



Animal Care Committee Guideline

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Searching for Information on Replacements for Animal Use in Teaching and Research

Replaces: Literature Searches Concerning Alternative Methodologies

Guideline

The University of Guelph Library provides our faculty, staff and students with access to a wide range of resources dealing with replacements for the use of animals.

Locating appropriate journal literature is best achieved by searching through the following online databases:

- PubMed/Medline (1950-)
- CAB Direct (1900-)
- Agricola (1970-)

The use of controlled phrases such as “Animal Testing Alternatives” (in PubMed) and “Alternatives to Animal Testing” in (CAB Direct) and “Animal Use Alternatives” (in Agricola) provide the most accurate strategies for effective searching of the databases. These controlled phrases can be readily combined with species names or common names, procedures, drug names, etc. to narrow down a search and return more relevant results. Researchers do need to note that there is NOT complete overlap between these three databases and that a comprehensive search on a given topic requires that each be investigated.

A similar approach can be taken when searching the Library’s catalogue for book materials. Controlled subject phrases such as “Animal Testing Alternatives”, “Animal Experimentation”, “Toxicity Testing”, can be used alone, or in conjunction with species or common names, etc. to further refine a search.

The Library provides customized guides to a variety of literatures on our web site, e.g. a subject guide to information on Laboratory Animal Science, -- see:

http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/research/subject_&_course_guides/index.cfm?fuseaction=Subjectguides.getGuide&code=labanim

Should a researcher wish, a librarian can be consulted regarding search strategies and the availability of resources.

Note should also be made of the U.S. National Agricultural Library's Animal Welfare Information Center web site which provides current information on alternatives to animal testing –see:
http://awic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=3&tax_level=1

The Canadian Council on Animal Care also provides information on replacement, reduction and refinement alternatives -see: <http://www.ccac.ca/en/alternatives/index.html>

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