

# HOW TO SEARCH A DATABASE

## Searching vs. browsing

**Browsing** is the process of searching in alphabetical indexes such as: author, title, subject heading, etc.

**Searching** is the process of entering a search query with the use of logical operators.

## Basic vs. advanced search

**Basic search** runs a search based on a word or phrase entered into a search box. This usually searches across all the fields of the database records.

**Advanced search** runs a complex search query based on multiple search criteria entered into selected search fields. This will refine the search.

## Searching with Boolean operators

Using **"AND"** will find all entered words. They may appear in different parts of the document and in any order (hypertension and therapy). This will narrow the search.

Using **"OR"** will find either or both terms (therapy or treatment). This will broaden the search.

Using **"NOT"** will exclude a second concept (AIDS not HIV); it will exclude documents containing the word „HIV“ and makes the search more focused. Use it with caution.

## Wildcard characters

- the symbol \* represents any number of characters (e.g. \*child\* = child, childhood, children)
- the symbol ? represents only 1 character (e.g. en?oblast = entoblast, endoblast)

# CITING REFERENCES

The Citing is based on the International Standard: *ISO 690:2010(E)*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. *Information and documentation – Guidelines for bibliographic references and citations to information resources.*

**Brief Citation and Reference Guide**  
(access from „Library Guides“)

## What is plagiarizing?

Plagiarism Resources  
<https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/citesources/plagiarism>

## Tools for managing bibliographic citations

–gather, organize and format the references in the different styles  
**MENDELEY, ZOTERO** – freely available on the web  
**ENDNOTE** – online access via **WOS**



A facility for returning books outside opening hours. It is located in front of the entrance to the library.

# ACADEMIC LIBRARY GATEWAY

[www.fmed.uniba.sk/en/departments/library](http://www.fmed.uniba.sk/en/departments/library)

The screenshot shows the Academic Library Gateway website. At the top, there are navigation links: 'About the library', 'Library presentation', 'Contacts', 'Services', 'Documents', and 'Opening Hours'. Below this is a search bar and a 'MY ACCOUNT - LOGIN' link. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'CATALOGUES' (with links to Online Catalogue CU, Myaccount - Login: Instruction, University Publication Database, E-books FMED CU, and Library Journal Database), 'ELECTRONIC RESOURCES' (with links to Databases, E-books, Textbooks, E-journals, Remote Access, and Free Trials), 'USEFUL LINKS' (with links to Publication Activities, Info, Predatory Publishers, List of Study Literature, Medical Disciplines, and Medical Faculties and Libraries), 'BIOMEDICAL RESOURCES', 'LIBRARY GUIDES', and 'SEARCHING TOOLS'. On the right side, there is a 'Special collection' section with 'TEXTBOOKS' and 'FREE TRIAL' buttons, and a 'E-resources - CU' section. At the bottom right, there is contact information for the Academic Library FMED CU, including the address (Odborárske nám. 14, 813 72 Bratislava), phone number (+421 290 119 437), and email (kniznica.info@fmed.uniba.sk). There are also icons for 'Ask a library', 'Wifi', and 'BiblioBox'.

# SELF-STUDY RESOURCES

- **Ways to find medical information on the Internet** (access from „Library Guides“)
- **Úvod do vedeckej práce pre študentov medicíny a doktorandov medicínskych odborov – SLOVAK** (access from Slovak website „E-knihy LF UK“)
- **The portal MEFANET is the platform of Slovak and Czech medical faculties to publish electronic educational materials.**  
<https://portal.fmed.uniba.sk/index-en.php>
- **THESES is a free repository of dissertations and theses from Slovak universities.**  
[cms.crzp.sk/](http://cms.crzp.sk/)

## Other sources available on the Internet

- **Safari** (accessing, finding and reviewing information)  
[www.open.ac.uk/safari/index.php](http://www.open.ac.uk/safari/index.php)
- **EBM Tutorials**  
<https://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/EBM>

## Instructional materials to assist with writing

- **The Writer's Toolbox**  
[kent.edu/stark/writers-toolbox](http://kent.edu/stark/writers-toolbox)
- **Online Writing Lab**  
[owl.purdue.edu/](http://owl.purdue.edu/)



For further information, contact us.☺

Comenius University in Bratislava  
Faculty of Medicine  
Academic Library



# GUIDE TO INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Academic Library  
Faculty of Medicine  
Comenius University  
(AL FMED CU)  
Odborárske nám. 14  
813 72 Bratislava 1  
Phone number: + 421 290 119 437

[www.fmed.uniba.sk/en/departments/library](http://www.fmed.uniba.sk/en/departments/library)

[kniznica.info@fmed.uniba.sk](mailto:kniznica.info@fmed.uniba.sk)  
[kniznica.pozicovna@fmed.uniba.sk](mailto:kniznica.pozicovna@fmed.uniba.sk)



# SOURCES OF INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE

## Types of information sources

A **primary source** in medicine is a document that offers facts about the research written by authors directly participating in the research. Example: journal articles, theses, clinical trials, research notes, case reports, conference papers.

