



# Library overview and database searching

NSC WIP seminar

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With some presentation content adapted from  
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## Who am I?

- ▶ Undergrad degree in Engineering and Applied Math
- ▶ Information science masters degree
- ▶ 5 years at uOttawa



# Library services

- ▶ Access to so many journals/databases!
- ▶ Physical library in RGN
  - ▶ Get books delivered here from any campus
- ▶ Interlibrary requests for articles and books we don't subscribe to
- ▶ Individual research consultations



# Library

## What is on the library website?

Collections

Research help

Services

Locations and hours

About

Ask us

[www.uottawa.ca/library](http://www.uottawa.ca/library)



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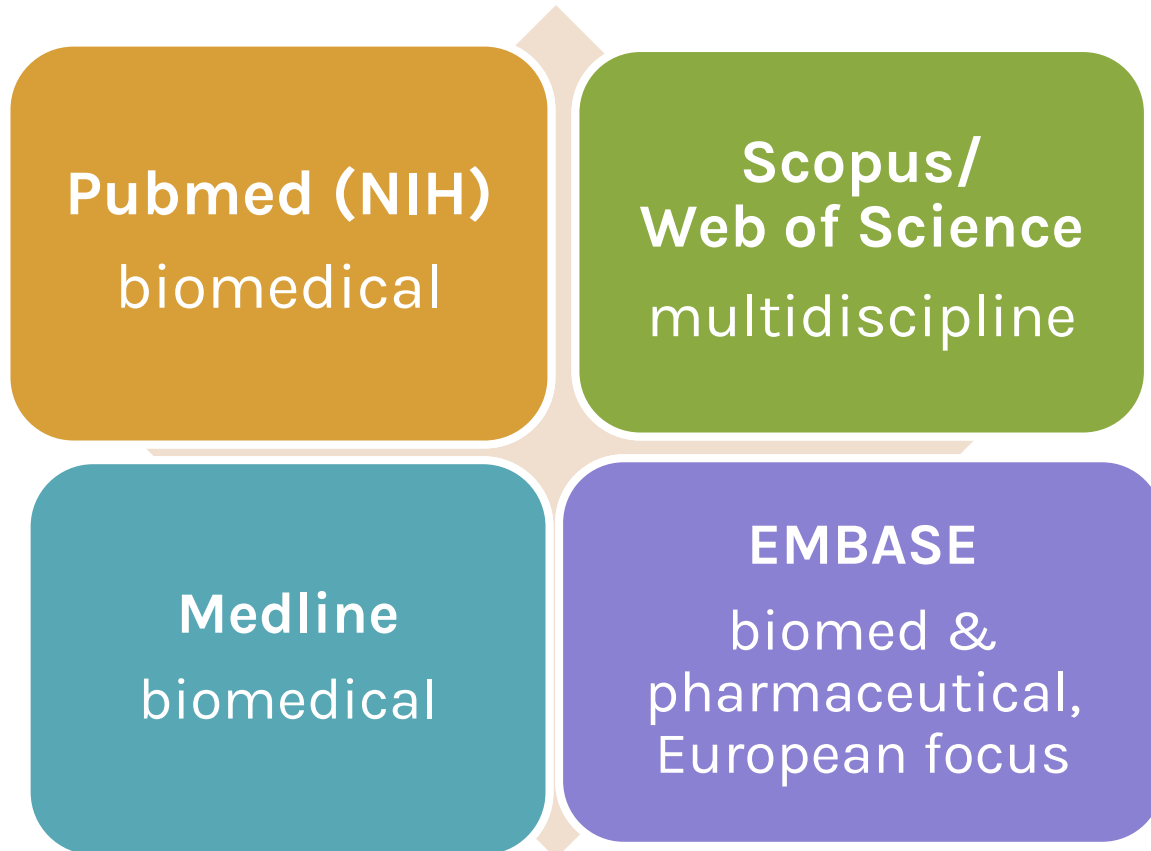
Chat with us!



If you just need a couple of articles, a casual search is fine

But if you need more, being able to comprehensively search is a big addition to your skillset

## Core article databases for NSC



Access them by searching on library homepage, or [Neurosci research guide](#)

# PubMed

- ▶ Index of 35 million peer-reviewed articles
- ▶ Literature from biomedicine, health, and more
- ▶ Search online for free; login to [uOttawa subscription](#) for access to full-text articles
- Uses subject headings/tags called ‘MeSH headings’

The PubMed logo features the word "PubMed" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter "M" is stylized, with a white shape resembling an open book or a folded page integrated into its left side. A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned to the upper right of the word.

Advanced

PubMed® comprises more than 36 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.



# Scopus

- ▶ Index of 75 million articles
- ▶ Articles from all fields
- ▶ Citation stats as well
- ▶ Subscription tool, login [via the library website](#)

## Start exploring

Discover the most reliable, relevant, up-to-date research. All in one place.

