E-Resources for Health and Medicine

As a student of Health, Medicine or related disciplines you should familiarise yourself with a range of data sources, including E-Journal publications, E-Books, social and economic data, Legal sources, Theses and Dissertations, WWW resources and other reference sources, such as newspapers.

This guideline assumes you have a general familiarity with Library Web pages, are familiar with E-Journals (and Peer Reviewed Journals), are familiar with general principles for searching such as use of keywords and are familiar with tools for locating specific E-Resources. If you are unsure about any of these issues, please also see the following guides:

*Online and remote students using the Library for Online Programmes are advised to see the guide and video Brief Guide to the Library for Online Programmes*

- Tips for Searching
- Overview of Information Types and Information Sources
- How to Locate E-Resources
- Finding E-Resources Unavailable via our Systems
- Carrying your Literature Review or Systematic Review
- Searching for Theses and Dissertations
- Searching for Newspapers

Using Discover for E-Books and E-Journals

You should consult Discover as an initial source for E-Books and E-Journals; Discover includes all commercial E-Journal and E-Book collections subscribed by the University Library. Note - Discover does not include national data, statistics, standards, patents, legal and other specialist databases (see later sections of this guide).
You can search Discover from the University Library Web site and our LibGuides subject pages (note, these search options will display both print collections held at the University Library, abstract/citation results where full text may require further research and digital e-resources).

Additionally, Discover can be searched from the Library for Online Programmes (this option is recommended for online/remote students since this version of the Library is configured to display digital Library resources only (as far as possible (rather than print or abstract-only resources). The Discover search box shown in the Library for Online Programmes provides search filters directly on the page, such as subject-specific filters, ‘Ebooks (only)’, ‘Peer Review (only)’ and ‘Unrestricted (only)’ i.e. excluding restricted items such as DRM e-books from the search.

Following your Discover search, you can further refine search results using options such as ‘Subject’, ‘Language’, ‘Location’ or year range:

For additional detailed advice on searching Discover, information on search refinements and use of a personal profile to store personal preferences, see our guide Using Discover for E-Journals, E-Books and other Scholarly Content
**Alternative Major E-Journal Platforms**

In addition to Discover you can also use alternative multi-source platforms and citation databases, these include platforms such as SCOPUS and Web of Science. Use of alternative major databases may be necessary to demonstrate the breadth of sources used in your literature review plan or final research project proposal. You can see a full list of major platforms in our [LibGuides](#) subject pages for your academic discipline.

Additionally, online students can see a summary of major platforms shown in the [E-Resources](#) area of the *Library for Online Programmes*.

Major platforms such as SCOPUS and Web of Science can also be useful to confirm article citation/ publication details, to use detailed search options for a more accurate search. Web of Science includes a variety of advanced search options to filter your search by subject area, author, document type, country location and other criteria:

![Search Options](image)

SCOPUS includes similar options to filter a search by subject and other factors:
SCOPUS, Web of Science and other major platforms are primarily bibliographic databases, providing citations & abstract information derived from a wide range of global Library databases; these can provide a powerful additional search option alongside Discover. However, these platforms also usually provide a “Full Text” icon alongside search results, in some cases you may need to perform further research to locate items when searching via bibliographic databases How to Locate E-Resources and Finding E-Resources unavailable via our Systems.

In addition to commercial platforms, you can also use additional platforms such as Google Scholar or CrossRef to confirm the accuracy or missing details for a citation:
Google Scholar can be useful to determine if an unsubscribed article is freely available via the WWW (Scholar includes freely accessible scholarly papers from across the WWW and many University Library subscribed collections/platforms).

If you visit or search Google Scholar from Library Web pages then you will be logged in when you encounter resources in commercial collections/platforms. You should avoid accessing Google Scholar from its normal public URL, since you won’t be able to open secure content subscribed by the Library.

You can access Google Scholar from some Library Web pages. Additionally the Library for Online Programmes provides access to a Google Scholar search box/link from the Library for Online Programmes homepage:

![Google Scholar](image)

