Specialized Databases

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The goal of this module is to increase your knowledge of five specialized databases offered through TTUHSC Libraries.
Objectives

After viewing this presentation, you will be able to:

– identify which databases are most useful for your specialty or information needs.
– understand database features.
– identify the subjects covered by each database.
What are Specialized Databases?

A collection of focused information on one or more specific fields of study.

This information (or data) is arranged (or indexed) so that the user can locate and retrieve it quickly and easily.
Why use these databases?

• **Authoritative information**
  - Specialized databases often have strict guidelines on the types of articles and journal sources that are accepted. By searching a database, you can be certain that the articles you find are both accurate and reliable.

• **Tailored to specific subjects and fields of study**
  - The databases outlined in this module are geared towards specific subjects (i.e. medicine, nursing, etc.). When you use these for your research, you can be assured that the articles you find will be relevant towards your area of study.

• **Full-text access**
  - When you access these databases through the library website, convenient full-text links will be available to you within the search results. These links connect to the library’s online journals, making it easy to get to the article you want!
SPECIALIZED DATABASES

5 tools to help you succeed!
PubMed

- 28+ million references

- Coverage back to 1946

- Includes sources from:
  - MEDLINE (National Library of Medicine’s journal citation database)
  - PubMed Central (free archive of biomedical and life sciences articles)

- Subject coverage:
  - Biomedical sciences, life sciences, clinical medicine, nursing etc.
This database is ideal for (in order):

1. School of Medicine
2. School of Health Professions
3. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
4. School of Nursing
5. School of Pharmacy
• Subject coverage: international (Europe, Asia, Africa) biomedical literature

• 31+ million records
• Over 8,500 indexed peer-reviewed journals, including over 2,900 not available in MEDLINE

• Emtree (Embase thesaurus) groups like terms for more efficient subject searching

• Coverage back to 1947
This database is ideal for (in order):

1. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
2. School of Pharmacy
3. School of Medicine
• Subject coverage:
  – Life sciences (i.e. biology, pharmacology, neuroscience, agriculture)
  – Physical/Health sciences (i.e. chemistry, nursing, allied health)
  – Social sciences (i.e. arts & humanities, business)

• 70 million records

• U.S. and International patent information available

• Author and Institution search features
• Can sort results by number of times cited (“cited by”)
  – Net-working feature
This database is ideal for (in order):

1. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
2. School of Medicine
3. School of Health Professions
4. School of Nursing
5. School of Pharmacy
CINAHL

• Stands for: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (pronounced “sin-all”)

• 5.5+ million records

• Subject coverage: Nursing and 14 Allied Health specialties

• Evidence-based Care Sheets and Research Instruments available

• Option to limit results to “peer-reviewed” articles

• Free Continuing Education credits
This database is ideal for (in order):

1. School of Nursing
2. School of Health Professions
Micromedex

• Subject coverage: drug information resource

• Rigorous in-house editorial process distills current clinically relevant evidence

• Key features include:
  – Drug and IV interaction tools
  – Drug allergy checker
  – Drug identification tool (identify drugs by imprint or shape/color)
This database is ideal for (in order):

1. School of Pharmacy
2. School of Nursing
3. School of Medicine
TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

What have you learned?
Question #1

• Which database is specifically important for drug information?

  a. Scopus
  b. CINAHL
  c. Embase
  d. Micromedex
  e. PubMed
• **Answer is: d. Micromedex**

• Micromedex differs from other databases included in this module in that it does not focus on article retrieval, but instead focuses on drug information.
Question #2

• Which database has the “Cited by” feature? (i.e. ability to sort results by number of times cited)

  a. Micromedex
  b. Embase
  c. Scopus
  d. PubMed
  e. CINAHL
• **Answer is: c. Scopus**

• Scopus can sort citations according to the number of times the article has been cited by other publications. This demonstrates each article’s impact factor and identifies “landmark” articles and their authors.
Question #3

• As a nursing student, which database would be the first choice to find peer-reviewed articles on the treatment of hypertension?

  a. Micromedex
  b. CINAHL
  c. Scopus
  d. None of the above
• Answer is: **b. CINAHL**

• This database is both the ideal first choice for nursing students, and has the option to limit results to peer-reviewed articles.
Question #4

• Which database would be the first choice to find articles on the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act on previously uninsured populations?

• A. Micromedex
• B. CINAHL
• C. Scopus
• D. None of the above
Answer

- Answer is c. Scopus
- Because its scope includes social sciences, Scopus is the ideal choice for this topic.
Exercise #3

• Which database(s) indexes for meta-analysis or systematic review articles on various subjects? *Please choose the best answer.*

  ▪ A. PubMed
  ▪ B. CINAHL
  ▪ C. Scopus
  ▪ D. All of the above
D. All of the above
All of the databases presented in this module can be searched and are appropriate for locating systematic reviews or meta-analysis. Start with the database that is the first choice in your field.
THANK YOU!
References


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• *Scopus.* Retrieved from: http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus

• *Scopus: Content Overview.* Retrieved from: http://www.elsevier.com/online-tools/scopus/content-overview