

Start with these databases:

MEDLINE via Ovid - Access via StarPlus
Main database for medical literature. Uses MeSH.

Pubmed – free access to Medline
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>
Useful for papers not yet indexed in Medline and for doing a scoping search.
Uses MeSH. Pubmedreminder –
<http://hgserver2.amc.nl/cgi-bin/miner/miner2.cgi>
Useful to find search terms and map out a new topic.

CINAHL - Access via Starplus
Good for nursing and allied health professions research and **qualitative research**. Uses CINAHL headings not MeSH.

Cochrane Library (made up of 3 databases)
www.thecochranelibrary.com
Cochrane database of systematic reviews, central register of controlled trials and clinical answers. Uses MeSH.

EMBASE Access via SchARR Library Password
A huge health sciences database, on pharmacological substances. Includes a lot of papers that you won't find on MEDLINE. Uses Emtree headings not MeSH.

PsycINFO - Access via StarPlus
Good for mental health topics uses The Thesaurus of Psychological Index terms not MeSH

Other useful databases/ websites depending on your topic:

ASSIA (Applied Social Sciences Index & Abstracts)
Access via StarPlus (e.g. health, social services, education)

Dimensions - Access via Starplus
Find full text journal papers, clinical trials, patents and policy documents in a wide range of research fields including medicine, social science, arts and humanities.

Humanities Index - Access via StarPlus, major subjects e.g. art, philosophy, music

IBSS International Bibliography of the Social Sciences
Access via StarPlus (e.g. anthropology, economics, political science and sociology)

Scopus / Web of Science - Access via Starplus
Multidisciplinary broad databases, good for public health questions.

Econ Lit– Access via Starplus useful for **economic literature**.

DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects) and NHS EED (Economic Evaluation Database) archive 1994-2015 available at:
<https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb>

Health statistics list
<https://www.shef.ac.uk/library/hsl/healthstats>

SchARR HUD- <https://www.scharrhud.org/>
Health utilities database produced within SchARR

Centre for Evidence Based Medicine
<http://www.cebm.net/>

NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries <https://cks.nice.org.uk/>
CKS – summaries of evidence & best practice guidance for over 300 primary care presentations.

ClinicalTrials.gov <https://clinicaltrials.gov>
Registry and summary results of publicly and privately supported clinical studies conducted around the world for a wide range of diseases and conditions.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network Portfolio database
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-impact/nihr-clinical-research-network-portfolio/>
High-quality clinical research studies, part of the UK Clinical Research Network Portfolio

NIHR-INAHTA Database
www.inahta.org/hta-tools-resources/database/
Ongoing and published health technology assessments.

TRIP database <https://www.tripdatabase.com>
Clinical search engine designed to support evidence based practice. E.g. clinical guidelines, systematic reviews.

Medicines Information
www.ukmi.nhs.uk Information useful for those commissioning, managing, prescribing, dispensing and administering drugs.

WHO (World Health Organisation) Regional Databases (Global Index Medicus)
<http://www.globalhealthlibrary.net> or Regional health and medical databases information about the health material published locally.
Complements a Medline search.

British Sociological Association
<https://www.britisoc.co.uk/>

British Association of Social Workers
<https://www.basw.co.uk/>

QIPP Programme (Quality Innovation, Productivity and Prevention)
<http://ukpolicymatters.thelancet.com/qipp-programme-quality-innovation-productivity-and-prevention/>
Case studies of how health and social care staff are improving quality and productivity across the NHS and social care.

UK Social Policy Association www.social-policy.org.uk
Provides access to publications, information on social policy, and access to Social Policy Net, the SPA's social policy Internet gateway.

Social Care Institute for Excellence
<https://www.scie.org.uk/> Includes access to the electronic Library for Social Care (eLSC).

Grey Literature

Grey literature is evidence which is not published in journals databases like Medline. Examples are theses, reports, service evaluations, practitioner research and so on.

General tip - think through relevant organisations (e.g. government bodies, policy organisations, charities, patient / self-help groups, research organisations, research conferences) and consult their webpages - there is often a publications page to be found. Conference papers published in a journal will come up through a regular database search (e.g. Medline).

Grey Matters A practical tool for searching health-related grey literature
<https://www.cadth.ca/resources/finding-evidence/grey-matters>

Open Grey
Web address <http://www.opengrey.eu>
First port of call for Grey lit, multidisciplinary.

NICE Evidence search
<https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>
Useful for Grey Lit including public health, drugs and technologies, commissioning and health management and social care information. Allows the user to limit the search by organisation, type of information and subject focus.

NICE - National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Includes access to the BNF and NICE Guidelines. <https://www.nice.org.uk>
NICE is an independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health.

Social Care Online
<https://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk>
This is a database that indexes social care information which is very rich in grey literature. Requires registration. To search for grey literature search within Advanced search and content, type: government report, inspection report, practice guidance, statistical information or consultation document.

White Rose e-theses online
<http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/>

Proquest Dissertations and Theses Database
Access via Starplus. All subjects, international

EThOS (Electronic Thesis Online Service)
<https://ethos.bl.uk/>
All subjects, UK only

DART Europe E-Thesis Portal – All subjects, Europe
<http://www.dart-europe.eu/basic-search.php>

Open Access Button
<https://openaccessbutton.org/>
Free research articles and data - Avoid Paywalls

Filters and other tools

A search filter is a set of search terms (e.g. “randomised controlled trial or rct”) that you add at the end of your search to cut it down to only one kind of study e.g. rcts, systematic reviews, qualitative or economic evaluations. You can find some pre-made filters below, just copy and paste into Medline etc. Don't forget to reference where you got the filter from in your work.

ISSG
<https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/issg-search-filters-resource/home>
(Filters produced by information specialists working on NICE Technology Assessments)

SIGN
<https://www.sign.ac.uk/search-filters.html>

McMaster Hedges
http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/HIRU_Hedges_MEDLINE_Strategies.aspx

Pubmed Clinical filters <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/clinical>
Limits your pubmed search results to particular study types

Pubmed health services research filters
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hedges/search.html>
Scroll down to see the option to limit to different categories e.g. qualitative research

Systematic Review Handbooks:
Centre For Reviews and Dissemination guide
<https://www.york.ac.uk/crd/guidance/>

Cochrane handbook
<http://training.cochrane.org/handbook>

Quality Assessment Checklists (others are available, ask your supervisor):
CASP(Critical Appraisal Skills Programme)
<http://www.casp-uk.net/>

Joanna Briggs Institute
https://joannabriggs.org/critical_appraisal_tools

The Systematic Review Toolbox
systematicreviewtools.com/