# Optometry Research: Databases and Search Tips

## Most Commonly Used Databases

Online resources are available on campus and remotely with a UMSL SSO ID and password.

### Summon

A Google-like search engine that indexes most of our print and online resources. To view only scholarly articles, use one of the search limits on the left of the results screen.

### Cochrane Library

- **1996-present** (Systematic Reviews)
- **1898-present** (Clinical Trials)

The Cochrane Library is a unique source of reliable and up-to-date information on the effects of interventions in healthcare. Look here to find evidenced-based systematic reviews and clinical trials. A single review can lead you to many studies—check the “References” in the article. You can also locate additional related resources through the “Cited by” tab in the article.

Online “How To” Guides:

- [Cochrane Basic Search guide](#)

### MEDLINE (EBSCO)

MEDLINE is essentially the same as PubMed but with a different user interface. MEDLINE (EBSCO) has the same user interface as Academic Search Complete. If you have an EBSCO account and use the EBSCO folders to save articles, you might want to use MEDLINE (EBSCO) instead of PubMed or MEDLINE (Ovid).

Online “How To” Guides:

- [MEDLINE (Ovid)](#)

### PubMed @ UMSL

PubMed comprises more than 23 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books.

Online “How To” Guides:

- [PubMed@UMSL Basics](#)
- [PubMed: Using Filters](#)

### PubMed Central (PMC)

PMC is an electronic archive of full-text journal articles, offering free access to its contents. PMC contains more than 3 million articles; most have a corresponding entry in PubMed.

### PubMed Health

PubMed Health provides information for consumers and clinicians on prevention and treatment of diseases and conditions. It specializes in systematic reviews of clinical effectiveness research. PubMed Health includes abstracts or summaries from the Cochrane Library and public agencies such as AHRQ.
### VisionCite
**1984-present**

VisionCite is maintained by the Illinois College of Optometry and provides targeted access to the vision science literature. We recommend you use VisionCite in conjunction with PubMed (or Medline) for the most complete coverage. VisionCite contains more than 325,000 articles, and roughly 12,000 citations are added to the database annually.

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### Other Databases To Try

*Online resources are available on campus and remotely with a UMSL SSO ID and password.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Search Complete</strong></td>
<td>Academic Search Complete is a scholarly, multidisciplinary database, with more than 8,500 full-text periodicals, including more than 7,300 peer-reviewed journals.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education Full Text</strong></td>
<td>Education Full Text and ERIC are excellent resources for articles related to education, such as patient education, reading and learning disabilities, and school-based programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ERIC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Health and Psychosocial Instruments (HaPI)</strong></td>
<td>HaPI is a comprehensive database indexing articles about behavioral measurement instruments from leading journals in health sciences and psychosocial sciences. Citations in HaPI provide information on questionnaires, interview schedules, vignettes/scenarios, coding schemes, rating and other scales, checklists, indexes, tests, projective techniques, and more.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Journals@Ovid Full Text</strong></td>
<td>Journals@Ovid provides access to the full text of a wide variety of nursing and medical journals. Related resources can be located using the “Find Citing Articles” as seen in Medline.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PsychInfo</strong></td>
<td>PsychINFO is largest resource devoted to peer-reviewed literature in the psychological, social, behavioral, and health sciences.</td>
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<td>• PsychInfo</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ScienceDirect</strong></td>
<td>ScienceDirect includes peer-reviewed content from over 12 million full-text articles from Elsevier journals.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scopus</strong></td>
<td>Scopus is a citation and abstracting database that covers peer-reviewed journals. Here you can discover how many times an article has been cited and in what article it was cited. This can assist in the uncovering more helpful resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Sciences</strong></td>
<td>Click the link to the left for a full list of Health Sciences databases.</td>
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Search Tips

Tips for Finding Articles:

- Use the truncation or wildcard symbol (*) to search variant word endings:
  - optometr* = optometry, optometrist, optometric
- Combine different concepts using AND:
  - glaucoma AND diagnosis
- Combine synonyms using OR:
  - therapy OR treatment
- Limit your results by: Date, Peer Reviewed, Publication Type, Age Group, etc.
  - Only use two or three limits at a time to prevent reduced results.
- Don’t limit your search to full-text articles. ArticleLinker can help you find full text.
- If you already have a citation, follow the steps in this guide to find the full-text article: Articles from Journal Citations.
- If you have an article and you want to see who has cited it, follow the steps in this guide: Where Articles Have Been Cited.
- If an article or book is not available in print or online at UMSL, request the article through InterLibrary Loan (ILL).

Saving Articles in EBSCO Folders

If you use EBSCO databases such as MEDLINE (via EBSCO), Academic Search Complete, Education Full Text, ERIC, and PsychInfo, you may want to create an EBSCO account. Logging in to your EBSCO account while you are searching the databases allows you to save articles and searches in folders and retrieve them later. See the Create An EBSCO Account guide for more information.

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