When using Scholar you can often access items from the normal links shown in results, however, sometimes you may need to use the alternative ‘Is it @ Liverpool’ or other suggested sources shown in the right menu:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternative to mental hospital treatment: I. Conceptual model, treatment program, and clinical evaluation</td>
<td>Li Stan, M.A. Test - Archives of General Psychiatry, 1986 - archgpsy.jamanetwork.com</td>
<td>Cited by 1537 Related articles All 6 versions Web of Science. 1007 Cite Save More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test anxiety inventory</td>
<td>CD Spielberger - 2010 - Wiley Online Library</td>
<td>Cited by 21347 Related articles All 6 versions Cite Save More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to classical and modern test theory</td>
<td>L Crocker, J Algina - 1986 - ERIC</td>
<td>Cited by 4621 Related articles All 4 versions Cite Save More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of insulin in relatives of patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>is it @ Liverpool?</td>
<td>HTML from outcomesdatabase.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As seen with all individual platforms/databases, you can create a personal profile on platforms such as Discover, SCOPUS, Web of Knowledge etc. this allows you to save searches, bookmark resources and personalise your experience when using these platforms, please see detailed guides on using these platforms within individual systems, see our guide [Using Discover for E-Journals, E-Books and other Scholarly Content](#).
SCOPUS and Web of Knowledge also provide valuable Journal Impact reporting tools, allowing you to evaluate the importance or impact of individual journals, articles or authors (e.g. via citation ranking from other article references), this topic is described in further detail later in this guideline.

Further help on using journal impact/ bibliometrics tools is provided via the University of Liverpool Web site (see the Research LibGuide).

Additionally, the Library for Online Programmes provides a range of guides and video on using journal impact tools (see the ‘Journal Impact’ icon in the side menu).

**Individual E-Journal Collections**

You should also be aware of individual E-Journal collections; content derived from individual collections typically will also display in multi source platforms such as Discover, or Web of Science but these platforms can display results slightly differently when viewed individually; these platforms also typically provide advanced search options to assist your research. You may need to consider use of individual E-Journal collections as part of your literature review or for planning your dissertation/ thesis proposal.

You can see a full list of individual full text platforms in our LibGuides subject pages for your academic discipline.

Additionally, online students can see a summary of major platforms shown in the E-Resources area of the Library for Online Programmes.

Inter-disciplinary full text collections include:

- ProQuest
- Emerald
- SAGE
- MetaPress
- ScienceDirect
Additionally, a search box is provided to search individual collections and major databases from the Library for Online Programmes (see the E-Journals page). You can refine the list of collections shown using the subject discipline selector beneath the search box:

You can also search key collections and major platforms from the 'Key Databases' search box (see the Library for Online Programmes homepage or the E-Journals page):
Additional sources

The following suggested sources are available from our subject LibGuides pages or other locations accessible from the University of Liverpool Library Web site, such as A-Z of databases (see the Electronic Library page).

Additionally, these sources are also available from the Library for Online Programmes (see the E-Journals page, subject pages etc.).

- Acland’s Video Atlas of Human Anatomy
- Anatomy TV
- NHS Evidence
- The Cochrane Library
- Net Anatomy
- Box of Broadcasts (TV & Cable) restricted to UK
- Henry Stewart Seminars
- Biblioboard (Interactive Archival Materials)

MEDLINE

MEDLINE (provided via the OVID database) includes bibliographic abstracts for more than 3,900 biomedical journals and coverage of the US National Library of Medicine’s 1,700,000 citations, these records include good coverage of both current and archival materials dating back to 1948.

When you visit the MEDLINE (OVID) homepage you will be viewing the “Advanced” search interface, you can select either to limit your search to general keywords, author name, title or journal name, additional options can be seen under the “Limits” link, including the ability to limit results to abstracts only, full text only (this will exclude “Is it @ Liverpool” and other links of full text link provided in MEDLINE and will only show content where full text is available in the MEDLINE database, e.g. via PUBMED), limit to core clinical journals (AIM compliant), or latest updates:
After you press “Search” you will be asked to select subject headings to further limit your search, these are topical categories within MEDLINE, e.g. in the following example we can limit our search to categories related to nursing care, nurse administrators or other categories, to see all results you should check all boxes shown:

When you press “Continue” you should see results shown lower down the page, results will include detailed citation and abstract information, including standard MeSH (medical) subject Headings, indicating the topical relevance of the item. Some results may show a PDF link to open the document directly (scroll to the end of a citation to check if a direct PDF link is available), e.g.:
Others results may rely on using the “Is it @ Liverpool” icon to check if the item is available via UoL subscriptions:

When following links in MEDLINE (OVID) you may prefer to right-click the link, then open the Web page/full text in a new window as OVID frequently opens links in the current window, depending on how your Web browser is configured this could mean your current search results are hidden when the new page opens.

Other Individual sources:

- PubMed – including many publicly accessible health documents, large bibliographic databases such as MEDLINE and a large library of freely accessible health E-Books (NCBI).
• CabDirect – including over 130,000 full text articles across a range of life sciences disciplines.
• BIOMED – providing access to many thousands of open access peer reviewed journals across a range of life sciences disciplines.
• Nature – a prominent peer reviewed journal including articles and commentary across a range of life sciences disciplines.

