

Understanding knowledge exchange: a practical tool

Dr Vicky Ward

Plan for the session

1. Presentation
2. Group exercise
3. Feedback & general discussion



What is KT?

- Direct adoption of research into policy and practice (an implementation problem)
- A process which incorporates knowledge from research and practice (a knowledge exchange problem)
- A mechanism for producing relevant/useful research outputs informed by the needs and knowledge of users (a knowledge production problem)



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Our study: aims

1. Produce a (useful) model of the knowledge exchange process
2. Understand the processes involved in knowledge exchange



Our study design

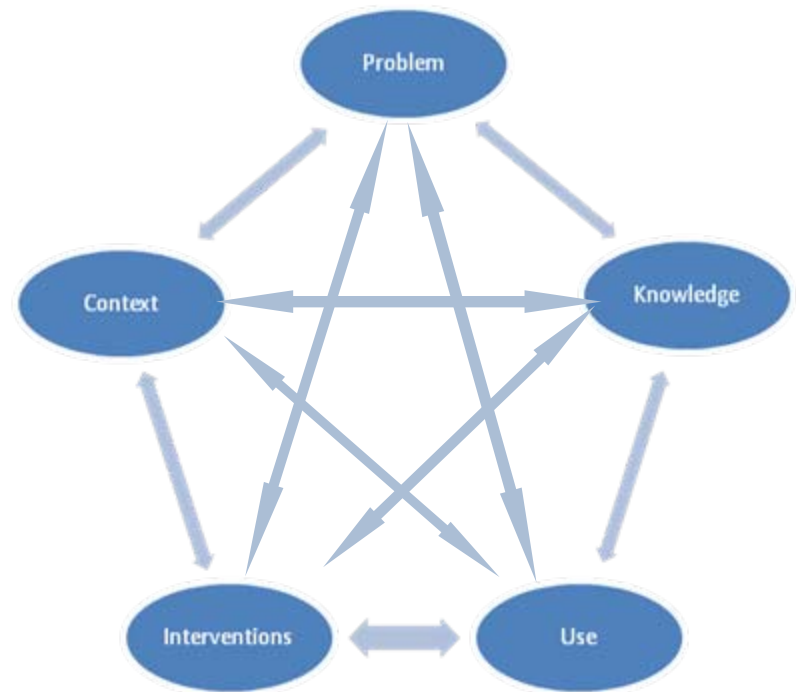
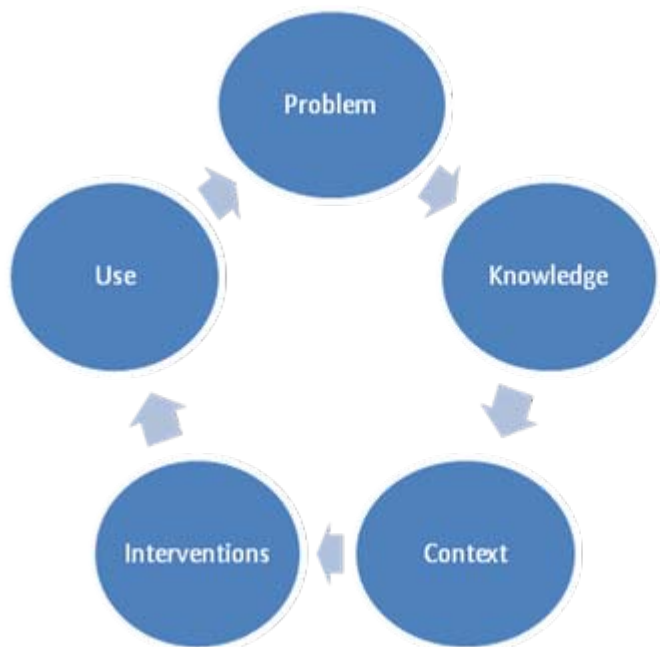
1. Review literature to develop initial assumptions about knowledge exchange and produce an initial framework
2. Conduct fieldwork to gather data about how the knowledge exchange process unfolds (in real time)
3. Compare fieldwork data with our assumptions and produce a revised framework



Part 1: assumptions about knowledge exchange

Component	Definition
Problem	The problem or issue to be addressed by the knowledge
Context	The circumstances surrounding the user and researcher
Knowledge	The generation and/or selection of the knowledge to be exchanged
Intervention	The specific activities designed to transfer knowledge into action
Use	The ways in which the knowledge is or might be used





Part 2: watching the knowledge exchange process

- Participant observation as a ‘knowledge broker’
- 3x mental health management/service delivery teams with challenging problems
 - i. how can we help to meet the physical health needs of people with serious mental illness?
 - ii. how can we help colleagues to choose and implement suitable psychological and vocational therapies?
 - iii. how can we systematically implement routine outcome measures across our service?



Part 2: watching the KT process

- Participation in finding, gathering, packaging and assessing research & other evidence as part of the team
- Observation as 'constructively clueless' outsider
- Collected observational field notes and interview data



Part 3: revising our assumptions

1. Produce knowledge exchange narratives
2. Analyse data against 5 components – confirm, refute, revise?
3. Quantitative and qualitative analysis to determine nature of knowledge exchange process



Revised KT Framework

