




## Google vs Alternatives

Type of Information	Alternatives to Google	Alternative Advantages	Google Advantages
<b>Research articles</b>	<p>Clinical databases (e.g. Medline, CINAHL, PsycInfo):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Available via library web pages</li> <li>◆ Need NHS OpenATHENS</li> <li>◆ Library can do search for you (as long as it isn't for study)</li> </ul> <p>Easy Evidence Search</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available via library web pages</li> </ul>	<p>Clinical databases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Provide links through to full text articles available via NHS/local subscriptions</li> <li>◆ Wider range of material than contained in Google Scholar</li> <li>◆ More sophisticated search tools so easier to be more specific</li> </ul> <p>Easy Evidence Search lets you search for full text articles only</p>	<p>Google Scholar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Don't need Athens password</li> <li>◆ Quicker to search</li> <li>◆ May contain some material not available through clinical databases</li> <li>◆ Can link to library to see articles you can read in full text</li> </ul>
<b>Guidelines</b>	<p>NHS Evidence - Clinical Knowledge Summaries (both available via <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a> – you can limit NHS Evidence searches to 'guidance') Guidelines section on Dynamed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ All quality checked</li> <li>◆ Incorporates NICE and SIGN guidance as well as documents from Royal Colleges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Documents from a wider range of sources</li> </ul>
<b>Patient Information</b>	<p>NHS Choices (<a href="http://www.nhs.uk">www.nhs.uk</a>) <a href="http://Patient.co.uk">Patient.co.uk</a> Dynamed has lists of patient information for each topic <i>See MPFT library list of patient information resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Better quality control – these 'gateways' check sites that they link to against quality criteria</li> <li>◆ Printer-friendly formats for some leaflets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Wider variety of information</li> <li>◆ Better for obscure topics, but need to exercise quality control</li> </ul>
<b>Journals</b>	<p>My Journals – A-Z list via <a href="http://library.sssft.nhs.uk">library.sssft.nhs.uk</a> ('Access Journals' in Quick Links)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A-Z list gives you tailored details of titles and years available for free, as well as any</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Wider variety of journals available but no indication of NHS/local subscription</li> </ul>

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		local passwords	
<b>Policy documents and reports</b>	<a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a> – HMIC clinical database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Evidence.nhs.uk allows you to limit your search to specific organisations</li> <li>◆ Resources quality checked</li> <li>◆ Less variety – easier to find higher quality ones</li> <li>◆ Addition of subject headings to entries can make retrieval better</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ You can limit your search to particular sites (e.g. site:nhs.uk or site:gov.uk) Much wider variety of reports</li> <li>◆</li> </ul>
<b>Web sites about a particular condition</b>	For lists/directories of websites: Patient.co.uk <a href="http://www.evidence.nhs.uk">www.evidence.nhs.uk</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Resources quality checked</li> <li>◆ Less variety – easier to find higher quality ones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Much wider variety of sites</li> <li>◆ May be better for very obscure conditions</li> </ul>
<b>Quick information on a condition</b>	Dynamed (link from <a href="http://library.sssft.nhs.uk">library.sssft.nhs.uk</a> ) E-books – many titles in BMJ ABC series and Fast Facts series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ More reliable information</li> <li>◆ More detailed entries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Wider range of information</li> <li>◆ No passwords required for access</li> </ul>
<b>Pictures</b>	Some diagrams available in Clinical Knowledge Summaries Dynamed search has images tab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Can be used for non-commercial purposes (permission to reproduce on web sites is limited)</li> <li>◆ Quality checked</li> <li>◆ Not always very up to date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ No password required</li> <li>◆ Google Images option</li> <li>◆ Wider choice of images</li> <li>◆ Beware copyright if you want to reuse</li> </ul>

**For more information:**

 **Website:** [library.sssft.nhs.uk](http://library.sssft.nhs.uk)  
 **E-mail:** [library@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:library@mpft.nhs.uk)  
 **Twitter:** @library\_mpft

**Stafford Library**  
 Tel: 01785 221584

**Redwoods Library**  
 Tel: 01743 210110