

Letter to the editor/Erratum

Letter to the editor

Dear Sir,

You have done a great service in publishing and posting the History of Epidemiology series of articles on the Web. I thank you for this truly great work.

In reading Doll's very enlightening article on the history of cohort studies (Soz Präventivmed 2001; 46: 75–86), I noticed a referencing problem of minor importance. Page 83 paragraph 1 includes two references to item 19. I believe the second reference should be the 1958 article by Hammond and Horn (Hammond, E.C., & Horn, D. (1958). Smoking and death rates – report on 44 months of follow-up of 187,783 men. JAMA, 166 (10), 1159–1172.). If this new reference was included as reference 21, then the reference by Dawber et al. and all those that follow would have to be pushed up by 1. Also, I could find no reference to Reference 33.

These are only minor annoyances, so perhaps it is best to „let sleeping dogs lie.“ I thought you might like to know, anyway.

Thank you for publishing and posting this wonderful series of articles.

Sincerely,

Bud Gerstman, Professor at San Jose State University,
Dept. of Health Science

Erratum

I am grateful to Professor Gerstman for pointing out two errors in the references cited in my article “Cohort studies: history of the method – I. prospective cohort studies”. First, on p. 83 para 1 line 7 I gave the same reference for Hammond and Horn's later 1958 report as I had to their first report. It should have been given a separate number referring to Hammond EC, Horn D. Smoking and death rates, Report on forty four months of follow-up of 187,783 men. JAMA 1958; 166: 1159–72 and 1294–1308. If this had been numbered 20, as it should have been, all subsequent references would have had to be increased by one. Secondly, reference 33 should not have been included at all. It corresponds to reference 20 in my second article “Cohort studies: history of the method – II. retrospective cohort studies” cited on p 156 para 2, line 4. In the second article the Journal for reference 20 is incorrectly described as “Satas Med”. It should have been “Stats Med”.

Sir Richard Doll,
University of Oxford

References

Doll R (2001). Cohort studies: history of the method – I. prospective cohort studies. Soz Präventivmed 46(2): 75–86

Doll R (2001). Cohort studies: history of the method – II. retrospective cohort studies. Soz Präventivmed 2001; 46(3): 152–60