As you research a topic in life sciences, Medline is one database you should choose. Unlike some databases with which you may be familiar, Medline does not contain full text of articles. You will need to find the articles using the finding tools which are built into the database. Medline is known for a rigorous application of subject terms to millions of articles in the field of medicine and bio sciences. Because Medline is focused on subjects, searches should be based on use of Medical Subject headings. Hopefully knowing how to use the Medical Subject Headings will improve the outcome of your research.
Finding Articles Using Medline and OAIster

2. Select **Medline** from FirstSearch Databases

The Medline database can be accessed through the Estelle M. Black library’s List of Databases. Medline is one of a host of other databases offered by FirstSearch. OAIster is another FirstSearch database. You’ll see how OAIster (pronounced oy-ster) can be used to search for full text articles on your topic.
From the opening page of Medline, we can access the subject headings by clicking on the Subjects icon.
We begin by entering a word or concept. Let’s look at research on the topic of Lou Gehrig’s disease or ALS. So we enter ALS because we know it can be used for Lou Gehrig’s disease.
In Medline Subject searching, we can retrieve articles by clicking on the subject term that is shown. We can narrow the subject we search by clicking on “Expand.”
Finding Articles Using Medline and OAIster

6. View Results of Medline Search

1. **Maternal age, exposure to siblings, and risk of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.**
   Author: Fang F; Kamel F; Sandler DP, and other

2. **Global gene expression profiling of somatic motor neuron populations with different vulnerability identify molecules and pathways of degeneration and protection.**
   Author: Hedlund E; Karlsson M; Olsson Y, and others
   Source: Brain : a journal of neurology (Brain) 2010 Aug; 133(Pt) 8: 2313-30

3. **Corticomotoneuronal function and hyperexcitability in acquired neuromyotonia.**
   Author: Vucic S; Cheah BC; Yiannikas C, and others
   Source: Brain : a journal of neurology (Brain) 2010 Sep; 133(9): 2727-33

4. **Ataxin-2 intermediate-length polyglutamine expansions are associated with increased risk for ALS.**
   Author: Elden AC; Kim HJ; Hart MP, and others
   Source: Nature (Nature) 2010 Aug 26; 466(7310): 1069-75

5. **Neurodegeneration: An expansion in ALS genetics.**
   Author: Lajen Tourenne C; Cleveland DW
   Source: Nature (Nature) 2010 Aug 26; 466(7310): 1052-3

Here are the results of our Medline search. Each item in this list has a detailed view which opens when clicking on the text link.
This screen shows a “detailed record.” Let’s look into how to locate this item.
In Medline, tools linking to the Estelle M. Black Library’s periodical or database subscriptions are essential to obtaining the full text. Each detailed record under GET THIS ITEM has tools to help locate the full text of the article. These tools link you back to the library’s print journals, eJournal hosts or Interlibrary Loan service. However, here is a word of caution: you will find instances in which Medline contains incomplete information about holdings in the Estelle M. Black Library—sometimes misleading you to think that Estelle M. Black Library has a specific issue of a journal. As a library staff, we would be glad to help you deal with questions that come up about finding articles from Medline searches.
Library Journals is an excellent tool for determining whether the issue and date of the journal you need is available. If you know the title but don’t know whether the Library has a subscription or has electronic access, enter the title. You will see the journal title, years available, and links to the publisher or database archive.
Finding Articles Using Medline and OAIster

10. Search publisher’s journal archive

1. Enter year, authors
2. Click Search

From the Library Journals tool, the link goes to the publisher’s archive for American Journal of Epidemiology. We can do a search on the publisher’s site using the date and authors of the article.
Finding Articles Using Medline and OAlster

11. Select and download article

After finding the article, we want to see if it is available to download without cost.
This article is older than a year. Generally a good rule when downloading articles is that publishers charge for articles which have been published within six months or a year. After that, many publishers permit you to download the article without cost. This restriction is known as the publishers embargo. Check the Library Journals tool listing carefully to see if the journal is in the library's print holdings. If it is, free full text access should be available.
Research articles in medicine and the biological sciences are indexed and supplied in full text by OAIster, another database you can access in the list of Databases. As a FirstSearch database, OAIster has many similar navigational features as Medline. Let’s back up to our previous search on the topic of Lou Gehrig’s disease or ALS and replicate the search in OAIster.
We’re searching again but this time in the OAIster database for articles on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and epidemiology.
Finding Articles Using Medline and OAIster

15. View Results & Click on Get It Icon

OAIster results for: (su= "amyotrophic lateral sclerosis") and su= "epidemiology".
(Save Search)

Records found: 2

1. What we truly know about occupation as a risk factor for ALS : a critical and systematic review
   Author: Sutedja, N.A.; Fischer, K.; Veldink, J.H., and others
   Publication: Informa Healthcare, Taylor & Francis AS 2009
   Resource Type: text; Data Contributor: Universiteit Utrecht Igur Archief; See more details for locating this item

2. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in Brazil: 1998 national survey
   Author(s): DIETRICH‐NETO FLÁVIA; CALLEGARO DAGOBERTO; DIAS‐TOSTA ELZA; SILVA HELGA ALMEIDA; FERRAZ MARIA ELIZABETH; LIMA JOSÉ MAURO BRAZ DE; OLIVEIRA ACARY SOUZA BULLE
   Publication: Academia Brasileira de Neurologia – ABNEURO
   Libraries Worldwide: 1 See more details for locating this item

The results of this search include two articles. We will click on the Get It Icon to retrieve one article.
Retrieve the article by clicking on the Access URL.
This completes the procedure for finding an article in OAIster to match our research need. Thanks very much for listening!
Finding Articles in Medline and OAIster

Estelle M. Black Library at Rock Valley College
815-921-4619
http://www.rockvalleycollege.edu/library