

# Databases and planning a search

See [Databases](#) at the website for links to these resources. Off-site access is via [OpenAthens](#) where available.

## Journal references

**Medline** - covers the international literature on biomedicine, including the allied health fields and the biological and physical sciences, humanities, and information science as they relate to medicine and health care. Information is indexed from approximately 5,600 journals published world-wide. Records start in the early 1800's and go up to the present.

**Embase** - a major biomedical and pharmaceutical database indexing over 8,500 international journals in: drug research, pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, toxicology, clinical and experimental human medicine, health policy and management, public health, occupational health, environmental health, drug dependence and abuse, psychiatry, forensic medicine, and biomedical engineering.

**APA PsycINFO** - professional and academic literature in psychology and related disciplines, spanning the 19th century to the present. Chapter and book coverage is included.

## Evidence-based literature

**Epistemonikos** - a collaborative, multilingual database of health evidence. It is the largest source of systematic reviews relevant for health-decision making, and a large source of other types of scientific evidence. The main aim of Epistemonikos is to gather scientific information (i.e. evidence) that might be relevant for health decision-making, and to provide rapid and reliable access to the best available evidence for real-life questions.

**BMJ Best Practice** - this Point of Care tool takes you quickly and accurately to the latest evidence-based information. Its step-by-step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention is updated daily using robust evidence-based methodology and expert opinion.

**Nursing (Ovid)** - includes information from Journals@Ovid and Medline from 1946 to the present.

**EmCare** - covers all nursing specialties and nursing healthcare professions.

**PubMed** - Use the customised link provided on the Library's online list of databases to allow filtering of results to show Library holdings and free full text.

**CINAHL** - covers the nursing and allied health literature from 1982 to the present.

**Informit: Health Collection, Humanities & Social Sciences Collection** - Australian databases covering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and other current topics such as child health and breastfeeding, mental health and rehabilitation. Includes Australian and New Zealand journals not indexed in Medline.

**ERIC** (Education Resources Information Center) - education literature and resources from 1966 to the present.

**The Cochrane Library** - the entire set of Cochrane evidence-based medicine databases, including the Systematic Reviews and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials. The best single source of reliable evidence about the effects of health care.

**ClinicalKey** - a dynamic clinical resource designed to provide physicians with fast, clinically-relevant answers from Elsevier's enormous library of proprietary medical and surgical content. ClinicalKey was built specifically to meet the search needs of physicians that a clinical resource be comprehensive, trusted, and fast.

**Trip** - Trip is a clinical search engine designed to allow users to find high-quality research evidence to support practice and/or patient care.

## Drug information

- Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook
- Australian Medicines Handbook
- Australian Medicines Handbook Children's Dosing Companion
- BNF for Children
- Lexicomp
- Martindale's Adverse Drug Reactions
- Micromedex (Drugdex & Poisindex)
- MIMS Online
- Natural Medicines
- Palliative Care Formulary
- RCH Paediatric Injectable Guidelines
- Renal Drug Database
- RWH Pregnancy & Breastfeeding Medicines Guide
- Stockley's Drug Interactions
- Therapeutic Guidelines
- TOXINZ Poisons Information

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## Standards

### Australian and International standards

Standards can be purchased from various suppliers. Each store provides a Tracking Service so that you can get notifications when a document on your list is updated, amended, withdrawn, or replaced.

[See the website](#) for details. The Library can support your department to access these resources if needed.

## Plan your database search to save time and get relevant results

### Step 1

State the topic in a sentence or question and identify the main concepts or terms. For example:

***Can migraine or cluster headaches be treated effectively with sumatriptan?***

Key concepts:

1. Migraine headache
2. Cluster headache
3. Sumatriptan

### Step 2

Consider search refinements to limit the retrieval to specific aspects of a topic, such as:

- Human or animal studies
- Male or female subjects
- Age groups, e.g. adolescents, infants
- Year of publication
- Languages

### Step 3

Consider the potential use of the information. A comprehensive search covering several years would be required for grant proposals and research purposes, while a few very precise articles would be more useful for a patient care situation.

### Step 4

Use the thesaurus (controlled vocabulary) to express main concepts. Use keywords if no appropriate thesaurus term exists.

### Step 5

Combine the main concepts or search terms using the Boolean Operators - OR, AND. Stating the topic in narrative form helps to identify all key terms and establishes the relationship of the terms to each other.

The relationship of the key terms in this sample search topic would be expressed like so:

***(Migraine headache or cluster headache) and sumatriptan***

## More help

- ❖ [How to choose the right database for your search](#)
- ❖ Fact Sheet no.2: [Ovid: search, save, and manage results](#)
- ❖ Fact Sheet no.13: [Remote access](#)
- ❖ Sign up for [Training](#) in the Library
- ❖ [Contact us](#)