Module 8
HOW TO RESEARCH MEDICAL-RELATED CASES

I. GETTING STARTED – THE BASICS

A. Identify the Purpose of a Literature Search

1. To obtain factual or established information.

2. To obtain new or changing information.

3. To determine the nature or extent of injury.

4. To locate standards of care.

5. To educate yourself or the attorney.

6. To find the name and address of an expert witness.

7. To locate literature to educate, persuade or impeach an expert witness.

8. To locate a specific article, journal title, book or audiovisual.
   a. For use in deposition, direct or cross-examination or impeachment of a witness or expert.
   b. To obtain definitive information.
B. Know What Medical Libraries Have to Offer

1. An online catalog lists titles of books, journals and audiovisuals by title, author, publisher and subject heading.

2. Database search systems locate information about journal articles or authors.

3. Textbooks contain summaries of known, established facts from previously published literature as well as new material from the author.

4. Journals and their associated websites contain research reports and other cutting-edge information.

5. Reference books include dictionaries, guides and handbooks useful for information and/or brief overviews of a subject.

6. Reserve, core or reference collections usually include textbooks and references that are the most used or are recognized as standards in the subject area covered.
   a. These are often accessible by using the online catalog.
   b. Examples.
      (1) *Physicians’ Desk Reference*.
      (2) *Dorland’s Illustrated Medical Dictionary*.
      (3) *Professional Guide to Diseases*.
      (4) *The Merck Manual*.
      (5) *Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine*.
      (6) *Current Medical Diagnosis & Treatment*.
      (7) *Conn’s Current Therapy*. 
7. “Doody’s Core Titles” is a listing of authoritative textbooks and journals.

8. An interlibrary loan service is useful if the library does not own a particular book or subscribe to a journal. The library can get the book or copies of journal articles from another library.

9. Patient education materials include books or pamphlets written for patients or lay persons, using fewer technical and medical terms.

10. Audiovisual aids include video programs.

11. Anatomic models.

C. Know What the Internet Has to Offer

1. 24/7/365 access to a plethora of medical, nursing and informational literature.

a. Offers a quick way to learn the basics of many different subjects, but in-depth research may be limited.

b. Limitations include accuracy, timeliness or currency and availability of the information.

(1) Sites on the Internet are not peer-reviewed as are many journals.

(2) Many sites do not date their information so the user does not know how old the information is.

(3) Sites containing full-text information often require a subscription or a fee to download and print the information.
2. The ability to research medical and nursing information as well as opinions, postings, articles and other information by or about parties to a case, witnesses, experts and attorneys.

3. The ability to access a community of other professionals and peers through social media.

   a. Google.
      google.com
   b. Bing.
      bing.com
   c. Yahoo!.
      yahoo.com
   d. Dogpile (meta-search engine).
      dogpile.com

D. Be Familiar with Available Medical and Health Literature and Online Databases

1. Journals and periodicals in a library or available online.
   a. A printed list of journals held in the library is usually available at the reference desk and at the online catalog stations.
      (1) In a medical library, journals are usually kept in alphabetical order.
(2) The last one to three years of journals are kept in the current journals section.

b. Journals may have an accompanying website that contains similar and sometimes advance materials as a supplement to what is published monthly in print.
   (1) The websites often have links to sites that have been peer-reviewed by the journal’s editors.

c. Understand the differences between types of publications.
   (1) Peer-reviewed – generally authoritative.
   (2) Industry – published by, or about, a particular industry – not necessarily authoritative.
   (3) Popular or newsletter – may have general health information, but not considered authoritative.

d. Frequently used peer-reviewed medical journals include:
   (1) *Annals of Internal Medicine.*
      [annals.org](http://annals.org)
   (2) *JAMA (The Journal of the American Medical Association).*
      [jamanetwork.com](http://jamanetwork.com)
   (3) *The Lancet.*
      [thelancet.com](http://thelancet.com)
      [nejm.org](http://nejm.org)

2. Major online databases.

   a. MEDLINE/PubMed.
      (1) Comprehensive biomedicine and health research database, providing full text for more than 5,500 journals.

   b. *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature – CINAHL® Plus.*
      [ebscohost.com/biomedical-libraries/cinahl-plus](http://ebscohost.com/biomedical-libraries/cinahl-plus)
      (1) Comprehensive nursing and allied health research database, providing full text for more than 770 journals.
E. **Know What Type of Service or Resource Is Needed**

1. To locate factual information, start with textbooks.

2. To locate new or changing information, start with databases such as PubMed to look for medical and nursing journal articles and/or associated websites.

