

Digital Literacy & Databases

*Original material by Jennifer Yack, MSIS; Corinna Bustillo, MSLS;
Carrie Gassett, MSIS; and Micah Walsleben, MLS*

Updated by Suzanne Gray, MLIS and Shannon Harris, MSLS

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Goals

- Enhance students' awareness of web resources and content.
- Improve students' ability to perform effective research on the web.
- Increase students' knowledge of five databases offered through TTUHSC Libraries.

Objectives

After viewing this presentation, students will be able to:

- Locate different information sources on the web.
- Learn how to critically evaluate websites for quality.
- Identify the subjects covered by each included database and which are most useful to your information needs.
- Understand and use database features.
- Recognize the difference between licensed library resources and information found on the web.

Search Engines

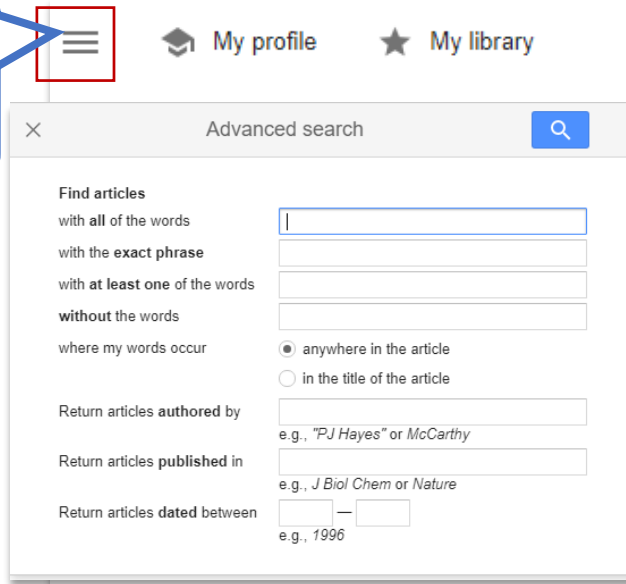
- Search engines allow for natural language searches.
- The search results are often extremely large in number.
- Algorithms used by search engines do not necessarily return accurate and relevant results.
- Search engines provide advanced search techniques, such as Boolean operators.
- Search engines can be a good starting point and background knowledge builder.
- Examples are Google, Bing, Edge, etc.

Searching Google Scholar

Google Scholar provides free access to a vast array of academic literature. It can be a useful tool to start the research process, to get a sense of the information available. Two drawbacks are the lack of access to full text articles and the unknown algorithm Google uses; therefore, the information needs to be evaluated critically.

scholar.google.com

Click here for
Advanced
search



Advanced search

Find articles

with **all** of the words

with the **exact phrase**

with **at least one** of the words

without the words

where my words occur

☒ anywhere in the article

☐ in the title of the article

Return articles **authored by**

e.g., "PJ Hayes" or McCarthy

Return articles **published in**

e.g., J Biol Chem or Nature

Return articles **dated between** —

e.g., 1996

Google Scholar

☒ Articles ☐ Case law

New! Supercharge your PDF reading: Follow references, skim outline, jump to figures

Internet Searching

Search directly on websites of trusted organizations to be sure the information you retrieve is valuable and reliable:

Government	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Center for Disease Control
Federations	World Health Organization, World Federation of Public Health
Companies	GSK, Janssen Global
Educational Institutions	TTU
Associations	American Medical Association, American Public Health Association
NGO's	Kaiser Family Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Think Tanks

Evaluating Search Results

Anyone can have a website online; therefore, it is important to evaluate the contents to verify that the information is reliable. Evaluate the website critically based on the following:

- **Currency:** When was it published? When was the website created/updated?
- **Relevance:** Who is the intended audience?
- **Authority & Authorship:** Who is author/publisher/source and is there contact info?
- **Accuracy:** Is the information supported by evidence or biased and emotional?
- **Purpose:** Is the information to teach, sell, persuade?

Use the following button to understand each term and to apply to your evaluation.

CRAAP

Research Databases

Library research databases are digital collections of indexed, easily searchable, scholarly journal articles and other formats of information. Databases can be general or subject orientated with bibliographic citations, abstracts, and/or full text.

- Databases are proprietary products that the library pays for.
- The content has been checked for accuracy, reliability, and is updated regularly.

Why use databases?

Authoritative information

Specialized databases often have guidelines on the types of articles and journals contained within; therefore, the articles you find will more likely be reliable and accurate.

Subject specific

Different databases specialize in specific subjects; therefore, when you search a particular database related to your field, you will find more relevant articles.

Full text access

Accessing databases through the libraries' website will provide links to full text articles.

