

Searching for evidence

(Richardson J, Jones C., Pilkington K. *Complementary therapies: what is the evidence for their use. Professional Nurse* 2001, 17(2):96-99)

Important electronic databases that include articles and research information on complementary therapies:

1. AMED (Alternative and Allied Medicine Database) Database established in 1985 by the British Library's Medical Information Centre. Total of 65,000 references. Scans 400 journals for references to complementary therapy. Also contains references for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation and podiatry. Updated monthly. Access by licence only, usually available in NHS libraries
2. CAM on PubMed (Medline) Developed jointly by NIH Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine and the National Library of Medicine.
www.nlm.nih.gov/nccam/camonpubmed.html
3. CISCOM (The Centralised Information Service for Complementary Medicine) Specialist information service based on a database produced by the Research Council for Complementary Medicine. Contains around 70,000 references. Combines data from a wide range of sources including in house citation tracking. A specialist thesaurus is currently being developed. Specialises in clinical trials. Also holds references to sociological and psychological studies. www.rccm.org.uk
4. Complementary Medicine Programme Database A programme that facilitates systematic reviews and evaluation. Includes the complementary and alternative medicine and pain database (CAMPAIN)
www.compmed.ummc.umaryland.edu/default.htm
5. HerbMed Herbal database that provides hyperlinked access to the scientific data underlying the use of herbs. An evidence based information resource for professionals, researchers and general public. Contains 125 evidence based reviews of herbal therapies. www.herbmed.org/
6. Hom-Inform information service Contains 17,000 references based on contents of Faculty of Homoeopathy library based at Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital
hominform.soutron.com/homqbe1.asp
7. BNI (British Nursing Index) Has a nursing focus but with some complementary therapy references. Access by licence only, usually available in NHS libraries
8. Cinahl (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) Records of literature on all aspects of nursing and allied health disciplines, includes some complementary therapy references. Access by licence only, usually available in NHS libraries
9. NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination Includes the DARE database, economic evaluation database and health technology programme reports.
www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd
10. OMNI gateway Provides free access to a searchable catalogue of internet sites covering health and medicine, including complementary medicine
<http://omni.ac.uk>
11. The Cochrane Library contains over 5000 reports of randomised controlled trials and over 60 systematic reviews on complementary therapies (subscription required). www.cochranelibrary.com/enter/
12. RCCM (Research Council for Complementary Medicine) website
Abstracts of the Cochrane Reviews of complementary therapy available on the RCCM website. www.rccm.org.uk/cochrane.htm