A **secondary source** summarizes primary sources usually to provide an overview of the current understanding of a medical topic, to make recommendations, or to combine the results of several studies. Example: literature reviews or systematic reviews, books, data compilations, meta-analyses, guidelines.

A **tertiary source** usually summarizes primary and secondary sources. Example: encyclopedias and other compendia.

## Types of journals

**Peer-reviewed journal** (refereed journal) – articles written by researchers and reviewed by experts in the particular field before the article is published in order to insure its quality. It is a trusted information source based on original research.

**Indexed journals** are registered by leading academic and commercial publishers like ISI Web of Science, PubMed, SCOPUS, Excerpta Medica/EMBASE, etc.

**Current journal** – scientific journal registered by ISI Current Contents and is searchable in one of a series of thematic databases Current Contents Connect © (CCC), available via Web of Science. CCC indexed over 10,000 journals and is updated daily.

**Other types of journals:** Trade journals include industry related articles; popular magazines do not include scientific information. These kinds of journals are usually not suitable for scientific research.

## Types of articles

**Research article** reports the methods and results of an original study performed by the authors.

**Review article** summarizes the information available on a specific topic, analyzes or discusses research previously published by others.

**Case report** is a detailed report of the symptoms, signs, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up of an individual patient.

**Letters to the editor** provide a way for readers to express comments, questions, or criticisms about articles published in that journal.

# WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARLY LITERATURE

## Bibliographic electronic resources available through the Gateway of the Academic Library

A **bibliographic database** – a database of bibliographic records, an organized digital collection of references to published literature (it may include an abstract, the keywords or other information). It may also offer a link to the full-text accessible in external databases.



### Bibliographia Medica Slovaca (BMS) - SLOVAK

– freely available database of Medicine and Health sciences contains records of the articles published in the professional Slovak journals and records of the Slovak authors published in Czech journals. The articles are in Slovak, Czech, and some in English.



### Bibliographia Medica Českoslovaca (BMČ) - CZECH

– the Czech National Registering Bibliography in biomedicine collects records from the professional literature published in the Czech Republic from 1947 (The Slovak literature is included until 2000). The articles are in Czech, Slovak, some in English or other languages.

## Where to search for scholarly articles in English?



**PubMed** is the most comprehensive bibliographic database created by National Center for Biology Information (NCBI), covering the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and the preclinical science. It is freely available.

It indexes articles (75% with abstracts) from biomedical journals with links providing access to the full-text journal articles when available.

**Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)** - a thesaurus of controlled vocabulary used for indexing documents in PubMed. You can build a search using MeSH terms.

## Evidence Based Medicine (EBM)

Evidence-based medicine is a systematic approach to clinical problem solving which allows the integration of the best available research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values. EBM databases contain results of independent high-quality clinical research.

**Types of EBM documents:** meta-analyses, systematic review, randomized controlled trial, cohort or case-control.

**EBM databases:** BMJ Clinical Evidence, DynaMed, UpToDate, Best Practice, 5MinuteConsult, EBM search Interface in PubMed, etc.

**Library Journal Database** – electronic register (at the library website) containing the alphabetical list of journals available in print form.

# FULL-TEXT ELECTRONIC RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE GATEWAY OF ACADEMIC LIBRARY

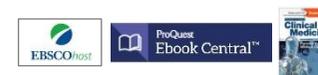
## ▪ Licensed full-text databases and e-journals



## ▪ Freely accessible full-text e-journals



## ▪ Licensed full-text e-books



## ▪ E-journal portal: Scientia.sk

 A portal allows simultaneous search in various electronic information resources with the full-texts linking feature.

## ▪ E-learning presentations - SLOVAK

Scientometria, Informácie na internete, Súborné online katalógy, Databázy, Elektronické informačné zdroje, EBM, Princípy citovania, Open Access, Vedecká online komunikácia, Mendeley

## Multidisciplinary citation databases

Databases contain bibliographic information about documents, are used as a tool for ranking and mapping scientific knowledge and for following and evaluating citation rates of journals, researchers and institutes. These databases provide quantitative tools for ranking, evaluating, and comparing journals (Impact Factor), authors (H-index), etc.



**Journal Citation Reports® (JCR)**, available on the platform of Web of Science (WOS), offers quantitative metrics like the Impact Factor, median Impact Factor, JIF Quartile, Eigenfactor Score®, etc.



**Scopus** is a bibliographic and citation database including mainly journals from the European region. The database offers the indicator SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) to measure scientific influence of scholarly journals, H-index to measure the productivity and quality of the authors.

Licensed electronic information resources are accessible outside the academic network of Comenius University through **remote access**. For more information, see the library page, section **E-RESOURCES - Remote Access**.