The USF Library subscribes to 60+ online databases ranging from general to subject-specific and nearly 300 electronic journals. Online databases and electronic journals are available from any computer with Internet access any time of day and will provide full text articles from 6,000+ journals. From off campus you will be required to login to USF’s web portal. For information about your web portal login, go to Portal Login Information located at http://www.stfrancis.edu/aiss/portalpin.htm

Medicine/Science Online Databases (bold signifies exceptional sources):
BioMed Central, CINAHL (EBSCOHost), Cochrane Collection, Health Reference Center, Health Source: Nursing/Academic, MEDLINE (FirstSearch), PsychInfo, Science Direct, PubMed (Medline), PubMed Central

Evidence-based Medicine Databases:
CINAHL, PubMed (Medline), Cochrane Collection

Find Books

USF’s Online Catalog (I-Share)
Search our collection of 125,000+ books and AV materials available at the USF Library. In addition, I-Share allows you to search the collections of over 70 other academic libraries in Illinois. You can interlibrary loan books from USF or any I-Share library and have the books delivered to your home address.

NetLibrary
2,000+ ebooks, including a core collection of medical titles, are available for you to check out and read online any time of day from any computer with Internet access.

Online Reference Tools

Tutorials/How do I?...
Step-by-step instructions for searching the online catalog, online databases, interlibrary loan, and much more are provided at this link.

Resource Guides by Subject
http://www.stfrancis.edu/lib/nursing1.htm
The health science resource guide is created by librarians and provides links to trusted web sites in the health sciences/PA fields.
Services

Reference
A reference librarian is available every hour the library is open to answer questions and assist with research.
Please contact us:
• Call the reference desk toll free at (800) 726-6500
• Email Ask-a-Librarian (please allow a one business day response time): refdesk@stfrancis.edu

Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad) for PA Students
Get interlibrary loan library journal articles and books (not available in I-Share) by registering on ILLiad and creating a personal username and password you will use to access the ILLiad request form. To receive articles via email, use your USF email account. Books will be delivered to your home address via UPS at no charge. Return shipping fees are the responsibility of the student. Please allow 2-4 weeks to receive interlibrary loan requests.

University of New Mexico Health Science Library
Physician Assistant students are issued a UNM library card and can borrow materials from this location. PA students are also able to use the online databases and resources at the UNM Library when on the UNM campus.
(Please remember that USF Library’s online databases can be accessed 24/7 from any computer with an Internet connection. Use your USF library barcode number and last name to login.)

FAQs

What is Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) and how do I search for EBM articles?

Why am I being asked for a username and password when accessing the online databases from home?
Online databases are subscription products available only to USF students, faculty and staff and require logging into USF’s web portal. For specific login instructions, go to the MYUSF Portal Login Information link (http://www.stfrancis.edu/aiss/portalpin.htm) located on the University’s home page.

Why am I unable to connect to the online databases from home?
Visit our ‘Database Access Help Center’ (http://www.stfrancis.edu/lib/ezproxytrouble.htm) and follow the provided steps. If you are still unable to access the databases, go to the MYUSF Portal Login Information link located on the University’s home page. If you are successful in logging into the portal but are still unable to access the databases, contact the library reference desk at 800-726-6500 or 815-740-5041.

I have a citation for an article. How do I find the full text?
Use the ‘Find Articles Full Text Online’ link on the library web page and enter the journal title NOT the article title. If the journal is available with full text via an online database, links to those databases will be provided. Click on a provided database and conduct your search. If the article is not available on an online database, submit an interlibrary loan request form. Interlibrary loan can take 2-4 weeks.

I am searching the online databases for my topic and not finding any information. What am I doing wrong?
The best way to search an online database is by designing a search strategy. Make a list of appropriate keywords for your topic. Brainstorm, use a thesaurus, look in an encyclopedia for ‘other suggested topics’ and write these words down. When searching an online database, keep track of the terms and combinations you use. By trial and error you will refine your results. Please contact a librarian for additional assistance toll free at (800) 726-6500.

I haven’t used a library in years. Where do I start?
Our ‘Get Started’ tutorial (http://www.stfrancis.edu/lib/tutorial/) is excellent for new and returning students and provides step-by-step instructions for developing a topic, locating journal articles and books, and evaluating sources. In addition, a reference librarian is available every hour the library is open to answer questions and assist