

Choosing a Database: *Which database should I use to start my research?*

This table gives you starting points for beginning your search for topical information. Remember, one database may not answer all of your questions. It may be necessary to consult additional resources to satisfy all of your research needs.

Most of the resources below can be accessed under **Core Resources** on the **JEFFLINE** home page (<http://jeffline.jefferson.edu>). Some are reached by choosing **...more databases** and searching the List of All Databases. Exceptions are indicated by (*) and access is noted below.

Topic:	Database:	Focus:	Publication types include:
Basic Science	SCOPUS	Science literature	Citations & journal articles, conference proceedings, websites & patents
Consumer Health	MEDLINE PLUS (via Core Resources/more databases/search list)	Drugs, disease or conditions	Encyclopedia, dictionary, patient information
Drugs	MICROMEDEX	Interactions between drugs, evaluations of drugs, calculation of dosage	Clinical decision support
	MEDLINE (via Ovid or PubMed)	Drugs, chemicals	Citations & journal articles
	SCOPUS	Drugs, chemicals	Citations & journal articles
Evidence-Based Medicine	MEDLINE (via Ovid or PubMed) Clinical Queries	Clinical studies, systematic reviews	Citations & journal articles
	ACP's PIER (via Stat!Ref)	Diagnosis & treatment of diseases	Decision-support tool
	EBM Reviews (via Ovid)	<i>Simultaneous searching of all Ovid evidence-based medicine databases</i>	
	Cochrane (via Ovid)	Effects of health care that explore the evidence for & against effectiveness & appropriateness of treatments	Full-text systematic reviews
	The Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality* (www.ahrq.gov)	Evidence- based information on health care outcomes; quality, cost, use & access	Reports, clinical practice guidelines (includes <i>National Guideline Clearinghouse</i>)
General Medicine (Reference)	AccessMedicine	Reference on diagnosis & treatment of diseases	Full text reference books includes Harrison's
	Stat!Ref	Reference on diagnosis & treatment of diseases	Full text clinical reference books, includes Stedman's
	MD Consult	Practice guidelines, medical news, drug information & patient education	Full text clinical reference books, journals, patient handouts
Grants & Funding	Community of Science (via Core Resources/ more databases/search list)	Research, collaborative activities, travel, conferences, fellowships, post-doctoral positions	Directory
	InfoEd (via SPIN) (via Core Resources/more databases/search list)	Fellowships, research grants, publication support, sabbatical support & curriculum development	Directory of state & local government resources, international resources & private sponsors
Health Professions (including Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory Science, OT and PT)	CINAHL (Cumulated Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) (via Ovid)	Nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, communication sciences, emergency medical services & other allied health fields	Citations & journal articles

Health Services Research: Policy / Economics	The Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality* (www.ahrq.gov)	<i>See Evidence-based Medicine</i>	
	National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology* (www.nlm.nih.gov/hsrph.html)	Health services research including: literature & guidelines, data tools & statistics, legislation, etc.	Web portal
Herbs & Botanicals	About herbs, botanicals & other products (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center)* (www.mskcc.org/aboutherb)	Evidence-based information on herbs, botanicals, vitamins & other supplements	Listings
	International Bibliographic Information on Dietary Supplements (IBIDS) (NIH)* (http://ods.od.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx)	Dietary supplements, including vitamins, minerals, & botanicals produced by the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) at the National Institutes of Health	Published, international, scientific literature
Molecular Biology	NLM Entrez (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/query/gquery.fcgi)	Science literature	Citations & journal articles
Nursing	CINAHL (via Ovid)	Nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, communication sciences, emergency medical services & other allied health fields	Articles from journals books, proceedings, standards of practice, dissertations
Patient Education	CARENOTES (via MICROMEDEX)	In-patient care, discharge instructions, general information in English & Spanish	Hand-outs
	MDConsult	Medical news, drug information & patient education	Patient handouts
Psychiatry, Psychology	PsycINFO (via Ovid)	Psychology, psychiatry, nursing, social work, education, sociology & related fields	Articles, books, chapters, dissertations, etc.
Social Science	SCOPUS	Social sciences literature	Peer-reviewed journals
Sports Medicine	SPORTDiscus (via Ovid)	Sports medicine, training, physical education, fitness, rehabilitation & therapy	Citations to articles, books, conference proceedings, AV
Tests & Measures of Health & Behavior	HaPI (Health & Psychosocial Instruments) (via Ovid)	Tests, surveys, questionnaires, & rating scales for assessing mental & physical health	Records & journal articles describing these instruments
Toxicity	MICROMEDEX	Toxicity of common substances	Clinical decision support
	ToxNet* (via Core Resources/ more databases/search list)	Toxicology, hazardous chemicals & related areas	Literature & data

Go to the JEFFLINE List of All Databases (<http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/SML/databases/index.cgi>) for descriptions of more than 100 databases. You can also find electronic Help documents at (<http://JEFFLINE.jefferson.edu/SML/helpaids/>) to assist you in using them.



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For help with your research, contact the Reference Desk:
(215)503-8150
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