

# Finding Information about Medicine

## Introduction

This guide provides a brief introduction to sources of information for Medicine. If you require any further information or guidance on using the resources outlined please contact your subject librarian, Angela Thompson, who is based in the Medical Library at Queen's on the Royal Victoria Hospital site (tel: 028 90632595 or email: a.m.thompson@qub.ac.uk).

## Finding Print Resources

Books are a good place to start looking for information on a topic. The Medical Library at Queen's stocks a range of medical texts as well as a range of journals in print format. The current issues of these journals are on display beside the issue desk and the older issues are bound and shelved in the main stack area.

Books and journals have a shelfmark on the spine which indicates their subject and enables them to be shelved in order. You will need to obtain the shelfmark to locate the printed resources in the library. This can be done by checking the library catalogue (QCat) either from the computer terminals in the library (opposite the issue desk) or via the [honni](http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk) (Health on the Net Northern Ireland) website at <http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk> - from here you will find a link to the *Library Catalogue*. You can search by author and/or title of an item to see if it is in the library and if so, find its shelfmark. You can also search by keyword to find what items are in the library on a particular topic.

## Web Access to Library Resources

Information about the library services and access to electronic information resources are available through the [honni](http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk) (Health on the Net Northern Ireland) website at <http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk>

Access to the electronic information resources, such as databases and electronic journals, is available through the [honni](http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk) website, accessible from any PC with an internet connection. In order to gain access, you will need to log in using the Login button found on the right-hand side of the [honni](http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk) screen. You will be prompted to enter your library card number as your username, while your password is the one you are given upon joining the library.

## Electronic Databases

Databases are the most effective way of searching for current literature and journal articles on a given topic. All databases available to HSC library borrowers are listed on the [honni](http://www.honni.qub.ac.uk) website under the [honni e-Lib](#) link and are accessible by logging in with your library card number and password. Below are some of the databases of most relevance to medicine.

**Cochrane Library** – The Cochrane Library consists of a regularly updated collection of evidence-based medicine databases, including The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews – evidence-based systematic reviews prepared by the Cochrane Collaboration which provide high quality information to people providing and receiving care and those responsible for research, teaching, funding and administration at all levels.



**MDConsult** – this is a resource for physicians to answer clinical questions and to keep up to date with recent development. It enables access to a range of resources within one interface such as e-books, medical journals, clinics and drug information.

**Medline** – this database is widely recognised as the premier source for bibliographic coverage of biomedical literature. MEDLINE encompasses a database of over 13 million bibliographic citations and abstracts in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, health care systems and preclinical sciences. Coverage extends back to 1950 and new material is incorporated weekly.



**PubMed** – provided by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. It does not require a username and password, and in addition to giving access to MEDLINE, it also includes in-process records (new citations not yet fully indexed) and some additional non-MEDLINE citations.

## Finding E-Journals

There is an extensive range of journals available electronically, which means you can access full text of journal articles without having to visit the library. There are various ways of checking if the full text of an article is available electronically.

1. Database Search – when you perform a search in [honni e-Lib](#) or from a particular database, you obtain a list of results giving you a brief bibliographic outline of articles and a  button. If you click on this button, you will be directed to the full text of the article if available. It will indicate if there is no full text available and other options will be offered.
2. E-Journals List – You can search for a specific journal title from the Electronic Journals A-Z list. To perform a search, enter the name in the title box or browse by the subject option. The A-Z link is available from the *Find e-Journal* tab in [honni e-Lib](#).
3. Library Catalogue – as well as displaying the location of the print copy of the journal, the library catalogue will also display a  button which will direct you to an electronic version if it is available.

## Finding E-Books

The library also provides access to electronic books making it easier for you to access relevant textbooks when and where you need to. To access the e-books simply search on the [honni](#) catalogue and if **e** appears to the left of a title this denotes it is available electronically. Click on the  button, then the  button and finally click GO. When prompted, use your [honni](#) username and password to login.

## Additional Guidance

The [honni](#) website provides links to useful resources by profession which give more specific information and guidance to individual professional groups. This can be accessed by clicking on [honni e-Lib](#) and selecting the *Medicine* link from under the *Subject* list. Click on the area of interest under *Resource Type*. You can select from areas such as clinical guidelines, evidence-based practice for medicine and professional organisations. In addition, subject gateways are highlighted which are useful tools for searching the internet and act as professional gateways to retrieve quality assessed websites. If you are having difficulties using the [honni e-Lib](#) portal, please refer to the [honni e-Lib](#) helpsheet.