Internet vs. Library Research Database

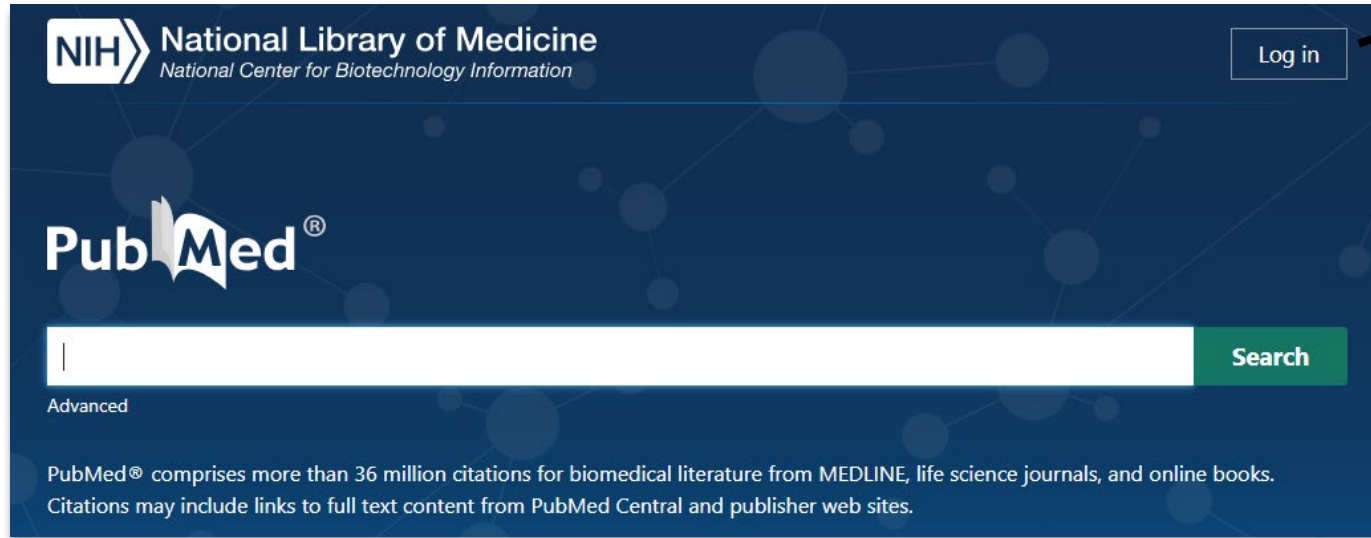
Internet	Database
A good starting place to find background information.	Screened for quality and value to faculty and students.
No quality control exists for information on the Internet.	Scholarly in nature.
Individual is responsible for judging value and reliability.	Relevant to the knowledge domains of the institution.
Many full-text journal articles and eBooks are not accessible free-of-charge.	Licensing fees paid by the library give patrons access to thousands of full-text resources.



PubMed is the National Library of Medicine (NLM)'s search interface to the MEDLINE database.

- PubMed has over 36 million references, with coverage dating back to 1946.
- In addition, it includes sources from:
 - MEDLINE, the National Library of Medicine's journal citation database.
 - PubMed Central (PMC), a free archive of biomedical and life sciences articles. It is a repository for journal literature deposited by participating publishers, as well as for author manuscripts that have been submitted in compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy and similar policies of other research funding agencies.
- All parts of PubMed are automatically searched at the same time.
- MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) is the NLM controlled vocabulary thesaurus used for indexing articles for PubMed.
- PubMed's subject coverage includes biomedical and life sciences.

PubMed



Log in to save and export searches and citations.

Access PubMed from TTUHSC library website at <https://ttuhsc.libguides.com/new> for links to full text articles.



Find

Advanced Search
Clinical Queries
Single Citation Matcher

Search options include advanced features and clinical queries specific searching.



Explore

MeSH Database
Journals

MeSH is Medical Subject Headings From the National Library of Medicine. It indexes subjects for better results.

PubMed

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



CINAHL Ultimate

- Stands for: Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (pronounced “sin-all”).
- 6+ million records, from over 5,500 indexed journals.
- Subject coverage: Nursing and 14 Allied Health specialties.
- Evidence-based Care Sheets, Research Instruments, Quick Lessons and CE modules available.
- Can limit results to “peer-reviewed” or “research” articles.

CINAHL Ultimate

CINAHL(**C**umulative **I**ndexing to **N**ursing and **A**llied **H**ealth **L**iterature) is an authoritative indexed source for nursing and allied health specialties.

- CINAHL Ultimate is the largest full text companion to CINAHL.
- The database contains 3,461 peer-reviewed, indexed, and abstracted journals from nursing and allied health literature.

