Specialized Databases

Micah Walsleben, MLS

August 2019

Goal

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

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.
Libraries *of the* Health Sciences

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?

Specialized databases are 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?

Guaranteed Authoritative information

Specialized databases often have strict guidelines on the types of articles and journal sources that are accepted. By searching a database, the articles you find are more likely to be both accurate and reliable.

They're 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, the articles you find are more likely to be relevant towards your area of study.

They Provide 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!

IMPORTANT SPECIALIZED DATABASES

5 tools to help you succeed!

PubMed

PubMed has over 29 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.

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

Embase

Embase has over 29 million records, with coverage dating back to 1947.

- Emtree, or Embase thesaurus, groups like terms for more efficient searching.

- Embase's subject coverage includes international biomedical literature, i.e. literature from Europe, Asia, Africa, etc. as well as the English-speaking world.

NOTE: An equivalent search in both MEDLINE and Embase has always been recognized as necessary when comprehensive coverage is required. [1]

This database is ideal for (in order):

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

Scopus

- 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)

- 49+ million records back to 1996.
- 25+ million records pre-1996 (going back as far as 1823).
- From over 25,000 journals

- U.S. and International patent information available

- Author and Institution search features, aids networking

- Results can be sorted by times cited ("Cited by")

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")

- 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

This database is ideal for (in order):

1. School of Nursing
2. School of Health Professions

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.
Libraries *of the* Health Sciences

Micromedex

- Subject coverage: drug information resource

- It is an evidence-based, multi-database drug search engine that provides summary and in-depth information for drugs (both prescription and over-the-counter commercial products), diseases, toxicology, and alternative medicine.

- 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?

Which database is specifically important for drug information?

    a.   CINAHL

    b.   Embase

    c.   Micromedex

    d.   PubMed

    e.   Scopus

    f.   All of the above

- **Answer is: c. 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.

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

    a. CINAHL

    b. Embase

    c. Micromedex

    d. PubMed

    e. Scopus

    f. All of the above

- **Answer is: e. 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.

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

a. CINAHL
b. Embase
c. Micromedex
d. PubMed
e. Scopus
f. All of the above

- **Answer is: a. CINAHL**

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

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

a. CINAHL
b. Embase
c. Micromedex
d. PubMed
e. Scopus
f. All of the above

- **Answer is e. Scopus**

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

- Which of these database(s) does not index for meta-analysis or systematic review articles on various subjects? *Please choose the best answer.*

  a. CINAHL

  b. Embase

  c. Micromedex

  d. PubMed

  e. Scopus

  f. All of the above

- **Answer is c. Micromedex**

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

References

- 1. Lam MT, De Longhi C, Turnbull J, Lam HR, Besa R. Has embase replaced MEDLINE since coverage expansion? *Journal of the Medical Library Association : JMLA*. 2018;106(2):227-234. Embase versus MEDLINE. doi:10.5195/JMLA.2018.281.

- *For additional information on these databases:*
- *About the Database.* EBSCO Help: CINAHL Plus with Full Text. CINAHL About the Database
- *Chapter 1: Micromedex Solutions Overview.* Micromedex User Guide. Micromedex User Guide
- *Embase FAQs.* Embase Frequently Asked Questions
- *PubMed, MEDLINE, and PMC(PubMed Central): How are they different?* Fact Sheet. PubMed, MEDLINE, and PubMed Central Comparison
- *Scopus.* About Scopus
- *Scopus: Content Overview.* Scopus Content Overview