Key Databases and Resources for Bioscience Education
Multidisciplinary bibliographic databases, subject-specific databases and full-text resources for biomedical sciences and pharmacy.

Key databases: CINAHL; Cochrane Library; EMBASE; HMIC; Medline; PsycINFO; Scopus; and Web of Science (WoS).
Subject specific databases: F1000 Prime; International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA); Scifinder.
Subject specific full-text resources BNF; BNFC; Henry Stewart Talks; Medicines Complete.

Key Databases
Library Services provides access to an extensive range of electronic resources to support teaching, learning and research across the Health Faculties. Here are several key multidisciplinary bibliographic databases for locating journal articles and more followed by a selection of subject specific ones.

Brief details about each resource are provided in this guide. Each is listed on the Databases list available via the Library Services web pages www.kcl.ac.uk/library For more information about the resources or advice about searching them please contact the Library Services Training & Skills Team http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/subjectsupport/trainingforyoursubject.aspx

CINAHL
CINAHL, the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, is a major literature resource in the field of nursing and allied health.
- it provides over one million references to research from over 2,999 international journals
- it is updated weekly and available from 1981 onwards
- subject coverage also includes journals from the allied health disciplines such as pharmacy, occupational therapy, health education, nutrition and dental hygiene
- it also includes references to books, dissertations, conference proceedings, audio-visual material, pamphlets and other publications.

Cochrane Library
The Cochrane Library is the leading resource to support evidence-based practice. It is compiled by the Cochrane Collaboration, the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination and related organisations. It contains:
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews) includes full text systematic reviews of research in healthcare and health policy and protocols for reviews currently being prepared – includes intervention reviews, diagnostic test accuracy reviews and methodology reviews
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (non-Cochrane Reviews) contain abstracts of systematic reviews that have been quality-assessed. Each abstract includes a summary of the review together with a critical commentary about the overall quality
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials) CENTRAL includes details of published articles taken from bibliographic databases (notably MEDLINE and EMBASE), and other published and unpublished sources
- Cochrane Methodology Register (Methods Studies) provides references to the methods used in the conduct of controlled trials
- Health Technology Assessment Database (Technology Assessments) brings together details of completed and ongoing health technology assessments (studies of the medical, social, ethical, and economic implications of healthcare interventions) from around the world
- NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Economic Evaluations) provides abstracts on the economic evaluations of health care interventions
EMBASE
EMBASE is a major literature resource in the field of biomedicine and drug research. EMBASE is the electronic equivalent of the printed Excerpta Medica.

- It provides over twenty two million references from over 7,500 international journals with a European focus
- Over 2,000 biomedical titles not currently offered by MEDLINE,
- It is updated weekly and is available from 1947 onwards
- It now contains almost 800 conferences and more than 260,000 conference abstracts, primarily from journals and journal supplements published in 2009-
- It provides comprehensive coverage of pharmacy and pharmacology, toxicology, clinical and experimental medicine, biological sciences, biotechnology and biomedical engineering, health policy and management, public, occupational and environmental health, psychiatry and forensic science
- EMTREE thesaurus uses more specific drug indexing than Medline’s MeSH

HMIC
HMIC, (Health Management Information Consortium) is a bibliographic database comprising of two health management databases: the Department of Health’s DH-data and the King’s Fund database:

- DH-data’s coverage relates to health and social care management information with emphasis on the NHS
- Its coverage is from 1983 onward with departmental reviews dating back to 1919
- It provides in excess of 174,000 records which includes official publications, journal articles and grey literature
- The King’s Fund Database covers health management, social care and NHS administration. Coverage is from 1979 onwards. There are also some key materials from 1918 onwards
- It contains over 70,000 UK focused records.

Medline
Medline is a bibliographic database produced by the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). It is the most widely used database for information retrieval in biomedicine and health. Medline is the electronic equivalent of the printed Index Medicus, the Index to Dental Literature and the International Nursing Index.

- It provides access to over 18 million references to research papers from over 5,400 international journals and is updated weekly
- Subject coverage is extensive with an emphasis on clinical medicine, dentistry and biomedical research
- It also covers nursing, chemistry and pharmacology, biological and physical and life sciences, microbiology, health care delivery, nutrition, psychiatry, psychology, environmental health, social science and education
- Records are indexed using the MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) thesaurus, allowing more precise searching using standardised terms
- Medline contains indexed records from 1946-
- Medline can also be accessed via the PubMed interface at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?otool=igbkcllib (use this URL to see King’s holdings).

PsycINFO
PsycINFO is a bibliographic database produced by the American Psychological Association (APA). PsycINFO is a major literature resource in the field of psychology and psychiatry and is the electronic equivalent of the printed Psychological Abstracts.

- It provides over three million references from over 2,450 journals
- It is available from 1806 onwards, updated weekly
- PsycINFO’s main focus is psychology and psychiatry; its coverage includes education, medicine, nursing, law and social work, education and linguistics
it includes references to books, a selection of theses and reports

**Scopus**

Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database containing both peer-reviewed research literature and quality web sources. It covers:

- 19,500 peer-reviewed journals
- 4.6 million conference papers
- 45.5 million records, 70% with abstracts
- 350 million scientific web pages indexed via Scirus
- 24.7 million patent records from five patent offices
- Coverage includes Life Sciences, Health Sciences, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences.

