

Literature Search FAQ

<http://www.saintpetersuh.com/MedicalLibrary>

Q: What is a literature search?

A: A literature search is a systematic and exhaustive search for published material and information conducted by the Medical Librarian on a specific topic with the parameters you choose. This research is conducted primarily online, using the electronic databases for which the Medical Library has licenses, and sometimes the Internet. Occasionally, Medical Library textbooks are searched. The majority of requests are healthcare-related. However, we sometimes search non-medical topics. The Medical Library neither charges for searches nor limits the number of requests that may be placed. The Medical Library makes every effort to provide accurate and complete database search results.

Q: Who may request a literature search?

A: Any Saint Peter's employee (attending physicians, physician assistants, residents, nurses, administrators and non-medical personnel as well as affiliated physicians) may request a search. Currently, medical and nursing students are not eligible to request searches. Employees who are in school may request one school-related search. Visit <http://www.saintpetersuh.com/MedicalLibrary/PatronPrivileges> for information on patron privileges.

Q: How do I submit a request for a literature search?

A: You may come into the Medical Library and fill out a literature search request form, call us at x8508, or visit our website <http://www.saintpetersuh.com/MedicalLibrary>.

Q: When may I expect the results of a literature search?

A: You may let us know when you need the results. Emergent patient care requests are filled within two hours, and patient care requests can be filled in 24 to 48 hours. All other types of requests are filled in seven business days. We will contact you to see if the search results were adequate.

Q: How will I receive the results of a literature search?

A: Depending upon your preference, the results are usually emailed to you or printed out and placed in a blue folder under your last name at the circulation desk in the Medical Library. Results may also be sent by interoffice mail, U.S. mail, or fax. Generally, you will receive a list of citations, which consist of the article's title, author, journal, volume, page number and other identifying information. An abstract, or summary, of the article will also be included if available. In some instances, we are able to immediately provide some full-text, or complete, articles.

Q: How do I get articles from the literature search?

A: If the Medical Library has the article in either a print or an electronic format you may make a free copy of the article yourself. Attending physicians, administrators and managers may request that Medical Library staff copy the article for them. If we don't have an article, you may ask us to request the article from another library. This is called an 'interlibrary loan' or an 'ILL'. While there is no charge for a search, sometimes there is a charge for an ILL. Please visit the ILL FAQ <http://www.saintpetersuh.com/MedicalLibrary/FAQ> for further details.

Q: May I conduct my own literature search?

A: Certainly. You may search the databases for which the Medical Library a license. The Medical Librarians can assist you with your search if you not finding the information you need. We also offer classes to familiarize you with searching the databases. Please visit <http://www.saintpetersuh.com/MedicalLibrary/TrainingClasses> for information on training and <http://www.saintpetersuh.com/MedicalLibrary/Databases> for information on our databases.

Q: Whom should I contact if I have any questions?

A: Please call the Medical Librarian at x8508 with any questions. You may also call the main number, x8545, if the Medical Librarian is not immediately available. We will be happy to discuss your literature search with you, or any other questions you may have.