Database choices for systematic reviews

When conducting a systematic review (SR) you must search more than one or two databases. But which ones?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medline</td>
<td>Essential for any SR</td>
<td>Medicine, nursing, healthcare, medical and life sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cochrane Library</td>
<td>Essential for any SR</td>
<td>Medicine, nursing, healthcare – systematic reviews and trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinahl</td>
<td>Consider this for any topic</td>
<td>Nursing and allied health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web of Science Core Collection</td>
<td>Consider this for any topic</td>
<td>All subjects. Indexes conference papers and abstracts. Allows citation searching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>Consider this for any topic</td>
<td>All subjects. Indexes conference papers and abstracts. Allows citation searching</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Then, choose from this list as appropriate, depending on your subject:

- Complementary therapies - AMED
- Education – British Education Index, ERIC
- Midwifery – Cinahl, Maternity and Infant Care Database
- Nursing, allied health – AMED, Cinahl
- Occupational therapy – AMED, OT Seeker
- Palliative care - AMED
Many of these databases do not comprehensively index journals from central or south America, Africa and Asia. If there are likely to be publications in your topic in journals from those areas, or your topic is of particular importance there, consider:

- African Journals Online
- Global Index Medicus
- J-STAGE
- SciELO

Nexis also includes some health and medical journals.

You are welcome to contact us for advice: librarians@le.ac.uk.

If you have an NHS contract, or are a medical, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy or ODP student, you can access NHS databases:

- **British Nursing Index** (nursing), **Embase** (medicine, life sciences, pharmacology), **Emcare** (nursing), **HMIC** (health management, non clinical aspects of healthcare).

To access these you need NHS Athens. Students should contact the University Library (librarians@le.ac.uk), NHS staff should contact their hospital library, to find out how to register.

For advice on searching for clinical trials in progress, for grey literature, or about other ways to find literature, please contact us: librarians@le.ac.uk