Subject Guide for ScHARR Students

Start with these databases:

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

Pubmed – free access to Medline
Useful for papers not yet indexed in Medline and for doing a scoping search.
Uses MeSH. Pubmedreminer –
http://hs2server2.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 6 databases)
www.thecochranelibrary.com
Systematic reviews, critical appraisals of systematic reviews. Controlled trials, trial methodology, health technology assessments and economic evaluations. 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)

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.

NHS EED (Economic Evaluation Database) v Access via The Cochrane Library (see above) and Econ Lit – Access via Starplus, both useful for economic literature.

Health statistics list
http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/hsl/healthstats

ScHARR HUD - http://www.scharrhud.org/
Health utilities database produced within ScHARR.

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

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

ClinicalTrials.gov www.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
http://www.inahta.org/hta-tools-resources/database/
Ongoing and published health technology assessments.

TRIP database - 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
http://www.britsoc.co.uk/

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

QIPP (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  http://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
http://www.scie.org.uk/ Includes access to the electronic Library for Social Care (eLSC).

For help and advice please consult Scharr library staff or IRIS (see the ScHARR library and IRIS module on MOLE)
T: +44 (0)114 272 5420/ scharrlib@sheffield.ac.uk / www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/sections/ir/library
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. A good starting point is this Wiki, which includes a short film on what grey literature is. http://hlwiki.slais.ubc.ca/index.php/Grey_literature

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).

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. 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
http://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)
http://ethos.bl.uk/
All subjects, UK only

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

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T: +44 (0)114 272 5420/ scharrlib@sheffield.ac.uk / www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/sections/ir/library

Open Access Button
https://openaccessbutton.org/
Free research articles and data

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
http://www.sign.ac.uk/search-filters.html

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

Limits your pubmed search results to particular study types

Pubmed health services research filters
Scroll down to see the option to limit to different categories e.g. qualitative studies

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
http://joannabriggs.org/research/critical-appraisal-tools.html

The Systematic Review Toolbox
http://systematicreviewtools.com