



Sources of Evidence-Based Literature

<p>Primary Sources – “Unfiltered” – Non-Assessed</p> <p>These are large databases where unfiltered or primary studies and reports can be found. These databases index a wide range of publication types. They are considered “unfiltered” because the validity of evidence is determined by close examination by the individual researcher. The advantage of searching primary resources is in their size and scope. There is a high probability of finding some information on your question in one of these resources whereas the much smaller pre-filtered resources may not have the evidence you need. Primary resources are complex databases that require some skill and knowledge in order to search them efficiently. Exceptions occur as more meta-analyses and systematic reviews are indexed in the larger databases.</p>	<p>Secondary Resources – “Pre-filtered” – Pre-Assessed</p> <p>These are comparatively smaller resources yet have higher levels of evidence. “Pre-filtered” resources are those where one or more expert has identified the value of a study or a group of studies and presented an analysis of the findings and clinical relevance. Sources of the primary literature have already been searched by researchers or study groups. These resources tend to employ a keyword or natural language search methodology, which makes them much easier to search than the controlled vocabulary/subject heading structured searching of MEDLINE and other large bibliographic databases. They tend to be small and take longer to produce than primary sources.</p>
<p>Examples of Primary Study Types Relevant to EBM are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical Trials Randomized Control Trials Multicenter Studies Epidemiology Studies Prospective Studies Retrospective Studies Cohort Studies Case Control Studies 	<p>Examples of Secondary Study Types Relevant to EBM are: (An Expert Analysis is included in the Review)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic Reviews Article Reviews Meta-analysis Topic Reviews
<p>Examples Sources :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEDLINE EMBASE CINAHL Cochrane Controlled Trials Registry (CCTR) 	<p>Examples of Pre-filtered Sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence-based Medicine Reviews (Ovid), Clinical Evidence, Cochrane Library Turning Research Into Practice (TRIP) database. PIER (ACP)

Evidence Based Medicine (EBM) Toolkit <http://library.med.nyu.edu/library/eresources/toolkits/ebm/index.html>

The term pre-filtered refers to resources containing information that has been identified by experts as clinically significant. The high-quality information has been reviewed and summarized for use in clinical practice. With the exception of Up-To-Date the resources described below are prefiltered.¹

Resource	Description	Ease of Use
Evidence Based Medicine Reviews on Ovid Available: NYU Community http://library.med.nyu.edu	<i>Simultaneously searches four databases:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACP Journal Club - Full Text Contains both abstracts and expert commentaries from the fields of internal medicine, family practice, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery and obstetrics & gynecology. The editors revisit the reviews every 5 yrs. to ensure currency. Queries can be further filtered by question type: Therapeutics, Diagnosis, Etiology and Prognosis. • Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews - Full Text Includes the full text of the regularly updated systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare prepared by The Cochrane Collaboration. The reviews are presented in two types: completed reviews and protocols (topics in the process of being reviewed). High quality, comprehensive reviews of therapeutics only. • Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE) - Full Text Contains critical assessments of systematic reviews from a variety of medical journals. DARE records cover topics such as diagnosis, prevention, rehabilitation, screening, and treatment. • Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials Includes the database records of controlled trials studied to produce the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and Database of Abstracts of Effectiveness. Primary source of over 250,000 Clinical Trials. 	Ovid search interface. Fast & Easy. Keyword searching only. Links to MEDLINE. Updated Quarterly.
Clinical Evidence Available: NYU Community http://library.med.nyu.edu	A compendium of evidence on the effects of common clinical interventions, published by the British Medical Journal Publishing Group. Provides a concise account of the current state of knowledge, ignorance, and uncertainty about the prevention & treatment of a wide range of clinical conditions, based on searches of the literature. Interventions are qualified as “most beneficial,” “likely to be beneficial,” “less beneficial,” etc. Use for therapeutics. Does not consider Dx.	Keyword search interface. Fast & Easy. Full Text. Links to Medline
Cochrane Library Available: NYU Community http://library.med.nyu.edu	Contains the following: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials. Plus: Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA), NHS Economic Evaluation Database (abstracts of economic evaluations of healthcare interventions), The Cochrane Database of Methodology Reviews and The Cochrane Methodology Register. Some overlap with Ovid’s EBMR. Simple search engine. Updated Quarterly	Supports keyword and subject searching. Fast & Easy. Full Text of entire reviews available.
UpToDate Available: NYU Community http://library.med.nyu.edu No remote access/oncampus only	Frequently updated online “text book” of reviews. It is useful for answering both focused clinical questions & background questions. Major emphasis on Internal Medicine at present. Considered expert opinion but becoming more evidence-based.	Search by topic or keyword. Windows only. Updated quarterly.
TRIP Database -- Available: NYU Community http://library.med.nyu.edu	The Turning Research into Practice database searches over 55 sites of high-quality medical information simultaneously for direct, hyperlinked access to the largest collection of 'evidence-based' material on the web, as well as articles from premier on-line journals such as the BMJ, JAMA, NEJM and more.	Simple search engine for searching many EBM and full text sites.
PIER Available: NYU Community http://library.med.nyu.edu	Decision-support tool designed for rapid point-of-care delivery of up-to-date, evidence-based guidance for clinicians. PIER is a collection of modules divided into five topic areas: Diseases, Screening and Prevention, Complimentary and Alternative Medicine, Ethical and Legal Issues, and Procedures. Information often displayed in Table format.	Easy to use and known for it Tables.

¹ Hunt, Dereck L. MD, MSc; Jaeschke, Roman MD, MSc; McKibbin, K. Ann MLS; for the Evidence-Based Medicine Working Group. Users' Guides to the Medical Literature: XXI. Using Electronic Health Information Resources in Evidence-Based Practice. JAMA April 12, 2000;283(14):1875-1879