There is life beyond Google! Effective research tools for finding authoritative resources in family, community and public health

Nedelina Tchangalova, Physical Sciences and Public Health Librarian

Presented at Bioscience Day 2013:
From DNA to Cellular Function
November 19th, 2013

ABSTRACT
The Internet is an increasingly important source for finding information in public health. Google and Google Scholar are powerful tools to discover this scientific knowledge. However, in academia, researchers often need to dig up beneath the surface and find more authoritative resources and tools beyond the free Internet and to discover trends in community, family, public health, research through paid subscription databases. The aim of this poster is to show advanced search techniques to navigate the information landscape with specialized search engines (e.g. Clinical Key and POPLINE) and in databases (e.g. EMBASE, PubMed, and Scopus).

Google
Search Google like an expert with the following tips:
1. Use double quotes to search for a phrase.
   (Example: “colorectal cancer”)
2. Use OR (must be capitalized) for similar words and synonyms.
   (Example: cancer/OR neoplasm)
3. Use suffixes to limit to a specific site.
   (Example: “colorectal cancer” .gov)

Potential sources include the government, non-profit institutions, professional organizations, a health system, a communal organization, or an individual.

gov .edu .org .com .net .uk .de .fr .cu .nl .in .ru .es .br .ie .se .jp .au .tw .tw .co .uk .ca .nz .nl .it .fr .be .pt .es .de .hu .co .uk .de .fr .se .es .it .au .it .de .fr .se .es .it .au .it .de .fr

Google Scholar
Use Advanced Search to search for specific author, article title, sort by date, etc.

Google Scholar only searches a fraction of the published scholarly literature. Use Research Post to search one of the many databases covering scholarly publications. Some of the subject specific databases are: Academic Search Premier, EMBASE, Science Direct, Scopus, PubMed and many more.

CLINICAL KEY
Upgraded and expanded from MD Consult, this online search tool provides one stop searching of hundreds of Elsevier's medical books, textbooks and very current journals, Procedures Consult (medical procedure videos), First Consult (evidence-based clinical decision-making), and MEDLINE search. This resource is specifically designed to support physicians in evidence-based clinical care and clinical education, and also supports researchers and instructors with an included presentation builder for use with images and videos.

POPLINE
POPLINE (POPulation information onLINE), the world's largest database on reproductive health, provides more than 300,000 citations with abstracts on populations, family planning, and related health issues. POPLINE has numerous special features including links to free, full text documents; the ability to limit your search to peer-reviewed journal articles; and many abstracts in French and Spanish. POPLINE is maintained by the INFO project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs and is funded primarily by the United States Agency for International Development.

EMBASE
EMBASE covers the latest international biomedical and pharmaceutical research including Medline plus as well over 5 million records not covered on MEDLINE. Indexes current, mostly peer-reviewed journals and includes also published proceedings and conference abstracts. Users can search research on adverse drug reactions, compare drug therapies for disease and search for evidence-based medicine research.

POPLINE covers the latest international biomedical and pharmaceutical research including Medline plus as well over 5 million records not covered on MEDLINE. Indexes current, mostly peer-reviewed journals and includes also published proceedings and conference abstracts. Users can search research on adverse drug reactions, compare drug therapies for disease and search for evidence-based medicine research.

Differences between

PubMed, EMBASE, and Scopus
1. For beginning most searches in the health sciences, PubMed is the first choice. The searches appear to be very specific with the explosion of MeSH. Use Related Citations to find similar to those found in your search results.
2. For more European journals, non-English journals, and more drug therapy journals, Embase is the preferred database. It indexes many journals not covered by PubMed.
3. For finding articles that cite the articles found in your searches, Scopus is the best choice.
   • Coverage: Scopus covers all the journals included in PubMed and Embase from 1996-present but it is not as up to date as PubMed.
   • Search algorithm: Using the same search in Scopus will yield different results in PubMed and Embase.
   • Thesaurus: Scopus doesn’t have a thesaurus of its own but it can search subject headings assigned by PubMed and Embase as keywords without exploding MeSH and Emtree terms.

Contact:
Nedelina Tchangalova
Engineering & Physical Science Library (EPSL)
Math Building #4824, Room 1403
University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742
Phone: 301-405-9151
Email: nedelina@umd.edu

POPLINE
POPLINE (POPulation information onLINE), the world's largest database on reproductive health, provides more than 300,000 citations with abstracts on populations, family planning, and related health issues. POPLINE has numerous special features including links to free, full text documents; the ability to limit your search to peer-reviewed journal articles; and many abstracts in French and Spanish. POPLINE is maintained by the INFO project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs and is funded primarily by the United States Agency for International Development.

EMBASE
EMBASE covers the latest international biomedical and pharmaceutical research including Medline plus as well over 5 million records not covered on MEDLINE. Indexes current, mostly peer-reviewed journals and includes also published proceedings and conference abstracts. Users can search research on adverse drug reactions, compare drug therapies for disease and search for evidence-based medicine research.

POPLINE
POPLINE (POPulation information onLINE), the world's largest database on reproductive health, provides more than 300,000 citations with abstracts on populations, family planning, and related health issues. POPLINE has numerous special features including links to free, full text documents; the ability to limit your search to peer-reviewed journal articles; and many abstracts in French and Spanish. POPLINE is maintained by the INFO project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs and is funded primarily by the United States Agency for International Development.

EMBASE
EMBASE covers the latest international biomedical and pharmaceutical research including Medline plus as well over 5 million records not covered on MEDLINE. Indexes current, mostly peer-reviewed journals and includes also published proceedings and conference abstracts. Users can search research on adverse drug reactions, compare drug therapies for disease and search for evidence-based medicine research.

POPLINE
POPLINE (POPulation information onLINE), the world's largest database on reproductive health, provides more than 300,000 citations with abstracts on populations, family planning, and related health issues. POPLINE has numerous special features including links to free, full text documents; the ability to limit your search to peer-reviewed journal articles; and many abstracts in French and Spanish. POPLINE is maintained by the INFO project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs and is funded primarily by the United States Agency for International Development.

EMBASE
EMBASE covers the latest international biomedical and pharmaceutical research including Medline plus as well over 5 million records not covered on MEDLINE. Indexes current, mostly peer-reviewed journals and includes also published proceedings and conference abstracts. Users can search research on adverse drug reactions, compare drug therapies for disease and search for evidence-based medicine research.

POPLINE
POPLINE (POPulation information onLINE), the world's largest database on reproductive health, provides more than 300,000 citations with abstracts on populations, family planning, and related health issues. POPLINE has numerous special features including links to free, full text documents; the ability to limit your search to peer-reviewed journal articles; and many abstracts in French and Spanish. POPLINE is maintained by the INFO project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health/Center for Communication Programs and is funded primarily by the United States Agency for International Development.