3. To find expert witnesses, start with databases such as MEDLINE and note authors whose names appear many times.
   
a. Look at reserve, core or reference collection books and review “Doody’s Core Titles.”

   b. When a particular journal is identified, also check the journal’s website for a list of archived issues or an index of articles.

F. **Gain Access to Databases to Find the Resources**

1. Internet.

2. Subscription to a database directly from work or home.

3. Medical library.

4. Private, for-profit library.
5. Freelance librarian.

6. Public library.

II. SELECTING THE BEST SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Differences Between Textbooks, Articles and Websites

1. Textbook sources are useful for locating information on:
   a. The normal course of a disease or disorder, including etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis or outcome.
   b. Established facts or knowledge that does not change, such as basic anatomy and physiology.
   c. Established facts or knowledge that has not changed in many years.
   d. Information that is best understood by illustrations, photographs, tables, charts or figures.
   e. Standard values, such as laboratory test results.
   f. Overviews of subjects with which you want to become familiar.

2. Journal articles and websites associated with those same journals are useful for locating information on:
   a. New or very rare diseases or disorders.
   b. Newly discovered facts or knowledge.
   c. Controversial issues or findings.
d. Nonstandard or alternative treatments.

e. Evolving or changing information, e.g., new treatments.

f. Developing standard procedures or protocols.

g. Reports of research projects.

h. Expert witnesses.

3. Websites not associated with journals are useful for locating information on:

a. General information or publically available information.

b. News and reports on recent studies and findings.

c. Topics that may aid your search

d. Useful links.

B. Guidelines for Selecting Authoritative Textbooks – Those That Are Generally Accepted as Controlling in a Subject Area

1. Consult “Doody’s Core Titles.”

2. Look at textbooks placed in core, reference or reserve collections of the library.

a. Courts have held that the presence of a book in a library is not sufficient to determine it to be authoritative.
b. Reference books such as the *Physicians Desk Reference* (PDR) are not considered authoritative because it is written by the manufacturers.

3. Ask an expert witness, specialist or educator to name the primary textbooks in her field.

4. Call a medical bookstore and ask which textbooks are the bestsellers in a specialty area or are used for education.

5. Ask a librarian to identify major titles in a specialty area.

6. Search an online bookstore such as Amazon.com or a medical school/university bookstore.
   a. Publications used as standard textbooks in medical/nursing schools or as teaching aids in hospitals are generally considered to be authoritative.

C. Guidelines for Selecting Authoritative Articles or Significant Studies

1. Review the relevant content in the Cochrane Reviews.
   a. Cochrane Reviews is a collection of databases of systematic reviews and meta-analyses which summarize and interpret the results of medical research, technology assessments, economic evaluations and clinical trials for the purpose of making informed clinical decisions. [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org)
2. Check current textbooks or handbooks and make special note of any appropriate references cited at the end of the chapters.
   a. Check to see who has written a book or chapter on the subject and search for articles by those authors.

3. In a database search, limit the search to review articles.
   a. Review articles analyze information from a number of other articles or sources.
   b. Check the references attached to the review articles and note those authors who are discussed in detail.

4. In any database or Internet search result, note authors or institutions that are repeated.

5. Consult local experts, specialists and/or authorities for names of authoritative publications and authors.

6. Identify the premier journals in the subject area and select articles from those journals.
   a. Courts have held that publication of an article in a respected medical journal does not make the article authoritative.

7. Be watchful for articles that are ghostwritten by representatives of pharmaceutical companies.
   a. These are not considered authoritative.
D. Guidelines for Selecting Authoritative or Significant Websites

1. Consult local experts, specialists and/or authorities for names of authoritative websites.

2. Identify the premier websites in the subject area and select articles from those websites.
   a. Premier websites are usually published or owned by:
      (1) Universities.
      (2) Medical or nursing schools.
      (3) Major medical centers.
      (4) Associations or organizations.
      (5) Foundations.
      (6) Government agencies.
      (7) Medical or nursing publications.
      (8) Occasionally individuals.

3. Determine if the site is sponsored and determine the sponsor.
   a. Avoid research sites sponsored by that particular industry.