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Search within

Article title, Abstract, Keywords



Search documents \*

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# Database searching

It's a process!

1. Define your research question
2. Identify key concepts & keywords
3. Build your search
4. Run your search
5. Evaluate results

## Example topic

### *Neurological effects of prenatal exposure to pesticides*

- ▶ Question is specific and clear
- ▶ A [search strategy worksheet](#) can help you formulate your research question and identify your key concepts.



## Boolean search

(pesticides)

**AND**

(neurological)

**AND**

prenatal



## Boolean search

(pesticides or insecticides or  
organophosphates)

**AND**

(neurologic\* or neurotoxi\*)

**AND**

(prenatal or fetal or pregnancy or pregnant)

# Refining your initial search



**Narrow**

- ▶ Add new concepts using ANDs
- ▶ Use filters in the database



**Broaden**

- ▶ Adding new synonyms using ORs
- ▶ Using more general terms (e.g. replace neurologic with neuro\*)







## AI tools

- ▶ There are academic GPT-based tools like Elicit and Consensus now
- ▶ Useful for surfacing papers using regular language query
- ▶ Not very comprehensive, summaries can be inaccurate
- ▶ Some features are premium

# Elicit

 Find papers

## what are the neurological effects of prenatal exposure to pesticides?

Paper	Abstract summary
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prenatal and childhood exposure to pesticides and neurobehavioral development: review of epidemiological studies.</p> <p> J. Jurewicz +1</p> <p> <i>International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health</i></p> <p>2008 188 citations <a href="#">DOI</a></p>	<p>Children exposed to organophosphates that involve short-term memory</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> A systematic review of neurodevelopmental effects of prenatal and postnatal organophosphate pesticide exposure.</p> <p> B González-Alzaga +6</p> <p> <i>Toxicology letters</i></p> <p>2014 152 citations <a href="#">DOI</a></p>	<p>Prenatal and to a lesser extent postnatal neurodevelopmental and behavioral</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Neurobehavioral and neurodevelopmental effects of pesticide exposures.</p> <p> Leslie London +13</p> <p> <i>Neurotoxicology</i></p> <p>2012 148 citations <a href="#">PDF</a> <a href="#">DOI</a></p>	<p>The importance of examining postnatal early adolescent, childhood or postnatal</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre- and postnatal exposures to pesticides and neurodevelopmental effects in children living in agricultural communities from South-Eastern Spain.</p>	<p>Greater urinary dialkylphosphate levels, intelligence quotient and verbal</p>

# Finding full-text of article

- ▶ When searching in a database, look for uOttawa links
- ▶ In Google Scholar, you can add uOttawa links via Menu -> Settings -> Library Links

neuropathic pain   [User Guide](#)

[Advanced](#)

[urol. 2010 Aug;9\(8\):807-19. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422\(10\)70143-5.](#)

**pain: diagnosis, pathophysiological and treatment**

[der, Gunnar Wasner](#)

FULL TEXT LINKS

FULLTEXT ARTICLE

ACTIONS

49,541 documents found

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Document title	Authors	Source
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <b>Commentary on synchronized activity of sensory neurons initiates cortical synchrony in a model of neuropathic pain</b>	Di Cesare Mannelli, L., Ghelardini, C.	Neur Rese.
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <b>Genome Wide Association Study of Neuropathic Ocular Pain</b>	Huang, J.J., Rodriguez, D.A.,	Opht

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# Finding full-text of articles

If you hit a paywall looking for an article,

1. First, [use our off-campus access tool](#) or the VPN
2. If not, search for the **article/item title** in [Omni library search](#) and try all options there
3. Try searching in Google Scholar and look for PDF option on the right side
4. If this doesn't work, you can email me for help. We have an [inter-library loan service](#) that is effective at borrowing many items

# Library research guide with links

<https://uottawa.libguides.com/cmm>



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### Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and Neuroscience

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#### Lab Protocols

- [Journal of Visualized Experiments \(JoVE\)](#) » [↗](#)  
The Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) is dedicated to accelerating biological, medical, chemical and physical research by eluc  
video and text.
- [CSH Protocols \(Cold Spring Harbor Protocols\)](#) » [↗](#)  
Full text manuals of new and classic research techniques (protocols). Its coverage includes cell, developmental and molecular biolog  
biology, immunology, neuroscience and imaging.
- [SpringerNature Experiments \(formerly Springer Protocols\)](#) » [↗](#)  
**formerly Springer Protocols** Protocols are standardized step-by-step instructions which provide lab researchers with well-defined pro  
experiments. The use of protocol literature thus ensures consistency and efficiency in the research process. The SpringerNature Expe  
protocols.
- [Current protocols in cell biology](#)
- [Current protocols in molecular biology](#)

## What can I help with?

- ▶ Literature search queries
- ▶ Using citation managers
- ▶ Scoping or systematic review methodology, tools
- ▶ [Evan.sterling@uottawa.ca](mailto:Evan.sterling@uottawa.ca)