

Overview of Google Scholar, PubMed, and CAB Abstracts¹

Heather Moberly & Sarah Bankston, "Library Resources: Getting the most out of your searches," AMWA Southwest Conference, College Station, TX, 2018

	Google Scholar	PubMed	CAB Abstracts ²
Producer	Google https://scholar.google.com	National Library of Medicine https://pubmed.gov	CABI International https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/online-information-resources/
Subject Scope	All subjects	Biomedical Sciences	Agriculture, Life Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Global Health, Human Nutrition, Environment, ...
Superpower	Results include citing articles	Great results from simple search terms through "Automatic Term Mapping"	Comprehensive index covering life sciences literature in many language and countries
Links to Free Full-Text	Yes, extensive links to full-text	Yes	Yes
Dates Covered	Undeterminable	1946-present	1973-present & 1910-1972 are available
Publication Formats	"Ahem, we index papers, not journals." ³ Primarily articles and conference papers.	Primarily peer-reviewed articles. Content includes: MEDLINE database (> 5,600 journals), PubMed Central repository, limited other resources	Wide variety of formats: peer-reviewed articles, non-peer-reviewed articles, books, book chapters, proceedings, annual reports, government documents, grey literature, ... >8,000 journals plus the other formats.
Reproducible Searches And Results (Important For Systematic Reviews)	No, search algorithm is proprietary and changes. Content searched changes.	Yes	Yes
How Frequently Updated	Several times a week ³	Daily	Depends on vendor interface
Account To Personalize	Gmail	My NCBI	Depends on vendor interface
Tells You What It Does With Your Search Terms	No, search algorithm is proprietary and changes	Yes, search algorithm is transparent. It is displayed and editable in Search Details.	Depends on vendor interface
Controlled Vocabulary	No	Yes, Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)	Yes CAB Thesaurus
Advanced Search	Advanced Search is a menu option. Can specify search in author or publication fields or specify date range. Search form for Boolean.	Can specify searching by field and view/search using the index list. Search history is displayed and can be mixed and matched.	Depends on vendor interface



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	Google Scholar	PubMed	CAB Abstracts ²
Search Filters	Articles and Case Law	Article Type, Language, Subjects, Publication Date, Species, Ages, Sex, ...	Depends on vendor interface
Boolean Searching (Always capitalize AND, OR, NOT)	Assume search uses AND between search terms. OR must be added. Use minus symbol rather than NOT.	AND is automatically added between search terms. OR and NOT must be added.	Depends on vendor interface
Truncate / Wildcard	No	End of word truncation only. Truncating turns off Automatic Term Mapping. Searches for the first 600 variations of truncated term.	Depends on vendor interface
Similar / Related Articles	Yes	Yes	Depends on vendor interface
Results Filters	Sort by relevance or date	Most Recent, Best Match, Publication Date, First Author, Last Author, Journal, or Title. Create custom results filters in My NCBI account.	Depends on vendor interface
Save, Automate, and Create Alerts for Searches	New results will be emailed	Create My NCBI account to save and automate searches. Run on demand or set schedule or emailed results.	Depends on vendor interface
Save Citations	Save citations indefinitely to My Library	Save citations temporarily to the Clipboard. Save citations indefinitely to My NCBI account.	Depends on vendor interface
Export to Citation Management Software	Export single citations from the results screen. Export multiple citations from My Library.	Export single or multiple citations using the Citation Manager. Citation Manager is part of the Send To menu.	Depends on vendor interface

¹ Expanded and adapted from Meador, A. (2016). Google Scholar vs. PubMed and CAB Abstracts. <http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/158206>. It was an adaption of Kraft, M. (2014). Making the most of Google Scholar. *AMWA*, 29(2), 80-82. http://c.ycmdn.com/sites/www.amwa.org/resource/resmgr/journal/Issues/2014/2014v29n2_online.pdf.

² CABI International produces a number of bibliographic databases available from a variety of vendor platforms. CAB Abstracts, the most comprehensive of the databases, is a compilation of the indexed information about 40 subjects. CAB Abstracts and other subject databases are available to individuals and institutions by subscription and as a "day pass." More information is available at <https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/online-information-resources/>. Contact sales@cabi.org for a free trial.

³ <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html#coverage>

