

**Eurasia Health Knowledge Network**  
**([www.eurasiahealth.org](http://www.eurasiahealth.org))**

# **A Guide to Electronic Health Care/Medical Libraries on the Internet**

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The guide was produced by the American International Health Alliance as part of its Learning Resource Centers project.

This guide provides information on how to obtain access to a variety of full-text health and medical journals, books, and other resources. The following on-line resources are included:

## **International and National Projects**

- HINARI. Access to Research in Health Programme
- Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERii)
- Scientific Electronic Library (Russia)
- EurasiaHealth Knowledge Network

## **Journal Articles and Books Collections**

- African Index Medicus
- BIOLINE – International
- BioMed Central
- Directory of Open Access Journals
- Free Medical Books
- Free Medical Journals
- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research - Free Medical Journals
- HighWire Press Free Online Full-text Articles
- HighWire Press Free Access to Developing Economies
- MedMir
- Medknow
- Medscape
- National Academies Press
- PLoS
- PubMed Central
- PubMed Free Link Out Journals
- SciELO Public Health
- ScienceDirect

## **EBM resources**

- Cochrane Library
- BMJ Clinical Evidence
- WHO Reproductive Health Library

## **Full-text Internet Resources Search Tools**

OAIster  
Open J-Gate  
Scirus  
Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)

The guide is regularly updated. The current version is available at:  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/81628/>

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## **International and National Projects**

### **HINARI**

Access to Research in Health Programme  
<http://www.who.int/hinari/en/>

### ***Resources***

Full texts of more than 7000 medical journals , databases, encyclopedias, reference books, compendia, and other full-text resources: CINAHL, Bloodmed, British National Formulary, Clinical Evidence, The Cochrane Library, Duodecim, EBM Guidelines, Encyclopedia of Life Sciences, Eurekah.com, Gastrohep, Hematology--ASH Education Program Book, Landes Bioscience, Oxford Textbook of Medicin, Red Book Online (AAP), WHO Model Formulary, WHO Reproductive Health Library and others in 22 languages.

### ***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Institutions in countries with GNP per capita below \$1250 are eligible for free access. Institutions in countries with GNP per capita between \$1250-\$3000 pay a fee of \$1000 per year / institution. If your institution is in Band 2 (low-cost access) country, and you cannot or choose not to pay the annual fee, your institution will still be eligible for free access to a certain number of journals. Eligible categories of institutions are: national universities, research institutes, professional schools (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, dentistry), teaching hospitals, government offices and national medical libraries, other not-for-profit institutions. All staff members and students are entitled to access to the journals.

### ***Registration***

- Fill in the registration form (<http://extranet.who.int/hinari/en/registration.php>).
  - A single password will be sent to your organization (in the name of its librarian or director).
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## **Program for the Enhancement of Research Information (PERii phase 2)**

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PERii is the second five-year phase of INASPs Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information. The objectives of the program are to: facilitate the acquisition of international information and knowledge; improve access to research through the promotion of national and regional journals; provide awareness or training in the use, evaluation and management of electronic information and communication technologies (ICTs); enhance skills in the preparation, production and management of journals. In facilitating the acquisition of full text online journals, current awareness databases and document delivery INASP (International Network of the Availability of Scientific Publications) has been working with individual publishers, 'packagers' of information and consolidating subscription agents.

<http://www.inasp.info/file/5f65fc9017860338882881402dc594e4/peri.html>

***Among Current INASP projects are:***

**List of Resources** - The INASP List of Resources contains information and links to complementary programmes to PERii, online resources that are open access so available to all researchers and online resources that are freely available to researchers in developing and emerging countries.

<http://www.inasp.info/file/9cb84877221680dc64d392765c7faa03/list-of-resources-medicine-and-health-sciences.html>

**PERii: Information Delivery** - Provides researchers with access to international scholarly literature based on electronic delivery

<http://www.inasp.info/file/ea36e1cc2424ebadbe73d076d430faa7/perii-information-delivery.html>

**PERii: Library Development** - Develops digital services, ensures access to, and training in, exploiting and accessing resources

<http://www.inasp.info/file/d823e4728f59bedea7b975aba08e66cd/perii-library-development.html>

***Resources:***

18,000+ journals from international publishers across all disciplines

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Among countries involved in one or more components of PERii at the present time are: Armenia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Zambia. Access is usually provided to organizations participating in local library consortia.

