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](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/animalwelfare) – 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.

UW Health Sciences Library IACUC Protocol Search Guide: [http://guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/animalwelfare](http://guides.lib.uw.edu/hsl/animalwelfare)