

A painting of a library interior. In the foreground, a person is seated at a desk with a computer monitor. In the background, another person is standing near a computer workstation. Bookshelves filled with books are visible on the right side. The room has a red carpet and a wooden door in the background.

UC Davis Health Sciences Libraries

SEARCH STRATEGIES

When to select which
catalog / database

What is your question, *what* do you need to find?
Then, *where* do you look for the answer?

Selecting where to look, what resource to search, is determined by the question.
The type of question determines which is the best source, which is the best database.

MATCH RESOURCES TO INFORMATION NEEDS

Search Library Catalog: Books, textbooks, ebooks

Search Databases: journal articles, case reports

www.library.ucdavis.edu

General Approach: Researching a Topic

**General
information and
overview of topic**

- Textbooks
- Websites (e.g.: Merck, CDC website, NCBI bookshelf)

**Learn more
about details**

- Textbooks
- Review articles
- Compendiums

**Find specific
information about
topic**

- Scholarly journals
- Government publications

Identify and access best resources

LIBRARY GUIDES

[Veterinary Medicine](#) | [HSL Favorites](#)

Clinical question in context of core scientific knowledge :

access appropriate resource for answering question

Critically accepted resources :

including core medical textbooks, peer reviewed journal articles, and selected websites

MINDFUL OF THE QUALITY AND RELEVANCE OF RESOURCE

www.library.ucdavis.edu/guide/veterinary-medicine

www.library.ucdavis.edu/guide/health-sciences-libraries-favorites

General information, overview: textbooks, websites (Merck, CDC, USDA ...)

More detailed information: textbooks, reference books, review articles

Specific information: journal articles, government publications

Matching resources to information needs

What you need	Where to look
Factual information <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Definitions and medical terms•Broad opinion pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Medical dictionary•Established veterinary websites (i.e. AVMA)
Summary of what is known and/or opinions about a topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Textbook or book chapter•Review articles•Proceedings and abstracts
Scientific analysis of problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Scholarly journal article

Information & Publication Types



<p>Library Catalog Melvyl</p>	<p>Subscription Databases Government Databases</p>	<p>Subscription Databases More complex searching</p>
<p>Search by subject or title or author</p>	<p>like CAB, Pubmed</p>	<p>Using filters, limits, critical appraisal, quality of evidence MeSH, clinical queries document type, research methodology</p>

Library Catalog
www.library.ucdavis.edu

Veterinary Medicine Library Guide
www.library.ucdavis.edu/guide/veterinary-medicine



Questions or problems?

Contact a librarian

Carlson Health Sciences Library

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530.752.8041

Blaisdell Medical Library

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916.734.3529

VISIT

Carl

The Carl
Schools

Library

> Mabie Law Library

> Special Collections at Shields Library