

Appendix 1. Choosing a database: comparative table of six databases

| Database | Scope | Coverage | Bibliographic / Full-Text | Includes Subject Headings (Thesaurus) | Citation limit when exporting to Endnote |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Medline via OvidSP | Biomedical | 1946 – present 18,000,000 references indexing over 5,200 journals | Bibliographic (full text access for subscribed e-Journals) | Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) | 999 |
| Embase via OvidSP | Pharmacy and biomedical | 1947 – present 20,000,000 references indexing 7,000 journals | Bibliographic | Emtree | 999 |
| PubMed (free version of MedLine) | Biomedical plus some general science, chemistry and molecular biology. | 1946 (some earlier) – present 21,000,000 references indexing over 23,000 journals. Contains in-process citations for articles before they are indexed for Medline | Bibliographic (full text access for subscribed e-Journals) | MeSH for material from Medline | Not recommended for systematic review searches |
| Web of Science | Multi-disciplinary including Science, social Science, and arts and humanities | 1900 – present (science related material) 46,000,000 references indexing over 12,000 journals and 148,000 proceedings | Bibliographic (full text access for subscribed e-Journals) | WOS doesn't have a thesaurus or list of subject terms. Key concepts need to be identified and linked together. | 500 |
| Scopus | Multi-disciplinary including chemistry, science, and arts and humanities | 1996- present Over 21,500 titles (Over 21,500 peer-reviewed journals (including 4,200 full open access journals); Over 60 million records • Patents: • More than 27 million patent records from five patent offices | Bibliographic (full text access for subscribed e-Journals) | Scopus doesn't have a thesaurus or list of subject terms. Key concepts need to be identified and linked together | 2000 |
| Cinahl via Ebsco | Nursing, biomedicine, health sciences, alternative/ complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines | 1982- present Provides indexing for over 2,928 journals from the fields of nursing and allied health | Bibliographic (full text access for subscribed e-Journals) | Enter the search terms in the Find field, check the Suggest Subject Terms box and click Search. Note: You can also browse CINAHL or MeSH Headings by clicking the link in the top toolbar. | Add 50 at a time to the Folder, then export from Folder |