4. Look for the contact information of the website’s owner.
   a. Be wary if there is no contact or other owner or publisher information.
   b. Look for information about that owner on the Internet and in the medical or nursing literature.
      (1) Determine the qualifications of, and the degrees held, by the website owner and authors.

5. Additional tips.
   a. Look for dates when the material was written and/or posted online.
b. Validate the information by cross-referencing or cross-checking with other sources.

c. Look for peer-reviewed sites or sites that contain peer-reviewed information.

d. Look to see which other authoritative or well-respected websites link to the site in question. Do not look at which sites the site in question links to.

III. SEARCH RESULTS AND SEARCH STRATEGIES

A. What Is a Search Strategy?

1. A search strategy is a plan that helps locate the information being searched for.

2. It is best to start with a formal, written search strategy to avoid running down “rabbit trails” and wasting valuable time. (Exhibit A)

   a. A formal strategy is not required for “simple” searches.

B. Results of Internet Searches Will Vary Greatly

1. Search results and their quality will depend on:

   a. Search engine or meta-search engine used.

   b. Keywords and how they are formatted.
2. “Hits” are links to:
   a. Websites.
   b. Articles.
   c. Useful information.
   d. Advertisements.
   e. Spam sites.

3. The ability to sort the “wheat from the chaff” will determine success.

C. Results of MEDLINE/PubMed Searches Will Be Lists of Citations or Abstracts

1. A citation is bibliographic information about a journal, book or audiovisual item.
   a. For journals, the citation usually includes the author, title of the article, title of the journal, volume number, issue number or name, page numbers and date.
   b. For books, the citation usually includes the author, title, place of publication, publisher and date.
   c. For audiovisuals, the citation usually includes the title, format, length, place of production, producer and date.
   d. The citation can also be used to describe the reference being relied on.
2. An abstract is a citation that includes a short summary of a journal article or medical treatise which may contain a review, analysis or other information.

3. Whatever results are received, obtain a copy of that journal or textbook to complete your research.

D. Searching by Subject

1. State the topic to be searched in a simple sentence.
   a. Think about the topic in terms of a title to an article.
      (1) If the perfect article could be found, what would its title be?
          (a) Example: “What are new drug treatments for asymptomatic HIV infection in pediatric patients?”

2. Identify the keywords, key concepts or ideas in the title.
   a. Keywords are usually nouns or adjective-noun combinations.
      (1) Try to limit the topic to three concepts or less.
      (2) Skip the verbs, adverbs, pronouns and conjunctions.

3. If searching a National Library of Medicine (NLM) database:
   a. Identify the medical subject headings (MeSH®) and subheadings.
      (1) MeSH® vocabulary can be accessed from the NLM website.
      (2) Look at the intersection of the MeSH® terms and the keywords, nouns and/or adjective-noun combinations and search with these.
4. If the database or print index has a thesaurus, examine that thesaurus to determine the best search terms to use.
   a. A thesaurus is a list of vocabulary terms used to organize the database.
      (1) It can also be called “controlled vocabulary.”
   b. Using the selected terms generally retrieves the most data from the database or index.

5. Think of possible synonyms or closely related terms.
   a. Examples: splint, splinting; orthoses, orthotic devices.
   b. Consider plural and alternate spellings.
      (1) Examples: splint, splints; behavior, behaviour; pediatrics, paediatrics; color, colour.

6. For journals, textbooks and organizations or associations, consider which databases would be most likely to cover information on the topic.
   a. Decide whether the topic is a medical condition, basic science question, educational problem, etc.

7. Consider searching for premier or credible websites as discussed above.

8. Decide how far back to go in the literature for useful articles.
   a. When in doubt, start with the most recent years of the database or index.
      (1) For standard of care issues, search the year the incident occurred, as well as two years before and one year after the date the incident occurred.
      (2) For causation issues, search the most current information or research. Don’t limit the search to the year in question.
9. If the database (PubMed and others) you are using requires them, use Boolean search operators.
   
a. Use the word “and” or a plus sign “+” between two or more words to narrow your search.
   (1) Dyslexia **AND** adults, Dyslexia + adults – Finds only items containing both of these words.

b. Use the word “or” or a slash mark “/” to broaden your search.
   (1) College **OR** university, cats/felines – Finds items that include either word.

c. Use the word “not” or a minus sign “-” to indicate that a word shouldn’t appear in your search results.
   (1) Dolphins **NOT** NFL, Dolphins - NFL – Eliminates entries in which both these words appear.

d. Use the word “near” to indicate words that should be found close to each other in your search results.
   (1) Crosby **NEAR** Stills, Silicon **NEAR** Valley – Finds items in which the search words are close to each other.