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**Scientific Electronic Library (Russia)**

A project of the Russian Foundation for Fundamental Studies

<http://elibrary.ru>

***Resources***

Full-text electronic versions of 1700 Russian scientific journals.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Though most journals and databases are available to all registered organizations, some publishers only grant access to a limited number of organizations or charge fees. Any organization irrespective of its status, business area, ownership pattern or geographical location can register itself with the eLibrary.ru server. The only requirement is that the applicant organization must be an independent legal entity. Identification of an organization in the Scientific Electronic Library is performed based on the IP addresses of the organization's computers. This means that users of those computers will only get access to those information resources of the Library to which the organization has been subscribed. When entering the Library from other computers, one can use all the Library's basic features (including full-text search), except for access to full-text articles. If users connect to the Internet via a dial-up telephone line, the IP address allocated by the provider may be different for each connection session. There are two options to resolve that problem. The best one is to get a permanent IP address from your ISP. The other option is to request a range of IP addresses from your ISP from which your current ISP address will be allocated and to use both the IP address and password in the identification procedure.

### **Registration**

Only a responsible representative of the applicant organization should fill in the registration form. The procedure is as follows:

- the representative of the applicant organization should fill in the user registration form and organization registration form;
- he/she should print out the License Agreement (<http://elibrary.ru/agreement.asp>);
- he/she should have the License Agreement signed by the manager of his/her organization, sealed by the official seal of the organization and then sent by conventional mail or courier to Intra Center at 7A Novatorov Str., Office 107, Moscow, 119421, Russia;
- upon receipt of the License Agreement, the organization will be granted the "Registered" status;
- upon registration, the representative of the organization will be granted access to the "Organization Profile" section of the web site where he/she can specify the range of IP addresses for his/her organization and choose those resources from the Library's list of resources which the organization would like (and is qualified) to subscribe to;
- for each of the ordered resources, applications for subscription will be considered by the appropriate coordinators and, in case of a positive decision, the organization will be granted the "Subscribed" status with respect to that particular resource.

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### **EurasiaHealth Knowledge Network**

EurasiaHealth is a clearinghouse of freely available resources contributed, created and translated by a worldwide community of health professionals focusing on Central & Eastern Europe and the New Independent States. The project of the American International Health Alliance.

<http://www.eurasiahealth.org>

### **Resources**

The database includes more than 2000 toolkits, articles, guidelines, reports, resources for patients and training materials in English, Russian and other languages of the region. Special

sections of the Network are EurasiaHealth AIDS Knowledge Network, and EurasiaHealth TB Knowledge Network (<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/aids>;<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/tb>)

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free

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**Journal Articles and Book Collections**

**African Index Medicus**

The World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA), produces an international index to African health literature and information sources.

<http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/>

***Resources***

The data base includes journal articles from more than 130 African medical journals, also monographs, technical reports and other types of documents. Records include abstracts and links to full text (if available). Articles on or related to Africa and published in other regional or international journals are also indexed.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free.

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**BIOLINE-International**

**Bioline International** is a collaborative initiative of the University of Toronto Libraries, Canada (management office), the Reference Center on Environmental Information, Brazil (host computer and software development) and Bioline/UK (liaison).

<http://www.bioline.org.br>

***Resources***

Open access to quality research journals published in developing countries on health care (including tropical medicine, infectious diseases, epidemiology, emerging new diseases), biodiversity, the environment, conservation and international development. Peer-reviewed journals from Brazil, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and other countries (about 55 journals).

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free.

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**BioMed Central**

BioMed Central Publishing House

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

### **Resources**

BioMed Central is an independent publishing house that grants access to peer-reviewed publications on biomedical studies. BioMed Central publishes on-line journals covering all fields of biology and medicine.

### **Terms and Conditions of Access**

Free access to more than 200 open access peer-reviewed journals and research articles in the rest of the BioMed Central journals, which can be accessed by subscribers for a charge. The registered users can personalize the contents of the Web site to focus on those articles in the fields of particular interest to them and receive e-mail updates

### **Registration**

Registration is free.

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## **Directory of Open Access Journals**

Directory of Open Access Journals is hosted by Lund University Libraries Head Office . The project is funded by Open Society Institute - Budapest and also supported by SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition). The aim of the Directory of Open Access Journals is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The Directory aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use a quality control system to guarantee the content.

<http://www.doaj.org>

### **Resources**

This service covers free, full text, quality controlled scientific and scholarly journals. Its aim is to cover all subjects and languages. There are now 5904 journals in the directory (medicine – 368, public health – 140, nursing – 29, dentistry – 50). Currently 2100 journals are searchable on article level. As of today 406,490 articles are included in the DOAJ service.

