

Literature Searching Guidelines Checklist for Researchers

Categories	Questions	Comments
Currency	Use appropriate current proprietary databases? Use appropriate current web search engines?	
Comprehensiveness	Non-english language? Cover literature from time drug/substance introduced? Databases cover time period? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old MEDLINE • Science Citation Index [Web of Science/Web of Knowledge] • Embase • Citation analysis? Used print indexes to cover time period? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Index Medicus • Science Citation Index • Biological Abstracts/Chemical Abstracts? 	
Appropriate Resources	<p>Clinical/Basic Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEDLINE (Ovid/PubMed)? • Web of Science? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Science Citation Index? ◦ Social Science Citation Index? • BIOSIS • Chemical Abstracts <p>Pharmacology/Toxicology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micromedex • Toxnet • Toxline • ChemID and ChemIDPlus • SciFinder Scholar • Embase • International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA) • Material Safety Data Sheets Collection • USP DI Drug Information for the Health Care Professional <p>Evidence-Based Practice Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR)? • Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effectiveness (DARE)? • Controlled Clinical Trial Register (CCTR)? • Clinical Evidence? <p>Appropriate print resources (no electronic counterpart)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug handbooks (current/historical) • Other handbooks, dictionaries, etc.? 	
Search Strategy	Searched all concepts? Used MeSH? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploded Subheadings Used necessary check tags? Used appropriate Boolean combinations? Used textwords appropriately? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used appropriate synonyms? Used appropriate truncation? Used positional operators appropriately?	

Categories	Questions
Search Documentation	<p>General narrative of search process?</p> <p>Are web searches documented with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date search conducted? • Date printed? • Search terms used? • Search engine used? • Literature summary? • Bibliography? <p>Are searches on proprietary databases (MEDLINE, Toxline, etc) documented with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date search conducted? • Date printed? • Search terms used? • Parameters/limits noted? • Printout of search strategy attached? • Literature Summary? • Bibliography?