Choosing databases

Monash Health Library

Databases must be carefully selected to best match the clinical query in content and quality. A systematic approach to searching requires a thorough, objective and reproducible search in a range of sources. Searching in multiple databases will ensure that as many relevant studies as possible are identified.

It is recommended to start your search with Medline and Embase and select 1-2 other relevant databases depending on the topic of your research. Speak to a Monash Health Librarian to receive database advice specific to your research question.

Database	Recommendation	How to Access	Specialty Areas	How to Search	More Information
⭐ **Medline (OVID)**	Recommended for all clinical queries	Accessible to all Monash Health staff via the Monash Health Library website ↗	Biomedical	Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and keyword searching	Medline User Guide
⭐ **Embase(OVID)**	Recommended for all clinical queries		Biomedical, pharmaceutical	Emtree subject headings and keyword searching	Embase User Guide
Emcare (OVID)	Recommended, if relevant		Nursing & allied health	Emtree subject headings and keyword searching	Emcare User Guide
PsycInfo (OVID)	Recommended, if relevant		Psychology, mental health	MeSH and keyword searching	PsycInfo User Guide
Cochrane Library (CENTRAL)	Recommended, if relevant		Systematic reviews, randomised controlled trials (RCTs)	MeSH and keyword searching	Cochrane Library User Guide
ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health	Recommended, if relevant		Nursing & allied health	MeSH and keyword searching	ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health User Guide
Nursing Full Text (OVID)	Not recommended as the coverage is not comprehensive		Nursing (limited to nursing journals that are in the Monash Health Library subscription only)	MeSH and keyword searching	User Guide not available
Google Scholar	Recommended only as a supplementary source	Google Scholar (Free)	Multidisciplinary	Keyword searching	Google Scholar User Guide
PubMed	Recommended only if access to Medline is not available	PubMed (Free)	Biomedical	MeSH and keyword searching	PubMed User Guide
PEDro (Physiotherapy Evidence Database)	Recommended, if relevant	PEDro (Free)	Physiotherapy RCTs, systematic reviews and guidelines	Keyword searching	PEDro User Guide
Scopus	Recommended, if relevant	May be accessible to university staff & students	Multidisciplinary	Keyword searching	Scopus User Guide
CINAHL	Recommended, if relevant		Nursing & allied health	MeSH or CINAHL subject headings and keyword searching	CINAHL User Guide
Web of Science	Recommended, if relevant		Multidisciplinary	Keyword searching	Web of Science User Guide

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