

SEARCHING AND FINDING THE EVIDENCE

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The practice of evidence based medicine means integrating individual clinical expertise with the best available external clinical evidence from systematic research.¹ This definition can of course be applied generally to evidence based healthcare. In this session, we will explore finding the evidence. We will look at a range of resources which provide access to primary and secondary studies, from clinical point of care summary tools to databases such as the Cochrane Library and Medline to grey literature.

The session will look at methods of searching for studies including identifying search terms, scoping and testing searches. We will examine search techniques and compare keyword with subject searches and look at applying filters to the results. Documenting search strategies, saving searches and setting up alerts, in order to stay abreast of new studies will also be discussed.

Finally, sources of guidance on the search process will be considered.

1. Sackett, D.L. et al