10. Additional Internet search engine tips and database tips.

a. Use quotation marks to specify an exact search phrase.
   (1) New nursing jobs (no quotation marks) gave 74,200,000 returns on one search engine but “new nursing jobs” gave only 1,950,000 returns on the same search engine.

b. Look for a drop-down menu or button that gives advanced search options such as:
   (1) **All words** – Finds pages that contain every one of the words in the search box.
   (2) **Any of the words** – Finds pages that contain any of the words in the search box.
   (3) **Exact phrase** – Finds only pages that contain the exact phrase in the search box.
   (4) **Exclude words** – Finds pages that do not contain the words indicated.
11. Begin searching, then evaluate the results.
   a. Refine the search terms or try a more relevant database if nothing or only scant results are found.

12. To perfect research skills, review the online tutorial for PubMed. [nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial]

E. Searching by Author

1. If possible, obtain the full name of the author.
   a. Examples: Vernon Louis Young, Jr. or Harold Hanley Caffee III.

2. Also obtain the name of the medical specialty, such as pediatrics, radiology, pathology or other subject specialty of the author.

3. Most databases require the last name to be entered first followed by one or more initials.
   a. The field label is then added.
      (1) Example: young-v.l.au to find V.L. Young.

4. Check the truncation symbol for the database being used.
   a. Generally the truncation symbol is used for the middle initial and any letters or numbers following the name.

   b. In this example the “$” sign is the truncation symbol.
      (1) Example: young-v.$.au to find V. (any middle initial) Young.
5. Review the citations found.
   a. If more than one middle initial is found, there are probably two or more people with the same last name and first initial.
      (1) V.L. Young.
      (2) V.G. Young.

6. Also note the subject of the articles.
   a. Usually one person writes about the same or related fields.
   b. If the name is not consistently entered, then use the subject of expertise to limit the search.
      (1) young-v.l.au and breast implants to find V.L. Young, author.
      (2) young-v.$$.au and breast implants to find V. (any middle initial) Young, author.

7. Narrow the search by entering the middle initial or the letters or numbers following the name of the author if the citations show these are used consistently.
   a. Example: young-v.l.au.

F. Locating Experts Online (Reverse Author Searching)

1. Primary method.
   a. Search by subject (use simple subject search techniques).
      (1) Example: silicone breast implants.
   b. Have the database sort the retrieval alphabetically by author.
      (1) Note authors whose names appear three or more times in the last five years.
c. Print out the citations for those authors who repeat.
   (1) Some citations will include the “institutional” field, which provides the name of the employing institution or company online.
   (i) This helps to physically locate the author.

d. Select authors to contact based on the number of articles found, the relevancy of their subjects to the experts needed and the travel distance.

2. Alternate method.
   a. Search by subject.

   b. Sort by institutional field.
      (1) Not all records list the name of the employing institution or company.
      (2) Note which institutions or companies appear three or more times.

   c. Check the authors from these institutions.

   d. Select authors to contact based on the number of articles found, the relevancy of their subjects to the experts needed and the travel distance.

3. Internet resources.
   a. Many potential experts can be found through articles on or referenced by websites.
IV. DATABASES AND OTHER RESOURCES

A. MEDLINE/PubMed

1. MEDLINE contains bibliographic citations and some abstracts from 1966 to present, covering a broad range of subjects in biomedicine, especially medical research and patient care.
   a. May be accessed through PubMed.
      nlm.nih.gov

2. PubMed contains an online tutorial.
   nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial

B. National Library of Medicine (NLM)

1. NLM contains a comprehensive site index with links to major databases:
   a. MEDLINE/PubMed – For journal citations from 1966 to present.
   b. MedlinePlus® – For health information from the National Institutes of Health and other sources, generic and brand name drug information and a medical encyclopedia.
      medlineplus.gov
   c. OLDMEDLINE – For journal citations between 1957-1965.
   d. DailyMed® – For information on prescription drugs from medication package inserts.
      dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm
   e. LocatorPlus – For catalog records for books, serials and audiovisual materials.
      locatorplus.gov
f. TOXNET – A collection of databases on toxicology, hazardous materials and genetic toxicology.
   toxnet.nlm.nih.gov

