Medical Library or Medical Reference Tools and Databases – Descriptions, Direct Links

General Information

• It is always important to consider the Publication Year, Source (i.e. journal, blog, video, etc), Type of Article (Review, Original Research, Case Report/Study, etc) of the published information when determining credibility of the provided information.

• **6S Pyramid** – this is a tool that can be used to assist with sorting through results from PubMed and other databases to determine quality of the evidence. Always remember to trust your training, instincts, and clinical judgement. The 6S Pyramid matched to available UT databases is available [here](#).

• Consider important words, terminology, and database preferred terms (aka controlled vocabulary) before starting the search. It takes a little extra time at the beginning of a project, but it eventually saves you time!

• **“”** – these are useful for finding specific information. Use with caution!

• **OR** (terms in articles placed before or after this word are retrieved), **AND** (terms before and after this word must appear in article), **NOT** (any words in articles located after this term are excluded). Only with 50K+ results and after multiple searching attempts do I use this!

Medical Reference, Medical Library, and Quick Access to Information Products

**UptoDate** – Cost covered by the *College of Medicine and Life Sciences*!

• For off campus (remote) access, create a personal account when you are on the UT wifi (main campus, health science campus) or create a personal account on a UT computer lab. Either way, **please** use your University of Toledo email address. This login information can be used to access UptoDate Anywhere and every 90 days a reminder email will “pop-up” to maintain access.

• Scroll all the way to the bottom for access to references.

**DynaMed** – Cost covered by the library.

• It has an app, but a personal account must be created to access it.

• Search this as if it is a database, although the tool is designed to be used at the bedside or to quickly locate information.

• Drug information is provided by the American Hospital Formulary System (AHFS).

**VisualDx** – Cost covered by the *College of Medicine and Life Sciences*!

• It has an app and it is connected to UptoDate. You can go from VisualDx into UptoDate, but you cannot go from UptoDate into VisualDx.

• This was originally designed for Dermatologists.

• Use a picture or description for getting additional information on a rash, bump, and other conditions.
Databases – Direct Link (Underlined heading) and Short Description

**PubMed (aka Medline!)** – *Freely accessible* Biomedical Literature Database

- I do not recommend the app.
- MeSH terms (controlled vocabulary) are added 3-6 months, after an article is published, and keywords are added immediately. Combine both MESH and Keywords for an effective search.
- Advanced Search – records searches and links to article abstracts until the browser window is closed.
- Single Citation Matcher (main PubMed screen, lower right hand corner) – enter minimal information (i.e. publication year, journal, author or title information) and locate complete citations and articles.

**Embase** – Cost covered by the library.

- It provides drug development information and does a fantastic job of getting articles from European conferences and publications.
- Some overlap in content with PubMed exists, but it is possible to separate them. This “feature” is not perfect.
- Emtree is the controlled vocabulary for this database.

**CINAHL** (Cumulative Index for Nursing and Allied Health Literature) – Cost covered by the library.

- This is the best place to search for public health focused projects, because it provides articles published by social workers, public health professionals, psychologists, nurses, and doctors!
- CINAHL Headings (aka controlled vocabulary) overlap a bit but not consistently with MeSH terms.

**Clinical Key** – Cost covered by the library.

- Ignore the big search box and click directly on topic headings (books, journals, etc) instead.
- Procedure Consults, Multimedia – find videos and descriptions of techniques and skills you will learn in the clerkship years or to see a demonstration of something you heard in lecture.
- Practice Guidelines – this is the fastest way to locate them, although you can find them with a bit of extra effort in PubMed, UptoDate, and DynaMed.

**Access Medicine** – Cost covered by the library.

- Most of your textbooks and exam preparatory books, self-quiz options, and flashcards are available here.
- A personal account is required for both using the flashcard option to review materials or for accessing the [USMLE Easy Test Bank](#).