Step 1: Accessing the Research Guides
Begin on the UC Library homepage. Click on the RESEARCH GUIDES tab and click BROWSE ALL RESEARCH GUIDES.

Step 2: Finding Your Discipline
Scroll to find the discipline you are researching in the list.

Step 3: Top Resources
The TOP RESOURCES box shows the recommended databases for the discipline.
Step 4: Beginning a Search with Access Medicine

Access Medicine is a leading database for users to search video, self-assessment, and leading medical textbooks in the medical field or study. Access Medicine also allows you to perform a simple keyword search or an advanced search.

When searching “heart disease” in Access Medicine, enter the keyword in the search box located on the database’s main page and click the magnifying glass to begin your search. You will notice that the search results page will have optional tabs in the left column to limit your search to material found in Books, Quick Reference, Multimedia, Images, Cases, and Patient Education. You can also narrow your results by the name of the textbook. Access Medicine also has tabs at the top that allow you to use the same limiters and search for drugs or other forms of medication only. Once you limit to the material you are searching for, you can click the link titles to access the material.
Step 4a: Beginning a Search with CINAHL

CINAHL is a database that allows you to search for concepts in a variety of nursing and allied health journals and textbooks. CINAHL allows you to perform a simple keyword search or an advanced search. There are many limiters that can be set in this database. CINAHL also allows you to limit your search to Full-Text and Peer Reviewed/Scholarly articles by checking the appropriate box.

An important thing to remember when searching databases for Peer Reviewed/Scholarly articles is to make sure that your material is classified as scholarly and not popular. There are many factors to look for to determine if an article or journal is a scholarly source. Scholarly sources will most likely denote the academic credentials of the contributor (for example, Ph.D. etc.). Scholarly journals and articles will also contain an abstract of the article along with lengthy references or footnotes. **NOTE: Book Reviews, Letters to the Editor, Newspapers, and Editorial/Opinion Pieces are NOT considered scholarly sources.**

When searching multiple keywords, CINAHL allows you to use the Boolean operators **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** to combine the keywords. Use **AND** to combine terms. This means that both or all terms will be found in the search results, such as “heart disease” AND “adolescents”. Use **OR** when you have two or more terms to find at least one of the keywords in the results, such as “etiology or causes”. Using **OR** can sometimes net more search results because it allows another keyword option in your search. This is especially useful for synonyms. Using **NOT** as a limiter is not recommended because it can cause problems with eliminating good resources and having too few results being found.

For example, when searching for “Heart Disease”, “Adolescence”, and “etiology or causes” in the advanced search of CINAHL, type each keyword phrase into separate boxes linked with “**AND**”. This will yield results where all three concepts appear in the articles.
More information on using Boolean operators can be found at the following links:
https://library.uaf.edu/ls101-boolean
https://libguides.mit.edu/c.php?g=175963&p=1158594

Understanding Your CINAHL Results
The search results page will show all the articles that combine your keywords. By clicking on the article title, you can access an abstract of the article. To read the full-text of the article, click the “PDF Full-Text” icon listed with your article. It is always a good idea to check the boxes on the search page to limit your results to Full-Text and Academic Journals.
Step 4b: Beginning a Search with DynaMed Plus

DynaMed Plus is a database that consists of scholarly articles, diagnostics, drug and medicine info, and point-of-care materials in the medical field. DynaMed also has a calculator link at the top of the main search page that allows you to determine solutions to a variety of medical equations.

To search a keyword in DynaMed Plus, enter your concept term into the search box and click “search”.

Understanding Your DynaMed Plus Search Results

The DynaMed Plus search results page will list a variety of different resources to use for your research. You can narrow your material types by clicking the tabs at the top of the page or browse the full search results.
Step 4c: Beginning a Search with MEDLINE

MEDLINE allows you to search for medical journals, articles, and leading medical textbooks related to a wide variety of medical fields. MEDLINE allows you to perform a simple keyword search or an advanced search. There are many limiters that can be set in this database. MEDLINE also allows you to limit your search to Full-Text and Peer Reviewed/Scholarly articles by checking the appropriate box. Always check your material to make sure it is scholarly,

Like CINAHL, MEDLINE uses the Boolean operators **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** to combine the keywords. Use **AND** to combine concepts in the search results and use **OR** when you have two or more concepts but need at least one concept in the results. Using **NOT** as a limiter is not recommended in MEDLINE because it can cause problems with fewer results being found.
Step 4: Beginning a Search with Scientific American Medicine
The Scientific American Medicine database provides access to journal articles, textbooks, and other evidence-based material in the area of internal medicine. When accessing the database, you will first be taken to a page with a photo of a book titled “Medicine”. To begin a search in the database, click on the photo of the book.
The main page of Scientific American Medicine will provide links to “What’s New in Medicine”. To begin a search, look for the “Search” icon tool located in the tabs at the top of the page, and type the keywords you wish to search.

Understanding Your Search Results in Scientific American Medicine
After entering your keywords to search, Scientific American Medicine will take you to a search results page. You can filter your search results by Content Database, Teaching Slide Library, Best DXRX, and All. When leaving all boxes unchecked, the results will display all the results combined by default.

A common problem in the search has been users reporting of an error message in Scientific American Medicine when clicking a link. If you receive an error message, close the error message and the link should still load the content.
What to do when can’t access your article?

If you locate articles that are not available in full text through our databases, you can request a copy by using the Interlibrary Loan link on the Library homepage and filling out a request form. We can usually get articles from other libraries within a week, and we send them to your email as a PDF attachment.

When filling out an Interlibrary Loan request form, enter as much information as possible about where your article is cited; such as the journal title, article title, author, volume and issue numbers, publication date, and page numbers. The more information you enter, the better the chance of obtaining a copy of the article you need.
Step 5: Explore Other Areas of the Research Guides Page
You don’t have to limit your searches strictly to the databases. Explore the Research Guides page and you may find additional helpful information to use in your research!