C. EMBASE

1. EMBASE is a bibliographic database featuring biomedical, medical device, forensic, psychiatric and pharmaceutical information.
   embase.com

D. CINAHL® Plus

1. CINAHL® Plus is a bibliographic database for nursing specialties, allied health disciplines, biomedicine, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and health sciences librarianship.
   ebscohost.com/biomedical-libraries/cinahl-plus

E. OSHA

1. OSHA contains bibliographic information from 1973 to present from journals, monographs and technical reports on occupational safety and health.
   osha.gov
   a. The provider is the U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
      cdc.gov/niosh

F. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

1. FDA includes a variety of databases accessed through:
   fda.gov
   a. Center for Devices and Radiological Health.
      fda.gov/MedicalDevices
      fda.gov/Radiation-EmittingProducts
b. Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.
   fda.gov/Drugs

c. Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.
   fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines

G. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

1. CDC provides data and statistics on various diseases, conditions and other health-related topics.
   cdc.gov/DataStatistics

H. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

1. HRSA contains various statistical resources on a wide variety of health-related topics.
   hrsa.gov

I. HealthGrades

1. HealthGrades provides in-depth objective information on hospital quality, comprehensive physician data and nursing home data. Data comes from the U.S. DHHS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 19 states’ records of all payer data, and 50 states’ medical board records. Nursing home ratings use the CMS Online Survey Certification and Reporting database and are based on current, past and repeating deficiencies found during on-site inspection surveys. The information is updated quarterly on physicians and annually on hospitals and nursing homes.
   healthgrades.com

2. Physician information includes medical school information, years in practice, results of patient surveys, malpractice/sanction/board action information and affiliations.
J. **HighWire**

1. HighWire provides free full-text access to articles, titles and back issues of publications as well as to pay-per-access sites.  
   [highwire.org]

K. **Google Scholar**

1. Google Scholar provides free full-text access to articles, theses, books and more from academic publishers, universities, professional societies and other organizations.  
   [scholar.google.com]

L. **CiteSeer**

1. CiteSeer provides free full-text access as well as citation-only access to scientific and academic papers.  
   [citeseer.com]

V. DATABASE VENDORS AND SELECTION

A. **Database Vendors Deal in Access to Information**

1. They sell or lease access to databases.

B. **Choosing a Vendor – Selection Criteria**

1. Develop a profile of the kinds of cases most frequently handled.

2. Which databases fit the profile?
3. Which vendor has most or all of the databases in the profile?

4. Is help available locally or via an 800 number?

5. How much does an average search cost?

6. How short is the minimum subscription term?

C. Names and Addresses of Major Database Vendors

1. Ovid Technologies: Nursing full-text database provides access to research and nursing clinical practitioner-oriented journals in nursing. ovid.com

2. HealthSource: Access to peer-reviewed nursing and allied health resources, including the Lexi-PAL Drug Guide. eifl.net/ebsco-publishing-premier-package

3. ProQuest: Key information sources for aerospace, biomedical research, business, chemicals, food and agriculture, government regulations, medicine, pharmaceuticals and science and technology. proquest.com

4. STN®: Scientific, technical and patent information from the American Chemical Society. cas.org
VI. INFORMATION BROKERS

A. Information Brokers Sell Information (Not Access)
   1. They perform the basic research for you.

B. Types of Brokers
   1. Research Certified Legal Nurse Consultants\textsuperscript{CM}.
      a. CLNC\textsuperscript{®} consultants who specialize in medical, nursing and/or Internet research.
   2. Contract librarians (moonlighting).
      a. Working or retired librarians who offer contract research.

C. Choosing a Broker – Selection Criteria
   1. Develop a profile of the kinds of information most frequently requested.
   2. Which brokers can provide such information?
   3. How fast can the broker deliver various kinds of information? What is the average turnaround time?
   4. What is the cost for services?
5. Can you be present when a database search is performed?
   a. If working with a research CLNC® consultant or librarian, you can refine your search as you go to get the best results.