### **Terms and Conditions of Access**

Access is free.

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## **Free Medical Journals**

A project of Bernd Sebastian Kamps  
<http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/>

### **Resources**

The database contains information on 1577 medical journals in various languages (with free access during the first one to six months or one to two years after publication). If you wish to be informed about new free journals, you may subscribe to Journal Alert.

### **Terms and Conditions of Access**

Access is free.

### **Free Medical Books – Free Books for Doctors**

A project of Bernd Sebastian Kamps  
<http://www.freebooks4doctors.com/>

#### ***Resources***

The database contains information on 365 medical textbooks, monographs and reference books available on the Internet in various languages.

#### ***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free.

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### **The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research - Free Medical Journals**

The Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) is a non-profit organization established in 2002. It is supported by the Department of Health of the Canton of Geneva, the Department of Social Affairs of the City of Geneva, the Faculty of Medicine, Geneva University, and the Geneva Medical Association, and works in close collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). GFMER is a WHO Collaborating Centre in Education and Research in Human Reproduction  
[http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical\\_journals/Free\\_medical.php](http://www.gfmer.ch/Medical_journals/Free_medical.php)

#### ***Resources***

The database contains information on medical journals in various languages (with free access during the first one to six months, one to two years after publication, or with some free content available). The links are organized by 65 medical topics, and you can also search by keywords.

#### ***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free.

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### **HighWire Press Free Online Full-text Articles**

A project of the Stanford University libraries  
<http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>

#### ***Resources***

This List is limited to journals published online with the assistance of HighWire Press. The participating journals focus on science, technology and medicine and are among the most influential publications. The approach to the on-line publication of journals taken by HighWire Press is not limited to the simple creation of electronic images of printed pages. The electronic versions complement the information in printed journals by links to Internet resources, extensive search capabilities, high-resolution images, multimedia and interactive tools. The freely accessible database contains more than 2,000,650 free full-text articles. There are 7 sites with free trial periods, and 47 completely free sites. 287 sites have free back issues. HighWire Press is, therefore, the world's largest archive of articles on life sciences.

You can search across all the journals in the database, choose topics of interest or browse the resources by topic. You can also find the journals that provide RSS feeds.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free.

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**HighWire Press Free Access to Developing Economies**

A project of the Stanford University libraries

<http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/devecon.dtl>

***Resources***

Journals on life and social sciences, including 350 leading medical journals (published online with the assistance of HighWire Press).

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free for low-income countries, plus Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Djibouti, Georgia, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Individual publishers use the list from the World Bank as a guideline for determining their policies, so some variation in access per publisher does occur.

***Registration***

Not needed as the software will automatically identify the country from which the Web site is accessed.

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**MedMir – World Medical Journal Reviews in Russian**

MedMir.com – International Medical Information Technologies, Inc, IMIT

<http://www.medmir.com/index.php>

***Resources***

This Web site is intended for healthcare professionals. It provides reviews of clinical research articles published in the world's 16 leading medical journals. The site will help you keep updated to major achievements in world medicine. In selection of publications, preference is given to articles relevant for healthcare practice. Journal reviews have been maintained on a regular basis since January 1, 2005. All the reviews are made by medical specialists.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free

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**Medknow**

Medknow Publications (India)

<http://www.medknow.com/>

***Resources***

“Medknow Publications” is the largest publisher in India for academic and scientific biomedical journals, which does not charge author or author institution for submission,

processing or publication of articles. Now the collection includes 95 peer-reviewed scholarly medical journals. Each journal published by Medknow has its independent Web site.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free

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**Medscape**

<http://www.medscape.com/>

***Resources***

Medscape is built around practice-oriented content. Each of 36 Specialty Sites pools, filters, and delivers pertinent, continually updated content from more than 125 medical journals and textbooks, and expert-authored state-of-the-art surveys in disease management, next-day summaries from major medical meetings, and more.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access is free, but requires a one-time membership registration.

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**NAP**

The National Academies Press (NAP) was created by the National Academies to publish the reports issued by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council, all operating under a charter granted by the Congress of the United States.

<http://www.nap.edu/topics.php?topic=288>

***Resources***

The NAP publishes more than 200 books a year on a wide range of topics in science, engineering, and health, capturing the most authoritative views on important issues in science and health policy. Health and Medicine research at the National Academies focuses on issues affecting the health of the public, including population-based public health measures and the public health infrastructure. It also ensures that there is adequate attention to the science base underlying health and health care, as national and international needs evolve and change. The public and private policies and institutional relations that shape health sciences research and policy or facilitate application of new knowledge are of particular concern.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Many titles are offered in electronic Adobe PDF format: hundreds of these books can be downloaded for free by the chapter or the entire book.

