


# Choosing databases

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
★ <b>Medline (OVID)</b>	Recommended for all clinical queries	Accessible to all Monash Health staff via the <a href="#">Monash Health Library website</a> 	Biomedical	Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and keyword searching	<a href="#">Medline User Guide</a>
★ <b>Embase(OVID)</b>	Recommended for all clinical queries		Biomedical, pharmaceutical	Emtree subject headings and keyword searching	<a href="#">Embase User Guide</a>
<b>Emcare (OVID)</b>	Recommended, if relevant		Nursing & allied health	Emtree subject headings and keyword searching	<a href="#">Emcare User Guide</a>
<b>PsycInfo (OVID)</b>	Recommended, if relevant		Psychology, mental health	APA Thesaurus of Psychological subject headings and keyword searching	<a href="#">PsycInfo User Guide</a>
<b>Cochrane Library (CENTRAL)</b>	Recommended, if relevant		Systematic reviews, randomised controlled trials (RCTs)	MeSH and keyword searching	<a href="#">Cochrane Library User Guide</a>
<b>ProQuest Nursing &amp; Allied Health</b>	Recommended, if relevant		Nursing & allied health	MeSH and keyword searching	<a href="#">ProQuest Nursing &amp; Allied Health User Guide</a>
<b>Nursing Full Text (OVID)</b>	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
<b>Google Scholar</b>	Recommended only as a supplementary source	<a href="#">Google Scholar</a> (Free)	Multidisciplinary	Keyword searching	<a href="#">Google Scholar User Guide</a>
<b>PubMed</b>	Recommended only if access to Medline is not available	<a href="#">PubMed</a> (Free)	Biomedical	MeSH and keyword searching	<a href="#">PubMed User Guide</a>
<b>PEDro (Physiotherapy Evidence Database)</b>	Recommended, if relevant	<a href="#">PEDro</a> (Free)	Physiotherapy RCTs, systematic reviews and guidelines	Keyword searching	<a href="#">PEDro User Guide</a>
<b>Scopus</b>	Recommended, if relevant	May be accessible to university staff & students	Multidisciplinary	Keyword searching	<a href="#">Scopus User Guide</a>
<b>CINAHL</b>	Recommended, if relevant		Nursing & allied health	MeSH or CINAHL subject headings and keyword searching	<a href="#">CINAHL User Guide</a>
<b>Web of Science</b>	Recommended, if relevant		Multidisciplinary	Keyword searching	<a href="#">Web of Science User Guide</a>