

# Electronic Information Retrieval and Management

Medline, Electronic media,  
Reference Manager

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# Outline

- Objectives of literature search
- Methods of finding relevant literature?
- Electronic Journals
  - Features/Advantages
- Database management
  - Reference Manager

# Literature Search

- Objectives
  - What has been published in the area?
  - Is my question novel?
  - How have similar questions been addressed?

# Literature Search

- Answering these questions allow you to determine the following:
  - What has been published in the area?
    - what is the context of my specific question?
    - what work should I cite when I publish?
  - Is my question novel?
    - how important is my question?
    - where should I publish
  - How have similar questions been addressed?
    - is my approach appropriate?
    - to what extent can comparisons be made?

# Literature Search

- What do we know?
- What don't we not know?
- What's the best approach?

# Search Methods

- Need to use several approaches
  - Medline
  - Abstracts of proceedings
  - Bibliographic searches
  - Review articles

# Medline search

- Good for:
  - Comprehensive search
  - Latest publications
  - State of the art approaches
- Not so good
  - Historical perspective
  - What are the important unanswered questions

# Abstracts

- A view to what will be published in the next 6 – 12 months
  - Are you going to get scooped?
  - Is your question still important?

# Bibliographic searches

- Historical perspective
  - Who is credited for a specific discovery
  - Which are the most cited papers
- Find references missed by Medline
- Referral to relevant areas not considered

# Review Articles

- Historical perspective
  - Who is credited for a specific discovery
  - Which are the most cited papers
- Referral to relevant areas not considered
- Strengths and weakness of various approaches
- Future directions

# Literature Searching



# Journals on line

- Most journals have print & Electronic formats
  - HTML or PDF
- Personal or library subscription gives you access to both (usually)
- Some journals are free
- Many journals make back issues available for free
- Wealth of accessible information on line

# Advantages of Electronic Media

# Features Unique to Electronic Media

- Links to abstracts in reference lists
- The ability to download citations of particular interest
- “Similar articles” feature;
- Email feature
- Large scale figures, graphs, charts, and photomicrographs



# Electronic Alerts

- eTOC
  - Electronic table of content
- “Cited by Alert”
  - Email message alert with a link to papers that cite a specific article
- Electronic abstract will list the articles that cite the paper

# Reference management



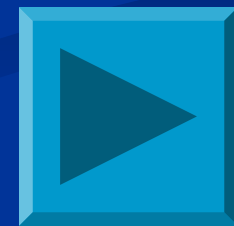
# Managing your references

- Databases soon become so large that they require a retrieval method
- References can be saved using bibliographic management software
  - Start doing this even if you do not have software!
- Stores references & abstracts electronically
- Allows keyword or author name retrieval
- Creates text citation and bibliography



# Citations and Bibliography

- Open up word processor
  - Reference Manager Tool Bar opens automatically
- Insert references using citation tool
- Select journal style
- Generate manuscript with bibliography



# Software options

- EndNote
- ProCite
- Reference Manager
- BibText

# Final advice

- Do repeated literature searches
- Use different methods
- Bibliographic searches often most relevant
- Electronic media has many advantages over print media
- Save searches now and download once software becomes available