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**PLoS - The Public Library of Science**

The Public Library of Science (PLoS) is a non-profit organization of scientists and physicians committed to making the world's scientific and medical literature a freely available public resource.

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<http://www.plos.org/>

### **Resources**

**PLoS Medicine** is an open-access, peer-reviewed medical journal published monthly, online. **PLoS ONE** is an open-access, peer-reviewed medical journal publishing reports on primary research from any scientific discipline.

**PLoS Genetics** is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal published weekly

**PLoS Pathogens** publishes important new ideas on bacteria, fungi, parasites, prions, and viruses that contribute to our understanding of the biology of pathogens and pathogen-host interactions.

**PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases** is an open access journal devoted to neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). The journal publishes high quality, peer-reviewed research on all scientific, medical, and public health aspects of these forgotten diseases affecting the world's forgotten people.

### **Terms and Conditions of Access**

PLoS users are free to read, copy, distribute, and enjoy the first-rate content without limits and at no charge. Crediting the author and original source is all that is required in return

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### **PubMed Central**

U.S. National Medical Library (NML)

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>

### **Resources**

An electronic archive of journal articles on life sciences established and supported by the National Biotechnology Information Center (NBIC) under the NML. Currently includes more than 400 journals. When searching in the PubMed Medline search engine, you will get a link to full texts of those articles available in the archive. PubMed Central aims to fill the role of a world class library in the digital age. It is not a journal publisher. NLM believes that giving all users free and unrestricted access to the material in PubMed Central is the best way to ensure the durability and utility of the archive as technology changes over time. Participation by publishers in PubMed Central (PMC) is voluntary, although participating journals must meet certain editorial standards. Journals are encouraged to deposit all their content (and not just research papers or other selected material) in PMC so that the archive becomes a true digital counterpart to NLM's extensive collection of print journals. PMC also has the author manuscripts of articles published by NIH-funded researchers in various non-PMC journals

The value of PubMed Central, in addition to its role as an archive, lies in what can be done when data from diverse sources is stored in a common format in a single repository. With PubMed Central, one can quickly search the entire body of full-text articles and locate relevant material regardless of its source. It also makes it possible to integrate the literature with a variety of other information resources such as sequence databases and other factual databases that are available to scientists, clinicians and everyone else interested in the life sciences.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access to the resources is free and unlimited.

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**PubMed Free Link Out journals**

U.S. National Medical Library (NML)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/linkout/journals/jourlists.fcgi?typeid=2&type=providers&show=ALL&operation=Show>

***Resources***

*PubMed* Link Out option provides lists of journals with free content. The catalogue contains now information about 1202 journals with all/some free full-text content.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access to this resource is free

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**SciELO Public Health (Scientific Electronic Library Online)**

<http://www.scielo.org/php/index.php?lang=en>

***Resources***

This electronic online library covers health science articles published by scientific journals. Its primary goal is to provide universal and integrated access to 221 scientific journals in the health science area within Ibero-american countries. **SciELO** interface provides access to its serials collection via an alphabetic list of titles or a subject index or a search by word of serial titles, publisher names, city of publication and subject. The interface also provides access to the full text of articles via author index or subject index or a search form on article elements such as author names, words from title, subject and words from the full text.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access to this resource is free

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**ScienceDirect**

Elsevier Science Publishing House

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>

***Resources***

Journals on medicine, sciences and technology. Databases and reference publications.

***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Unsubscribed users (guest users) are offered free access to 50 health sciences/medical journals (those are marked as "Full-text available") and to tables of contents and abstracts from the other journals. Separate issues of other journals are also available for free.

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## **EBM resources**

### **The Cochrane Library**

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>

#### ***Resources***

*The Cochrane Library* is a collection of databases that contain high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. Cochrane reviews represent the highest level of evidence on which to base clinical treatment decisions. In addition to Cochrane reviews, *The Cochrane Library* provides other sources of reliable information, from other systematic review abstracts, technology assessments, economic evaluations and individual clinical trials – all the current evidence in one single environment

#### ***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Residents in a number of countries or regions can access *The Cochrane Library* online for free through a ‘provision’ or a special scheme. The Cochrane Library is available with free one-click access to all residents of countries in the World Bank’s list of low-income economies (countries with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of less than \$1000). Access to The Cochrane Library for low-income countries is via Wiley-Blackwell IP recognition, a system which recognizes the country a user is in. Access to The Cochrane Library is also available via the HINARI and INASP programs, which provide additional support to low-income countries. Residents from other countries have access to abstracts of systematic reviews and to other resources.

