are working hard to promote the service. They try to be present during health conferences with posters and bookmarks, and to present the service to those that might be interested. There is an annual mailing towards interns and associations in October. DocToBib is also present on social media, notably in Facebook groups for health students or practitioners, which helps spread the word on the service. The public considered for the videos was mostly French-speaking, but as the years went

by, the data shows that people from all over the world could stumble upon the videos. After it was noticed by the committee, a few videos have been subtitled in English to try to meet the needs of that audience, as an experiment, on the services that are internationally available. Time will show if it can be useful beyond the French-speaking audiences.

Such topics are discussed when the committee for DoctoBib meets, which it does twice a year, and it represents a moment to rethink the project and share experience, reinforcing the connections between librarians all over France. For lack of a more appropriate service, the file sharing and discussion occurs on Google Drive. The production of the videos for the librarians acts as a way to learn new skills, both technical (recording and editing the tutorials) and teaching skills. The fact that those videos are being watched seems to show that video tutorials are an attractive medium nowadays, and DoctoBib meets different audiences in need of guidance for research training. The project is still evolving, as it welcomes new members regularly with new ideas to go forward.

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