

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
<b>Medline via OvidSP</b>	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
<b>Embase via OvidSP</b>	Pharmacy and biomedical	1947 – present 20,000,000 references indexing 7,000 journals	Bibliographic	Emtree	999
<b>PubMed (free version of MedLine)</b>	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
<b>Web of Science</b>	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
<b>Scopus</b>	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
<b>Cinahl via Ebsco</b>	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