Literature Search Service

Need to efficiently perform an expert search of the biomedical literature? Whether it’s a “needle in a haystack” search for a rare topic, or a comprehensive search of a wide-ranging topic, your librarians are here to help you. If you’re affiliated with the University of Virginia Health System, you can utilize the skills of a trained search professional through the Library’s Literature Search Service and Systematic Review Service.

Our Expert Searchers

Librarians assist with literature searching of all types. Examples include:

- Exploring the literature for a new or emerging topic
- Complex or unusual clinical cases or topics
- Grant application or publication support where a comprehensive search is needed
- Best practice identification
- High-quality patient information
- Research design support, including alternatives to animal research
- Scoping reviews
- Systematic reviews

Library search analysts typically use the Library’s licensed databases [1] to perform searches at no cost to you. We also have access to hundreds of commercial, fee-based databases for specialized topic areas such as drug development.

Requesting a Search

Researchers can request assistance via the Library’s consultation form [2] or email [3]. Upon receiving your request, a librarian will discuss the search topic(s) and desired results with you. The librarian will formulate a search strategy and work with you to refine the search. While some searches can be completed via email, more complex topics may require you to be present during the search so the librarian can receive feedback and tailor the results to your specific needs.

Systematic Review Service

Expert librarian searchers are available to partner with you in conducting comprehensive literature searches for systematic reviews. Systematic review services [4] may include:

- Selecting appropriate databases and search terms
- Developing expert search strategies
- Obtaining relevant articles
- Organizing search results and managing citations

Policies

The requestor should be satisfied with the results of the literature search. Please see the Literature Search Service Policies [5] for more information.

Source URL: https://www.hsl.virginia.edu/admin/policy/literature_search.cfm

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