6. Can you make appointments to explore the available information sources in person to answer any questions?

7. What document delivery systems does the broker use – pickup, express mail, email or fax?

D. Guidelines for Submitting a Request for Information

1. Topic to be searched.
   a. State the topic to be searched in a brief sentence; e.g., “I need articles on the adverse effects of penicillin,” or “I want information on the treatment of Reye’s syndrome published in the past five years.”
      (1) This will assist with the development of keywords and adjective-noun combinations.

   b. Suggest all possible synonyms or related terms that might be helpful, such as cerebrovascular accident, cerebral vascular accident, cerebrovascular disease, hemiplegia, hemiparesis, stroke or apoplexy.
      (1) Acronyms are not helpful because they can have many meanings, e.g., CVA could mean continuous volume applied or Charles Vernon Anderson.

   c. State the purpose of the information request, such as providing patient care, writing an article, giving a lecture, doing a research project or preparing for a legal case.
d. If you have a preference, state what type of information should be searched, such as textbook, Internet or journal literature.
   (1) The librarian or information broker can provide suggestions.

e. State how many years of the literature should be searched, such as the last five or ten years.

f. State when the information is needed. Give as much time as possible.

g. State how the information should be delivered; i.e., mailed, made available for pickup, sent express mail, emailed or faxed.

2. State additional information needed for journal articles.

   a. Whether the journal search should be limited to articles in English. If not, state which foreign languages are acceptable.

   b. Whether the journal search should be limited to articles discussing human conditions or if articles using animals as subjects may be included.

   c. What age groups should be included, such as fetus, newborn, infant, child, adolescent, adult, middle age or elderly.

   d. How many citations (articles) are expected or needed.

   e. Whether abstracts (short summaries of articles) should be included or if author, title and journal source are enough.

   f. Whether the search should be limited to review articles only.

   g. Other special requests, such as including indexing (descriptor) terms, limiting to specific journal titles, sorting results by author or other criteria.
VII. DOCUMENT DELIVERY

A. Interlibrary Loan

1. An interlibrary loan is an arrangement between libraries to loan books and share copies of journal articles among themselves or with each other’s patrons.
   
a. This is the most cost-effective method of obtaining textbooks for review.
   
b. There may be a service fee for each request and a loan fee from the lending library.
   
c. Costs to patrons vary, depending on whether the requesting library absorbs the cost or passes it to the patron.
   
d. For details, check with libraries in your area.

2. If the request is for a journal or book that the library doesn’t have, the library will request a copy from an interlibrary loan member that does own the journal or book.

   
   nlm.nih.gov/loansomedoc/loansome_home.html

B. Document Delivery Service Companies

1. Document delivery service companies provide copies of articles (but not books) for a fee.
2. This is the most expensive method of obtaining copies of journal articles for review.
   a. The number of journals covered, methods of delivery and the cost vary with the company.

3. Who provides this service:
   a. Research Solutions.
      ResearchSolutions.com
   b. EBSCO Publishing.
      ebscohost.com
   c. ClinicalKey®.
      clinicalkey.com
   d. Loansome Doc®.
      nlm.nih.gov/loansomemdoc/loansome_home.html
      (1) Allows you to order documents direct from MEDLINE/PubMed and NLM Gateway
   e. The nearest medical center library or medical school library.

VIII. CITING LITERATURE AND INTERNET REFERENCES IN REPORTS

A. Citation Styles and Formats

1. Match to each individual attorney’s preference.
   a. If no preference is expressed then use any of the following styles:
      (1) American Medical Association (AMA) – commonly used for medical science.
(2) American Psychological Association (APA) – commonly used for psychology, education, nursing and other social sciences.

(3) Modern Language Association (MLA) – commonly used for literature, arts and humanities.

B. Examples

1. Journals.
   a. Author’s last name, first name, middle initial. “title of the article.” name of journal. volume or month published (issue): month year, page number(s).

   a. Author’s last name, first name, middle initial. name of book. city of publication: publisher, year published.

3. Internet.
   a. Author’s name, “title of document,” URL (website), date of document, accessed date.
IX. CONCLUSION

A. Medical Literature Research Is Important

1. It’s not hard to do, with practice.
   a. Use the online tutorials to learn how to search effectively.

2. Use the Search Strategy Form.
   a. Search a variety of authoritative sources.
   b. Select sources relevant to your population, interventions and setting.
   c. Identify the significant issues.

3. Practice, practice, practice!
### Exhibit A
Subject Search Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sequence</th>
<th>Subject Search</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simple Topic Sentence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords or Adjective-Noun Combinations</th>
<th>Keyword 1</th>
<th>and/or</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 2</td>
<td>and/or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyword 3</td>
<td>and/or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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| Revised or Additional Search Terms | |
|-----------------------------------||

| Relevant Internet Sites | |
|------------------------||

| Relevant Information, Graphics, etc. | |

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