

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