Use Subject headings for accurate searches

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface for CINAHL Ultimate. The top navigation bar includes links for 'New Search', 'Publications', 'CINAHL Subject Headings', 'Evidence-Based Care Sheets', 'Quick Lessons', and 'More'. The main search area features a search bar with the text 'Searching: CINAHL Ultimate' and a link to 'Choose Databases'. Below the search bar are three rows of search criteria, each with a text input field, a 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menu, and an 'AND' dropdown menu. To the right of the search criteria are a green 'Search' button, a 'Clear' link with a question mark, and '+' and '-' buttons. At the bottom of the search area are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', 'PICO Search', and 'Search History'. Three callout boxes with arrows point to specific features: 'Use Subject headings for accurate searches' points to the 'CINAHL Subject Headings' link; 'Locate evidence based care sheets easily' points to the 'Evidence-Based Care Sheets' link; and 'Use advanced search to find "peer-reviewed", research, CE modules.' points to the 'Advanced Search' link.

Locate evidence based care sheets easily

Use advanced search to find "peer-reviewed", research, CE modules.

CINAHL Ultimate

This database is ideal for (in order):

1. School of Nursing
2. School of Health Professions



Embase

An authoritative source for high quality, comprehensive research for medical literature.

- Millions of records are updated daily.
- Source for international as well as English-speaking biomedical literature.
- Emtree thesaurus, or controlled vocabulary, groups similar terms for more effective searching.
- Embase and MEDLINE searches are required for a comprehensive search.

Access
Embase's
controlled
vocabulary

[Search](#)[Emtree](#)[Journals](#)[Results](#)[My tools](#)

Quick search

[Quick](#) [PICO](#) [PV Wizard](#) [Medical device](#) [Advanced](#) [Drug](#) [Disease](#) [Device](#) [Citation information](#) [Query translator](#)

Use
Advanced
search for
greater
precision

Find articles by simple keyword search or build more complex queries

[Search tips](#)

[Broad search](#) e.g. 'heart attack' AND stress

+ Add field Limit to

Reset form

[PV Wizard](#) [Medical device](#) [Advanced](#) [Drug](#) [Disease](#) [Device](#) [Citation information](#) [Query translator](#) Beta

e.g. 'cancer gene therapy'/exp OR ((treatment OR therapy) NEAR/5 fluorouracil):ab

[Search >](#)[Mapping ^](#)[Date v](#)[Sources v](#)[Fields v](#)[Quick limits v](#)[EBM v](#)[Pub. types v](#)[Languages v](#)[Gender v](#)[Age v](#)[Animal v](#)[Search tips v](#)

Embase mapping options

[Clear page selections](#)[Collapse](#)

- ☒ Map to preferred term in Emtree
- ☐ Limit to terms indexed in article as 'major focus'
- ☒ Search also as free text in all fields
- ☒ Explode using narrower Emtree terms
- ☒ Search as broadly as possible

Embase

This database is ideal for (in order):

1. Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
2. School of Pharmacy
3. School of Medicine

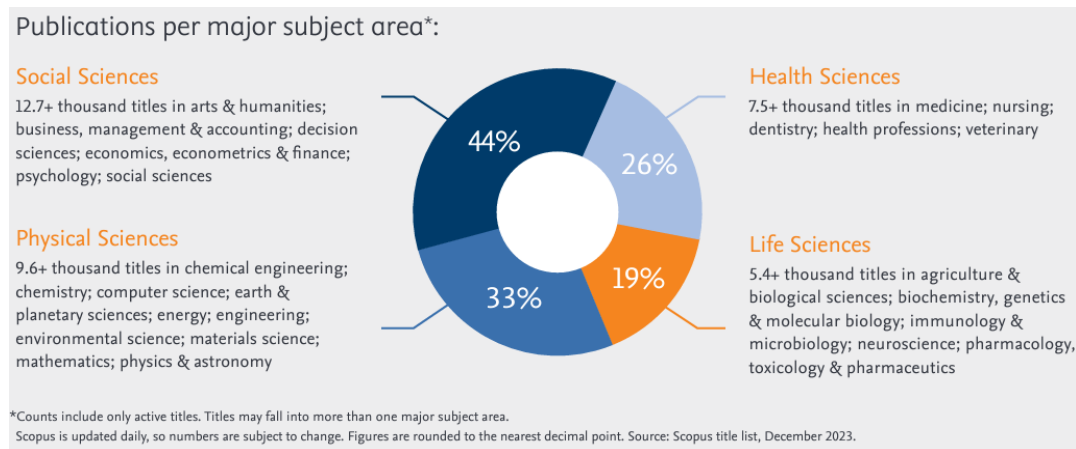


Scopus

Scopus is a comprehensive multidisciplinary database of citations and abstracts from authoritative sources.

- 94+ million records from over 27,000+ peer-reviewed journals, 6,000+ open access journals.
- U.S. and International patent information available.
- Author and Institution search features, aids networking.
- Results can be sorted by times cited (“Cited by”).

