

## The Learning Site

<<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/tutorial>>

The Eskind Biomedical Library (EBL) provides 24-hour Web-based instruction in health sciences resources for our remote users in a digital environment via the EBL Learning Site. The Learning Site contains knowledge modules to help users learn how to search and utilize databases and other resources effectively. Each knowledge module is a detailed guide explaining information concepts, resource features, and resource evaluation.

EBL continues to add new modules in resources or concepts important to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, so check the site regularly for new additions.

The screenshot shows the EBL Learning Site interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Vanderbilt Medical Center logo and the text 'THE ESKIND BIOMEDICAL LIBRARY'. Below this, there are links for 'Learning Site' and 'Training Schedule'. The main content area contains a paragraph of text: 'The Eskind Biomedical Library provides 24-hour Web-based instruction in health sciences resources for our remote users in a digital environment via the EBL Learning Site. The Learning Site contains knowledge modules to help users learn how to search and utilize databases and other resources effectively. Each knowledge module is a detailed guide explaining information concepts, resource features, and resource evaluation.' Below this text, there is a grid of icons representing various knowledge modules: Reference Manager, Genetics Databases, OVID, PubMed, ISI Web of Science, ACORN, EndNote, and Introduction To Searching. A mouse cursor is pointing at the OVID icon. On the left side of the interface, there is a vertical menu with buttons for 'Who's Who at Eskind', 'Access', 'Programs', and 'Eskind Main Digital'. Two callout boxes are present: one on the left with the text 'Click the corresponding graphic to enter a knowledge module's Table of Contents.' and one on the right with the text 'Links to Knowledge Modules' and an arrow pointing to the grid of icons.

## Getting Started

To begin a knowledge module, select one of our available topics from the main Learning Site page (pictured above). Modules currently available include:

- Introduction to Searching the Biomedical Literature: case-based overview of several prominent medical information resources (e.g. MEDLINE, Cochrane, MDConsult), focusing on selection and searching of appropriate resources for the question at hand.
- Reference Manager and EndNote: the basics of using these citation management packages to import references from multiple databases and automatically format manuscripts.
- Genetics Databases: highlights of several online molecular biology databases (e.g. GenBank, GeneCards) utilizing a question-based approach
- Ovid: exploration of several databases available via the Ovid interface, including MEDLINE, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, EMBASE Drugs and Pharmacology, and others
- PubMed: the National Library of Medicine's free Web interface to the MEDLINE database of medical literature
- Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science): ISI's popular citation database that tracks citation patterns among articles
- Acorn: the Vanderbilt Libraries online library catalog

## Using the Knowledge Modules

Users are able to customize use of the knowledge module – you can begin with the Introduction and move sequentially through the entire module, or select areas of particular interest from the annotated sections on the Table of Contents page. Navigation buttons within the module allow you to quickly move from page to page. The “Main Menu” button allows you to return to the main Table of Contents page at any point.

The screenshot displays the EBL Learning Site interface. At the top, the Vanderbilt University logo and the text "LEARNING SITE" are visible. Below this, a navigation bar includes "Table of Contents screen", "Information Request Form", and "Comments".

The main content area is titled "Introduction to Searching the Biomedical Literature". It features a table of contents with the following sections:

- Introduction**
  - About this Knowledge Module
  - Structuring a Question
  - Database Concepts
  - Quiz
- Question 1**
  - Viral Gene Sequence (GenBank, BLAST)
- Question 4**
  - Sepsis and Vancomycin (MEDLINE, Cochrane Database, MDConsult,)
- Question 5**
  - Engraftment Syndrome (MEDLINE, CancerLit, Physician Data Query, UpToDate, Cochrane Database)
- Question 6**

The detailed view of the "Structuring a Question" module is shown below. It includes the heading "Getting Started" and a paragraph: "Always take some time to dissect your question before proceeding to search a database; preparation will save a remarkable amount of time later. There are several things you should carefully consider before actually searching a database:"

- Identify the context of the question.
- Determine the key concepts.
- Identify your objectives.
- Determine limits such as date of publication.
- Determine how comprehensive your search should be.
- Select the most appropriate databases.
- Convert your concepts to database-friendly subject terms and keywords.

At the bottom of the module page, there are navigation buttons: "Previous", "Main Menu", and "Next". A callout box labeled "Navigation Buttons" points to these controls. The footer of the page includes "Introduction to Searching the Biomedical Literature" and "Vanderbilt Univ. Med. Ctr. Library".

## Using Your New Skills

You can test what you’ve learned using practice questions incorporated into the modules. For those interested in further exploration of the resources, links to additional training resources are provided, including links to EBL’s SearchDoc service that offers database search strategy assistance and expert searching tips for your specific questions.