Anatomy TV

Anatomy TV provides detailed interactive 3D models of the human body, we have access to this service via the MEDLINE (OVID) collection or see a direct link to Anatomy TV under the E-Journals page, then click the “Life Sciences” tab.

NCBI - The National Center for Biotechnology Information advances science and health

The (US) National Center for Biotechnology Information provides access to biomedical and genomic information via full text article collections, interactive teaching and learning materials, bibliographic citation and abstract databases and software/ Web based applications such as data analysis tools.
Databases are available under the following categories:

- Chemicals & Bioassays
- Data & Software
- DNA & RNA
- Domains & Structures
- Genes & Expression
- Genetics & Medicine
- Genomes & Maps
- Homology
- Literature
- Proteins
- Sequence Analysis
- Taxonomy
- Training & Tutorials
- Variation

Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) and Clinical Trials sources

Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) and Clinical Trials sources include articles, reports and data provided as a consequence of clinical sampling within control or population groups:

- Cochrane - a prominent evidence based evidence based medicine portal, including the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials.
- TRIP – a database of evidence based sources, often providing full text access.
- Bandolier – a prominent evidence based health care journal including articles and commentary across a range of life sciences disciplines.
- NHS Evidence – The services cover health, social care and public health evidence. NICE Evidence Services consists of 6 resources: Evidence Search, Healthcare Database Advanced Search (HDAS), Clinical Knowledge Summaries (CKS), BNF micro-site, UK DUETS, Bulletins, Alerts and
Evidence Awareness service

Evidence Based Medicine is closely associated with formal Systematic Review methods for carrying out the literature search or a wider research project, also see our guide Carrying out your Literature Review or Systematic Review.

In the example below, we have searched the PubMed database using a keyword search from the search box in the E-Resources page, showing access to Full Text articles, including downloadable PDF links. By clicking the ‘advanced’ link at the top of the screen, we have also displayed advanced search refinements, including MeSH medical terms, organism name and other filters. In this example, we can also filter the search using the ‘index’ advanced option to limit publication by provider:
Systematic Review

Health and Life Sciences students may be required to use a more formal literature review process - this is often called Systematic Review.

Systematic Review usually consists of developing a search strategy built around topical terms related to the research question, then identifying a number of case studies to evaluate. If you are using a Systematic Review approach for your final written project, this should be defined in your research proposal or methodology.

There are a number of Systematic Review models, some of these are shown below. You should follow any special instructions for conducting a Systematic Review provided by your programme of study. Please contact your Librarian or tutors if you have any questions on the systematic review.

Systematic Review models:

- Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions
- Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre
- PRISMA systematic review model
- Centre for Reviews and Dissemination

Please see our guideline on Carrying out the Literature Review for further details.

For additional guidelines and tutorials on using individual platforms and citation databases see the following guides:

- Searching for E-Journal Articles and Scholarly Papers
- Using Bibliographic Databases
- Finding E-Resources unavailable via our Systems.

Additionally, the Library for Online Programmes provides a list of detailed guides on using individual databases.

E-Books

You can search across all University of Liverpool E-Books using either Discover or the Library Catalogue. You can access Discover from either the University of Liverpool Library homepage or our LibGuide subject pages (these search boxes will
display both printed content held in the University Library, abstract only citations and
digital e-resources).

Additionally, you can search for E-Books using Discover from the Library for Online
Programmes - including search filters such as ‘E-books (only)’, ‘Search by title’,
‘Unrestricted (only)’ – *limiting the search to DRM free i.e. unrestricted E-Books.*
Online students are recommended to use this Discover search since only full text e-
resources will be displayed as far as possible:

![Discover search interface](image)

For general advice on searching for E-Books, please see our guide [Searching for E-
Books](#) and for locating specific E-Books where you know the publication details, see
our guide [How to Locate E-Resources](#).

**Data, Statistics, and Reports**

You should become familiar with data, reports and statistics sources, including
company data, market research and similar sources provided by the Library. You
should note that data, reporting and statistical sources are often not included in multi
source platforms such as Discover and must be searched separately. These sources
can be summarised as follows:

- General social and demographic reporting and news sources – these sources
  include Discover and ProQuest.
- Statistical sources – these include census and national statistical information,
  including collections such as census.ac.uk, the Economic and Social Data
  Service (ESDS) and the Historical Population Reports (UK/ Ireland only).