Subject coverage:



Click button
for search tips:

Search Guide



Scopus

 Search

[Lists](#)

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[SciVal](#) 



[Create account](#)

[Sign in](#)

Start exploring

Documents

[Authors](#)

[Researcher Discovery](#)

[Organizations](#)

[Search tips](#) 


Search within

Article title, Abstract, Keywords



Search documents *

[+ Add search field](#) [Add date range](#) [Advanced document search >](#)

[Search](#) 

[Search History](#)

[Saved Searches](#)



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

Scopus

This database is ideal for (in order):

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



Micromedex

Micromedex is a reference database for evidence-based drug, disease, and toxicology information.

- Key features include:
 - Drug and IV interaction tools
 - Drug allergy checker
 - Drug identification tool (identify drugs by imprint or shape/color)
 - Red Book for manufacturer and pricing information

Explore
Training
Center
resources for
nurses

Merative **Micromedex**[®]

My Subscription | Gateway **Training Center** | Help | Mobile Application Access | Logout

Home

Drug
Interactions

NEW!
IV Compatibility

Drug ID

Drug
Comparison

CareNotes

RED BOOK

Calculators

Search Drug, Disease, Toxicology, and more

All

Drug

Disease

Toxicology

Keyword search



Micromedex Assistant

Search Micromedex drug information

Type a quick question...



Latest News

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- New/Expanded Indications Feb/Mar
- IV Comp Chart View & Upgraded...

Read Top News



Support & Training

- Training Center
- User Guide
- Micromedex Compendia Resources
- Citing Micromedex

Support Request



View resources



For Nurses

Be prepared for any patient you encounter with evidence-based content, drug interaction checker, calculators and other tools.

[Explore resources for Nurses](#)



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

Micromedex

This database is ideal for (in order):

1. School of Pharmacy
2. School of Nursing
3. School of Medicine



Knowledge Check

Question #1

When searching the internet, the most accurate, relevant information will be the first results.

True or False

Knowledge Check

Question #1

When searching the internet, the most accurate, relevant information will be the first results.

False

Search engines do not curate their results page based on the most accurate, reliable information. Their algorithms are complex and are based on page clicks. You may need to go beyond the first page to find a relevant result.

Knowledge Check

Question #2

The Internet is NOT:

1. A good place to start research
2. Regulated for quality information
3. A place to share ideas
4. All the above

Knowledge Check

Question #2

The Internet is NOT:

1. A good place to start research
2. Regulated for quality information
3. A place to share ideas
4. All the above

Anyone can post information online. The individual user is responsible for determining reliability and usefulness.

Knowledge Check

Question #3

Websites need to be evaluated for:

1. Currency
2. Relevance
3. Accuracy
4. Authority
5. Purpose
6. All the above

Knowledge Check

Question #3

Websites need to be evaluated for:

1. Currency
2. Relevance
3. Accuracy
4. Authority
5. Purpose
6. All the above

Be sure to apply these evaluation tools.

Knowledge Check

Question #4

Why use a research database?

1. Any entity can add information to a research database.
2. There are ads for shopping while you do your research.
3. A database is a collection of indexed and curated searchable authoritative research.

Knowledge Check

Question #4

Why use a research database?

1. Any entity can add information to a research database.
2. There are ads for shopping while you do your research.
3. A database is a collection of indexed and curated searchable authoritative research.

An internet search does not always provide reliable results that are focused on your topic.

Knowledge Check

Question #5

Which database is best for nursing research?

1. CINAHL
2. Embase
3. Micromedex

Knowledge Check

Question #5

Which database is best for nursing research?

1. **CINAHL** This database is both the ideal first choice for nursing students, and has the option to limit results to peer-reviewed articles.
2. Embase
3. Micromedex

Knowledge Check

Question #6

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

1. CINAHL
2. Embase
3. Micromedex
4. Scopus

Knowledge Check

Question #6

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

1. CINAHL
2. Embase
3. Micromedex
4. **Scopus**

Because its scope includes social sciences, Scopus is the ideal choice for this topic.

Knowledge Check

Question #7

Which of these database(s) does not index for meta-analysis or systematic review articles on various subjects?

1. CINAHL
2. Embase
3. Micromedex
4. Scopus
5. PubMed

Knowledge Check

Question #7

Which of these database(s) does not index for meta-analysis or systematic review articles on various subjects?

1. CINAHL
2. Embase
3. **Micromedex**
4. Scopus
5. PubMed

Searches in Micromedex cannot be limited to locating systematic reviews or meta-analysis. It is the database of choice when searching for drug information.

Summary

- Search engines can be a good starting point and background knowledge builder, but the information needs to be evaluated for accuracy and reliability.
- Research databases provide authoritative information that has been checked for accuracy, reliability, and are updated regularly.
- Research databases can be subject specific.
- More full text access to the research databases can be found by accessing the databases through TTUHSC Libraries' website.

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