Article Selection and Data Entry Pipeline

Version 1, September 2018

Inclusion Criteria

At present, studies are eligible to be included on the CogTale platform if they meet the following general criteria:

- They describe a non-drug, cognitively-oriented intervention, in which the primary content/focus of the intervention are cognitive activities. This is broadly defined and includes such interventions as cognitive or 'brain' training, and related approaches. Studies describing combined interventions (for example, cognitive training with brain stimulation, or physical exercise) are also eligible, if it is determined that the cognitive intervention component is at least as central as the other component.
- The target population in the study are older people. This generally means an average age above 65, but the exact age boundaries might vary depending on the goals of the study.
- The participants can be described as cognitively healthy or they can represent a known, suspected or prodromal clinical group (e.g., mild cognitive impairment, dementia, Parkinson's Disease, subjective cognitive decline etc).
- The intervention was tested in a group study with at least one evaluation of participants performed before the intervention was delivered, and one after the intervention was completed. There is no minimal sample, with the exception that single-case studies are not currently included in CogTale (although this may change at a later date). Studies may be conducted with or without control (comparison) group(s) and may or may not be randomised.
- Studies in which the data required for the calculation of effect sizes is not presented in the paper in the required format (i.e., means and standard deviations for each outcome, group, and time-point) are eligible for inclusion in CogTale; However, only methodological quality indices will be produced (not effect sizes), and data from the study will not be used in any meta-analytic procedures.

Search Method

Studies are added to the CogTale repository via a combination of manual and automatic search processes. CogTale uses a data extraction function to search existing scholarly databases for studies that meet the aforementioned criteria for inclusion in CogTale. Studies are also manually added to the data entry queue by the CogTale administration team and relevant data coders/users. Eligible studies are

added to the data extraction queue without particular priority. Studies can be self-assigned by existing coders, or they can be assigned to a coder by one of the administrators of the platform. Please get in touch if you would like your study to be added to the platform and indicate your willingness to become a trial coder.

Data Entry Pipeline

As data gets extracted from studies and coded into the CogTale platform, studies progress through a series of steps. Each individual study or publication is monitored by the CogTale administration team as it moves along the CogTale pipeline to ensure reliability of the data at each individual stage. These stages are as follows:

1. **QUEUED:** Once a study was identified and deemed eligible for inclusion in CogTale, it is added to the queue, which means it is waiting to be processed.
2. **IN PROGRESS:** A coder has been appointed (including self-appointed) to extract the data and at least a minimal amount of meta/citation data has been entered. The document will already appear in Search results, but it may or may not contain relevant indices at this stage.
3. **REQUIREMENTS MET:** these documents have all required data entry fields completed and ready for final review.
4. **REVIEWING:** these documents are being reviewed by administrators. CogTale administrators will review the data entry fields, check for errors, answer any queries, and may request changes or clarification of data entry choices.
5. **REVISIONS REQUIRED:** these documents require further editing before final publication. The study will be returned to Coders for final changes and clarification. After this is complete, the study is again submitted for review by CogTale administrators.
6. **VERIFIED:** CogTale administrators confirm the study is verified, and no further changes are expected to the entry.

Are you a researcher?

Are you a researcher with relevant publications in the field of cognitive-oriented treatments for older adults, and are interested in your work being included in the CogTale platform? You can create an account with CogTale and get in touch with us to let us know that you or a member of your research team would like to become a CogTale coder/collaborator. We will be in touch with further steps. We strongly encourage colleagues working in this exciting area of research to become CogTale collaborators.