

Library Lab

I. What's the Question?

Types of Questions/Concept of background and foreground questions

- A. Background questions – ask for general knowledge about a disorder/topic:
who, what, when, where, how, why
- B. Foreground questions – ask for specific knowledge for patient care:
PICO – Patient/problem, Intervention, Comparison (if relevant), Outcome

II. Where's the Answer?

Type of question helps determine best place to look for the answer

See handout: *Validity of Information Resources*

III. Electronic Library Resources – Available off-campus with your UTMB username/password <http://guides.utmb.edu/resources> or <http://guides.utmb.edu/som> or <http://guides.utmb.edu/clininfo>

A. For Background Questions

1. Ebook Packages –
Access Medicine (~70 titles, including *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*),
Books@Ovid (340+titles), **Clinical Key** (1,200 titles, including *Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease*), **PubMed Bookshelf**, **R2 Library**, and **STAT!-Ref** (70+ titles, including *AHFS Drug Information*)
2. Images and Videos –
Bates Visual Guide to Physical Examination, **WebPath**, **Pharmacology World videos**, **multimedia in Access Medicine and Clinical Key** (includes procedure videos)

B. For Foreground Questions/Clinical Decision Making

1. **Medline** (PubMed interface; Clinical Queries tool filters results to a specific clinical study category and scope)
2. **Cochrane Library** (for systematic reviews)
3. Evidence-based point-of-care – outline presentation of clinical topics with grades indicating quality of evidence.
 - a. **Essential Evidence Plus**
(in STAT!-Ref – mobile version available – sign up for a “Preferences Account”)
 - b. **Clinical Overviews**
(part of Clinical Key)
4. **UpToDate**

IV. Health Information on the Internet

- A. **MedlinePlus** (<http://medlineplus.gov/>) – reliable health information on the web
 1. Suitable for starting your own inquiries
 2. Safe place to refer patients and families
- B. Handout: *Evaluating Web Sites*
Think: Authority, Accuracy, Bias/Objectivity, Coverage/Completeness, and Currency

THE LIBRARIANS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU. IF YOU DON'T KNOW, ASK!

- ✓ <http://askus.utmb.edu>
- ✓ Telephone: 409-772-2372
- ✓ Text: 409-433-9976
- ✓ Chat: button on Library home page
- ✓ In Person: 2nd floor, Moody Medical Library

RULE OF THUMB: Don't spend more than 10 minutes searching for something unsuccessfully. The information doesn't get any better the harder you have to look for it. There is no extra credit for suffering! Spend your time *with* the information rather than looking for it.