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### **BMJ Clinical Evidence**

BMJ Publishing Group Limited, UK

<http://clinicalevidence.bmj.com/cweb/about/index.jsp>

#### ***Resources***

*Clinical Evidence* is a new kind of decision-support resource, it summarises the current state of knowledge and uncertainty about the prevention and treatment of clinical conditions, based on thorough searches and appraisal of the literature. It is neither a textbook of medicine nor a set of guidelines. It describes the best available evidence from systematic reviews, RCTs, and observational studies where appropriate, and if there is no good evidence it says so.

#### ***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Free access is provided if you are accessing this site from within a developing country (low and lower middle income economies)

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### **The WHO Reproductive Health Library (RHL)**

An electronic annual review journal published by the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the WHO. RHL takes the best available evidence on sexual and reproductive

health from Cochrane systematic reviews and presents it as practical actions for clinicians (and policy-makers) to improve health outcomes, especially in developing countries.

<http://apps.who.int/rhl/en/>

### ***Resources***

Full text of selected Cochrane systematic reviews; independent expert commentaries on single or a collection of related Cochrane reviews - RHL commentaries; practical advice on implementation of findings of each Cochrane review - RHL practical aspects; a complete list of interventions evaluated in RHL, classified by the degree of their effectiveness - Effectiveness summaries; a set of training videos to help clinicians master details of manual and surgical procedures - RHL videos; a set of published journal articles and other materials to help understand and practice evidence-based sexual and reproductive health care - Evidence-based medicine resources.

### ***Terms and Conditions of Access***

Access to full-text of systematic reviews is free of charge for low-income countries. Other resources (including abstracts of systematic reviews and evidence summaries) are free for all.

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## **Full-text Internet Resources Search Tools**

### **OAster**

A project of the University of Michigan Digital Library Production Service  
<http://www.oaister.org/>

### ***Description***

OAster is an index to academically-oriented "digital resources" available for free from more than 1100 libraries and other organizations. It contains now more than 23 million records. OAster offers information that links to hidden digital resources such as the complete contents of books and articles, technical reports, preprints, white papers, images, movies, and audio files. It retrieves these directly from the collections of a variety of institutions using harvesting technology based on the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) Protocol.

### ***Search options***

You can search for any word within the document, or you can limit your search to the document title, author, subject, language or type of material (audio, video, text and so on).

### ***Search results display***

The search results page includes a detailed description of each item, along with a link you can click to get a copy of the item.

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## **Open J-Gate**

A project of the Informatics (India) Ltd.  
<http://www.openj-gate.org/Search/QuickSearch.aspx>

**Description**

Open J-Gate is an electronic gateway to global journal literature in open access domain. Launched in 2006, Open J-Gate provides seamless access to millions of journal articles available online. Open J-Gate is a database of journal literature, indexed from 4961 open access journals, with links to full text at Publisher sites.

**Search options**

You can search by words in title and abstract, author name and institution, and by subject category. Search results could also be filtered for peer-reviewed or industry/professional journals.

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**Scirus**

Search engine for retrieving scientific, scholarly, technical and medical data on the Web. Helps to find reports, book chapters, peer-reviewed articles, patents, pre-prints and journals that other search engines miss.

<http://www.scirus.com/>

**Search options**

You can search in a range of subject areas including health, life, physical and social sciences. You can also narrow your search to a particular author, journal or article, and restrict your results to a specified date range. You can search only articles or only Web sites. If you click the link to an article from the search results screen, you will be taken to a web page through which you can purchase a PDF copy of the full text. In the case of free web material, you can click through to see the full text of the item. The search results page also includes suggested words and phrases that can help you narrow your search. You can refine, customize and save your searches.

**Search results display**

You can click a box on the left side of any of the search result items and then click the "Email checked results" or "Export checked results" to produce a list of the articles you have selected

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**Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR)**

ROAR is promoting open access to the research pre- and post-peer-review literature through author self-archiving in institutional eprint archives

<http://archives.eprints.org/eprints.php>

**Description**

This registry has two functions: (1) to monitor overall growth in the number of eprint archives and (2) to maintain a list of GNU EPrints sites (the software Southampton University has

designed to facilitate self-archiving). It includes now information about more than 1790 open access repositories.

***Search options***

You can search/browse by country, archive type (e-journals, e-thesis, data bases, etc.) or by archive software.

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