

### Google Scholar vs. PubMed and CAB Abstracts

Adapted from “Making the Most of Google Scholar”, by M Kraft, 2014, *AMWA*, 29, p. 80-82.

	Google Scholar	PubMed	CAB Abstracts
<b>Scope</b>	Multidisciplinary	Biomedicine/Health & Life Sciences	Agriculture & Life Sciences
<b>Publications Indexed</b>	“Ahem, we index papers, not journals.”	More than 5,600 worldwide scholarly journals with a small number of newspapers, magazines, and newsletters considered useful to particular segments of the user community.	More than 10,000 journals, books, and conference proceedings.
<b>Coverage Dates</b>	Unknown	1946-present with some older material.	1973-present
<b>Updates</b>	New papers added several times a week. Updates to existing records take 6-9 months to a year or longer.	Daily. Updates are suspended Nov.-Dec. while NLM transitions to a new year of MeSH (the vocabulary used to index articles).	Monthly and randomly.
<b>Controlled Vocabulary</b>	No	Yes. Medical Subject Headings (MeSH).	Yes. CAB Thesaurus.
<b>Citation Management Tools</b>	Yes. Citations can be exported <u>one at a time</u> to BibTex, EndNote, RefMan, or RefWorks. Multiple citations can be exported from My Library.	Yes. Multiple citations can be exported as a file to a variety of citation managers.	Yes. Multiple citations can be exported directly to Citavi, EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, and RefWorks.
<b>Save Citations</b>	Yes. Citations can be saved indefinitely to My Library.	Yes. Citations can be saved temporarily to My Clipboard and indefinitely to a MY NCBI account.	Yes. Citations can be saved temporarily to Search History or indefinitely to a Personal Account.
<b>Save, Automate, and Alert</b>	Yes. Users can save and	Yes. Users can create and	Yes. Users can create and

	automate searches. Results are emailed to users when new papers are added and discovered by Google's search robots.	automate searches. Results are emailed to users according to a schedule determined during the search creation process.	automate searches. Results are emailed to users when the database is updated.
<b>Search Filters</b>	Limited. Articles, Case Law, Year (Journal or Author filter available under Advanced Search).	Yes. Article Type, Availability, Publication Date, Species, and more.	Yes. Years, Subject, Author, Journal, Publication Type, and more.
<b>Sort Results</b>	Limited. Sort by relevance or date.	Yes. Sort results by Most Recent, Publication Date, First Author, Last Author, Journal, Title and Relevance.	Yes. Sort results by a variety of criteria.
<b>Boolean Searching</b>	<b>And</b> is automatically added between search terms. <b>Or</b> must be capitalized, and the minus symbol, rather than <b>Not</b> , must be used to eliminate a search term.	<b>And</b> is automatically added between search terms. <b>Or</b> and <b>Not</b> must be capitalized.	Yes
<b>Truncation Symbols</b>	No. Uses "stemming" technology to search for word variants, but does not include all variants.	End truncation only (no wildcard truncation). Searches for the first 600 variations of a truncated term.	Yes
<b>Similar or Related Articles Feature</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Google Scholar is an Internet search engine. PubMed is a search engine providing access to the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) MEDLINE database. CAB Abstracts is a database produced by The Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI).*