

Points to consider when conducting literature searches in support of IACUC protocols.

Step 1: Identify Key Concepts in Your Protocol

- √ Generate a list of search terms – including synonyms – based on these key concepts.
- √ Consider conducting [more than one search to address the 3 Rs](#) – perhaps one search looking for ways to refine your methods and another search looking for in vitro or in silico alternatives to using animals.

Step 2: Select Appropriate Databases

- √ Review the list of [library-recommended databases](#) and select more than one database.
- √ You can search multiple databases simultaneously by using
 - [Embase](#) (which includes Medline and Embase); or
 - [Web of Science](#) (Click on "All Databases").

Step 3: Develop Your Search Strategy

- √ [Review search tips](#).
- √ Create your strategy using OR and AND to be both thorough and targeted in your search.
 - 1) Combine synonyms using OR to search for Concept #1.
 - 2) Combine synonyms using OR to search for Concept #2.
 - 3) Find articles discussing both concepts by searching for Concept #1 AND Concept #2.

(retina OR retinal) AND (regenerat* OR regrow*) AND (model OR models OR modeling)
- √ [Use filters](#) such as publication dates and language to focus your search.
- √ Review results. Identify useful references. Refine search strategy as needed.
- √ [Contact a librarian if you want help](#).

Step 4: Document Searches

- √ Date search was performed.
- √ Names of databases searched.
- √ Time period (publication years) covered by search.
- √ Complete search strategy showing how terms were combined.