Databases Beyond PubMed

Marcus Spann, MLIS
Informationist
Welch Medical Library
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Purpose of Various Databases

- Each database has a different focus or purpose.
- Databases within the same topic will index different sets of journals.
- You will need to search multiple databases in order to achieve a comprehensive search.
Hierarchical versus Flat Databases

- Hierarchical
  - (Have a controlled vocabulary)
    - Embase
    - CINAHL
    - ERIC
    - PsycINFO
    - Cochrane Library

- Flat
  - (Lack controlled vocabulary)
    - Web of Science
    - Scopus
EMBASE

- Comprised of over 29 million citations from 8,300 journals

- The controlled vocabulary is called Emtree

- Emtree includes MeSH terms and twice as large

- Includes all journals indexed in MEDLINE

- Includes 2,900 journals not indexed in MEDLINE

- Provides granular indexing for medical devices and drugs
What should I use EMBASE for?

- Drug related literature inquires
- Comprehensive biomedical or pharmaceutical literature in combination with PubMed
- Systematic Reviews
- Drug related research, grant proposals, etc.
Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

Considered the Gold Standard for systematic reviews.

The reviews are compiled through rigorous standards.

Due to rigorous standards, the total number of literature in the database is small in comparison to others.

The Cochrane Library also searches CENTRAL (clinical trials), Method Studies, Technology Assessments and Economic Evaluations.
ERI C

► Referred to as Education Resources Information Center.
► Contains over 1.7 million citations from 1966 to present.
► Covers education research and information.
► Publication types include journal articles, books, conference papers, technical reports and policy papers.
► The controlled vocabulary is called THESAURUS.
What should I use ERIC for?
- Search inquires that involve education
- If you are interested to search the “grey literature” of education
- If you wish to locate reports from the U.S. Department of Education and other affiliated organizations and associations.
Includes citations and abstracts of the professional and academic literature in psychology and related disciplines.

The database provides access to books, book chapters, dissertations, and technical reports in psychology and related disciplines.

PsycINFO covers literature from 1885 to present.

Currently, there are over 5 million citations in PsycINFO.

The controlled vocabulary is called APA THESAURUS.

Indexes over 2,300 journals.
What should I use PsycINFO for?

- If your search inquiry is psychological, psychiatric, or social work related.

- For Systematic Reviews and Evidence Based Practice, PsycINFO should be used in addition to PubMed.
► Referred to as Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature.

► Includes nursing and allied health resources not covered in PubMed (MEDLINE).

► Covers material from 1937 to present.

► Controlled vocabulary for the database is called **CINAHL Headings** which has more focus geared toward nurse and allied health than PubMed (MEDLINE).

► Indexes more than 3,700 journals plus additional content such as book chapters and dissertations.
What should I use CINAHL for?
- Nursing and Allied Health literature in addition to PubMed (MEDLINE).
- Locate dissertations or book chapters for nursing and allied health.
- For Systematic Reviews and Evidence Based Practice, CINAHL should be used in addition to PubMed (MEDLINE).
SCOPUS

- Covers Health Science, Social Science, Physical Science and Life Sciences.

- Includes resources not covered by PubMed (MEDLINE) including:
  - author homepages and university websites
  - historical material from journals dating back to 1823
  - patents and trademarks

- Scopus does not have a controlled vocabulary
What should I use SCOPUS for?

- Locate specific authors by name and institution
- Determine h-index score with graph information
- Track primary research to patents
- Track influence of research on web literature
- Look at reference lists from applicable articles
- For multidisciplinary inquiries
- Determine citation count to see who has cited a particular article
Multidisciplinary database covering over 9,300 high impact journals in the sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities and well as international proceedings coverage for over 205,000 conferences.

Includes Social Sciences Index and Science Citation Index Expanded.

Tools found in Web of Science include cited reference searching, Citation Maps and the Analyze Tool.

Web of Science indexes book chapters

Web of Science does not have a controlled vocabulary.
What should I use Web of Science for?
- Locate specific authors by name and institution
- Determine h-index with graph information
- Can be used for multidisciplinary inquiries
- Can determine number of citations produced by original article
- Find the reference list from applicable articles
Google Scholar provides a simple way to search scholarly literature in a broad manner.

- Allows you to search across multiple sources and disciplines from one place.

- Cannot reproduce your search results.

- Does not filter or remove predatory journals.
What should I use Google Scholar for?

- To find incomplete citations
- Provides an easier method to find a few articles on difficult topics.
Thank You

Contact Information:

Marcus Spann, MLIS
Informationist
Welch Medical Library
2024 E. Monument Street, Suite 1-200
mspann5@jhmi.edu
(410) 502-6812