



3Rs Literature Search Guide

For studies including animal experiments a literature analysis is essential to prove that no alternatives to the use of animals are available, the adequate animal model / methods are used and the 3R principles are implemented.

This information is requested in Form A ([Application for licence to perform animal experiment](#)): i.e. section 20, 25, 26, 35, 38 and 39.

Search techniques

- Boolean Operators: AND, OR, NOT
- Parentheses: specify operator precedence
- Truncation: word variations (cell*: cell, cells, cellulose, etc.)
- Phrase Search: specific word order ("mouse model")
- Specific fields (title, abstract, keywords, etc.)
- Subject headings (e.g. MeSH, Emtree)
- Tips for [systematic searching](#)

Search strategy

- Define a search question.
- Define search terms (incl. synonyms).
- Use appropriate literature database(s) and specific database search techniques.
- If necessary modify search by using other terms, subject headings, etc.
- Report & save your search history.

More information

- E-Learning course: [Searching for \(existing\) non-animal alternatives](#)
- [EURL ECVAM search guide](#)
- Search tutorial: [3Rs-Centre ULS](#)
- [PubMed Online Training](#)

Literature databases

Free access

[PubMed](#) (3Rs search filter [Altbib](#))
[PMC](#) (PubMed fulltext search)
[Google Scholar](#) (incl. fulltext search)
[Springer Nature Experiments](#) (search for protocols)
[Specific search filters for PubMed & Embase](#)

Access within IP range UZH

[Embase](#) (subject heading Emtree)
[Web of Science](#) (WoS)
[Scopus](#)

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University Library and Office for Animal Welfare & 3R

In addition to the search in databases consult also specific 3Rs journals. Most journals are indexed in the common databases.

	PubMed	PMC	Embase	WoS	Scopus	GS
Replacement						
<u>Altex</u>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>ATLA</u>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Reduction						
<u>Laboratory Animals</u>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Refinement						
<u>Animals</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Animal Welfare</u>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Comparative Medicine</u>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>ILAR Journal</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>JAALAS</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science</u>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>JOVE</u> (publishes videos of procedures)	✓	2006-2008	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Lab Animal</u>	✓	some articles	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Laboratory Animal Science Professional</u>						
<u>Scandinavian Journal of Laboratory Animal Science</u>	some articles		✓	✓	✓	✓
All 3Rs (examples)						
<u>PLOS One</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Scientific Reports</u>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