Useful Databases
by Caroline De Brun

The following databases are sources of information to support clinical and non-clinical decision-making. The first list contains the most commonly used by health professionals in England, and the second list contains details of other relevant databases. The content tends to be non-appraised research, although peer reviewed and published in professional journals:

- **CINAHL (subscription only)**
  Covers a wide range of topics including nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health and 17 allied health disciplines.

- **Cochrane Library (freely available) -** http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/index.html
  Six databases that contain different types of high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making.

- **Embase (subscription only)**
  European version of Medline, containing abstracts of articles on medical and pharmacological research.

- **Medline (subscription only) / PubMed (freely available) -** http://www.pubmed.gov
  Medline and PubMed have the same content, made up of more than 22 million citations from biomedical literature.

- **NICE Evidence Search –** http://www.evidence.nhs.uk
  Evidence Search which provides free open access to a unique index of selected and authoritative health and social care evidence-based information.

- **Social Care Online (freely available) -** http://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/
  Largest database of information and research on all aspects of social care and social work.

- **TRIP Database (freely available) -** http://www.tripdatabase.com/
  Clinical search engine designed to allow users to quickly and easily find and use high-quality research evidence to support their practice and/or care.
- **African Index Medicus** *(freely available)* - [http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/](http://indexmedicus.afro.who.int/)
  AIM collates all biomedical information published in or related to Africa.

- **AMED** *(subscription only)*
  Abstracts about complementary medicine, palliative care, and professions allied to medicine, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation, speech and language therapy, and podiatry.

  Covers health, social services, psychology, sociology, economics, politics, race relations, and education.

- **Chinese Medical Collections** *(freely available)* - [http://www.wanfangdata.com/medical/intr.asp](http://www.wanfangdata.com/medical/intr.asp)
  Covers medical journals, dissertations, conference proceedings, patents, standards, companies, and products.

  Medical and health documentation from countries, less-developed, outside the major industrialized areas.

- **Health Business Elite** *(subscription only)*
  Details aspects of health care administration and other non-clinical aspects of health care management.

- **Health Systems Evidence** *(freely available)* - [http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org/healthsystemsevidence-en](http://www.mcmasterhealthforum.org/healthsystemsevidence-en)
  Evidence for making decisions about strengthening or reforming health systems or cost-effective programmes, services and drugs.

- **HMIC** *(subscription only)*
  This database brings together the bibliographic database of two UK health and social care management organizations: the Department of Health’s Library and Information Services (DH-Data) and King’s Fund Information and Library Service.

- **Indmed** *(freely available)* - [http://indmed.nic.in/indmed.html](http://indmed.nic.in/indmed.html)
  Peer reviewed Indian biomedical journals.

  Collection of references on public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research.

  Comprehensive index of scientific and technical literature about Latin America and the Caribbean.

  PDQ (“pretty darn quick”) Evidence includes systematic reviews, overviews of reviews, evidence-based policy briefs, primary studies and structured summaries of evidence for decisions about health systems.

  PEDro contains over 23,000 randomised trials, systematic reviews and clinical practice guidelines in physiotherapy.

- **PsycInfo** *(subscription only)*
  Abstracts of articles and book chapters on behavioural sciences and mental health, and psychological aspects of related disciplines, such as management and learning.