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

Find specific information about topic
- Scholarly journals
- Government publications

Learn more about details
- Textbooks
- Review articles
- Compendiums

General information and overview of topic
- Textbooks
- Websites (e.g.: Merck, CDC website, NCBI bookshelf)
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


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you need</th>
<th>Where to look</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factual information</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Definitions and medical terms</td>
<td>• Medical dictionary</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Broad opinion pieces</td>
<td>• Established veterinary websites (i.e. AVMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary of what is known and/or opinions about a topic</td>
<td>• Textbook or book chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review articles</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Proceedings and abstracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific analysis of problem</td>
<td>• Scholarly journal article</td>
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**Information & Publication Types**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Library Catalog</th>
<th>Subscription Databases</th>
<th>Subscription Databases</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melvyl</td>
<td>Government Databases</td>
<td>More complex searching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Search by subject or title or author</td>
<td>like CAB, Pubmed</td>
<td>Using filters, limits, critical appraisal, quality of evidence, MeSH, clinical queries, document type, research methodology</td>
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**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
hslref@ucdavis.edu
530.752.8041

Blaisdell Medical Library
bmlref@ucdavis.edu
916.734.3529