**Web of Science (WoS)**

WoS is a major resource for science, social science and arts and humanities. It consists of the Science Citation Index, Social Sciences Citation Index, Conference Proceedings Citation Index and Arts and Humanities Citation Index. WoS is available as part of the Web of Knowledge, which also provides the Journal Citation Reports.

- WoS provides over 46 million references to research from around 12,000 journals and over 148,000 conference titles in the Sciences and Social Sciences
- it enables a unique approach to information retrieval based on cited references, so that, for example you can discover which later articles have cited a particularly useful item, allowing you to navigate forward, backward, and through time across journal articles and conference proceedings
- Journal Citation Reports provides access to data which helps you evaluate and compare journals using measures such as the impact factor

**Biomedical Sciences: Subject Specific Databases**

**F1000 Prime**

F1000 is an in-depth directory to the top articles in biology and medicine, as recommended by a Faculty of over 5,000 expert scientists and clinical researchers, assisted by 5,000 associates. Explore F1000 to find out what the Faculty Members think you need to read and why. Find recommendations in your field of interest by browsing or using a specific search term.

- It provides scientists with a continuously updated insider's guide to the most important papers within any given field of research
- Highlights papers on the basis of their scientific merit rather than the journal in which they appear
- Offers the researcher a consensus of recommendations from well over 1000 leading scientists
- Systematically organizes and evaluates the mass of information within scientific literature
- Offers an immediate rating of individual papers by the authors' peers, and an important complement to the indirect assessment provided by the journal impact factor

**IPA (International Pharmaceutical Abstracts)**

IPA is an international pharmaceutical literature bibliographic database produced in co-operation with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and Thomson Scientific.

- IPA includes 30 years of in-depth indexed reference to the world pharmacy (in the broadest sense) literature; plus, related health, medical, cosmetic journals, and state pharmacy journals; abstracts of presentations at major pharmacy meetings are also included
- Over 529,744 references are included from over 800 international journals.

Other useful databases

Global Health (dedicated to public health research and practice); and Euromonitor Passport GMID (a global market information database and analysis tool with coverage on the health and wellness, food and drink, and consumer health industries in over 200 countries).
The numerous references to alternative and herbal medicine (over 10,000 references) are an example of its unique coverage. There is no mapping to subject headings. Free text search covers the following fields: title, subject heading word, registry word, abstract, trade name/generic name.

**SciFinder**
Key chemistry database. SciFinder is a research tool which provides access to the world’s largest collection of substances, reactions and references from both journals and patents. SciFinder obtains information contained in the CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service) databases as well as covering biomedical literature indexed in Medline from 1950 to the present. Register on campus before your first use.

**Full-Text Resources**

**BNF (British National Formulary) and BNFC (BNF for Children)**
Essential practical information for all healthcare professionals involved in the prescribing, dispensing, monitoring and administration of medicines.
- The BNF is an up-to-date full text reference work on medicines on the UK market, especially uses, cautions, contraindications, side effects and relative costs
- The BNFC has been developed to meet the clinical requirements of GPs, paediatricians, pharmacists, nurses, students and all healthcare professionals working with children

**Henry Stewart Talks - Biomedical & Life Sciences Collection**
- Animated audio visual presentations and online seminars narrated by leading scientists covering a wide range of topical biomedical topics
- Series include Alzheimer’s Disease; Cancer Pain Management; Chemical Biology; Genetic Epidemiology; Medical Imaging and Obesity

**Medicines Complete**
Produced by the Pharmaceutical Press and provides access to the following publications:
- AHFS Drug Information;
- BNF and BNFC;
- Clarke’s Analysis of Drugs and Poisons;
- Dietary Supplements;
- Herbal Medicines;
- Martindale: The Complete Drug Reference,
- Pharmaceutical Excipients;
- Stockley’s Drug Interactions;
- Stockley’s Interaction Alerts;
- The Merck Index.
The publications can be searched individually or together.

**Access**
King’s staff and students:
All databases are accessible via the Databases link on the Library Services web pages. Most resources can be accessed using your King’s username and password (particularly for off-campus access) following the ‘Institutional / Shibboleth Login’ or ‘Login via your Institution’ route. For more help see http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/help/Accessing-eresources.aspx

A small number of resources will require a special password – these access details will be provided via the description in the database list.

**Support and training**
Effective literature searching skills are essential for today’s health care professionals. Information about training courses is available from the Library website pages. You can locate Library Services user guides on searching the databases available at King’s on the Library website pages.

General enquiries about information resources (including password information), libraries, IT and information services can be directed to the Enquiry Desk in any library or email libraryservices@kcl.ac.uk or for IT queries itservicedesk@kcl.ac.uk

Contact the Library Services Training & Skills Team http://www.kcl.ac.uk/library/subjectsupport/trainingforyoursubject.aspx to find out more about the training available.

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