You can browse data, statistics and reports sources from our subject [LibGuides](#) pages.
Additionally, data, statistics and reports sources are listed in the Library for Online Programmes (see the Data, Markets and Statistics page), you can either visit a database from the list shown or search directly from the page by selecting a database from the pull-down menu, then search by keyword:

![Search Data, Reports & Statistics](image)

In addition to commercial sources for reports mentioned above, you should also consider using WWW search tools identify WWW published documents (e.g. for NGO, official government, corporate or other professional reports), for further information on these options, see our guide Searching the Internet and Evaluating Web Sites.

You can see further examples using these sources in our guide Searching for Data, Reports and Statistics.

Newspapers

You can access Newspaper collections from the main University of Liverpool Library Web site (from here, see the “LibGuides” link, then follow the link to newspapers).

A link is also available to newspapers from the Library for Online Programmes (see the ‘News’ page).

Following the links to our newspaper collections will lead to our main newspaper ‘LibGuide’, providing country-specific, UK, contemporary and historical newspapers:
For further information on our newspaper coverage, see our guide **Searching for Newspapers**

**International Standards**

You can access a range of International Standards from our [LibGuide](#) subject pages.

Additionally, you can see a summary of International Standards in the [Library for Online Programmes](#) (see the ‘ISOs’ page):

- **ASM Handbooks Online**
- **British Standards Online**
  - Important - You may need to use VPN or Web Apps to access this database, see our [Construction Information Service](#)
- **ESDU - Engineering Sciences Data Unit**
International standards specifications include:

- British Standards Online
- IEC: Standards for electronic technologies.
- IEEE: Engineering standards.
- ISO Standards
- UK Ministry of Defence Standards

**Patents**

You can access a range of Patents sources from our [LibGuide](#) subject pages.

Additionally, you can see a summary of Patents sources in the [Library for Online Programmes](#) (see the ‘Patents’ page):

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<td>Discovery</td>
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<td>E-Journals</td>
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<td>Theses</td>
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<td>News</td>
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<td>ISOs</td>
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<td>Patents</td>
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Patents sources include:

- FreePatentsOnline.com
- Google Patents
- US Patent Full-text and Image Database

**Law Materials (case law, legislation, legal forms etc.)**

Legal sources include major Legal materials collections such as WestLaw UK/ International, Lexis, official sources such as the UK government official documents archive and EU collections such as EUROPA (EU laws). Our legal collections
include both international and country-specific materials, including case law, legislation, government papers and other legal materials.

The University Library provides a detailed LibGuide for legal information, databases and sources.

Additionally you can access a legal sources via the Library for Online Programmes (see the ‘Law’ page).

Some Legal sources such as WestLaw can be complex to search, however you can search many legal sources quickly from a direct search box provided in the Law area of the Library for Online Programmes. Major legal sources can also be searched from the homepage (See Quick Search/ Key databases). Whilst some direct search boxes are provided to simplify your legal search, you are advised to visit individual legal databases for advanced search features, this is particularly necessary for locating case law and other specialist legal materials.

**WWW Sources**

In addition to Google document/ corporate document search options – allowing you to search the WWW for focused document formats (in PDF, DOC etc.), you can also access a range of recommended WWW platforms and gateways to information.

For further information on these options, see our guide Searching the Internet and Evaluating Web Sites.

**Data Sets and Data Mining**

Data sets provide raw or systemised research in the form of population, medical, economic or other data types, the process of 'data mining' refers to the process of discovering and interpreting data sets to obtain useful patterns, trends or other observations from data to develop new research theory. You may find existing data sets provide a useful contribution to your own research. Data sets are derived from prior scientific, economic, social or other research projects or major government or statistical agencies. Data sets may be unique or represent longitudinal studies over many years or decades. You should consult your tutors/ dissertation or
thesis advisor regarding the academic appropriateness or usage of data sets.

Sources of data include the following:

- **Research Pipeline** (directory of data sources).
- **StatLib** (portal to data sources provided by Carnegie Mellon University).
- **DATA.GOV** (US Government data sources on a wide range of social, economic, industrial and international areas).
- **DATA.GOV.UK** (UK Government data).
- **Global Change Mastery Directory** (portal to geographical and biosciences data sources).
- **Google Public Data Explorer** (portal to data available freely on the WWW).
- **DMOZ** (Datasets listed on DMOZ Web Directory).

Data mining sources are also listed on our **Research LibGuide**.

Additionally, the **Library for Online Programmes** outlines data mining sources (see our **Research Support guide**).

**Further Help**

If you have any questions please contact your Librarian (see **list of Liaison Librarians** and **Librarian for Online Programmes**).