

Useful Internet Sites for Reviews, Practice Guidelines & Databases

1. **Google:** <http://www.google.com/>

2. **Google Scholar:** <http://scholar.google.com/>

* What is Google Scholar?

Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations. Google Scholar helps you identify the most relevant research across the world of scholarly research.

Features of Google Scholar

Search diverse sources from one convenient place

Find papers, abstracts and citations

Locate the complete paper through your library or on the web

Learn about key papers in any area of research

How are articles ranked?

Google Scholar aims to sort articles the way researchers do, weighing the full text of each article, the author, the publication in which the article appears, and how often the piece has been cited in other scholarly literature. The most relevant results will always appear on the first page.

3. **Campbell Collaboration (C2):** The Campbell Collaboration Library and Database:
www.campbellcollaboration.org

The C2 website posts a searchable database of randomized controlled clinical trials and systematic reviews of **social, psychological, education, and criminological research**. All research presented on the website has met rigorous methodological standards and are designed to provide researchers, policy makers, and practitioners with critical reviews of current research. Thirty full reviews are currently available to download from the website and several more are currently in progress.

The C2-RIPE database contains approved Campbell:

Titles

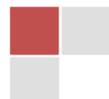
Protocols

Completed Reviews,

Abstracts and One Page Plain English Summaries

Registered titles with an approved protocol, review and abstract, will have a “view documents” hypertext link. If a registered title does not have a “view documents” link, then approval of the protocol is pending.

Through C2-RIPE, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and the public can access Campbell Reviews and review-related documents at each stage of their development. Online access to these documents is free of charge.



4. Cochrane Collaboration: www.cochrane.org

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international not-for-profit and independent organization, dedicated to making up-to-date, accurate information about the **effects of healthcare** readily available worldwide. It produces and disseminates systematic reviews of healthcare interventions and promotes the search for evidence in the form of clinical trials and other studies of interventions. The major product of the Collaboration is the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews which is published quarterly as part of *The Cochrane Library*.

Those who prepare the reviews are mostly healthcare professionals who volunteer to work in one of the many Cochrane Review Groups, with editorial teams overseeing the preparation and maintenance of the reviews, as well as application of the rigorous quality standards for which Cochrane Reviews have become known. You can access free summaries and abstracts from these reviews. These summaries include background information, objectives, search strategy, selection criteria, data collection and analysis, main results and the author's conclusions. **Some major topics that may be of interest to social workers include: 1) Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis, 2) Dementia and Cognitive Impairment, and 3) Schizophrenia.**

5. APA Guidelines: <http://www.div12.org/>

APA practice guidelines are intended to assist psychiatrists in clinical decision-making and to improve patient care. They also document evidence available to determine appropriate care. A practice guideline is not a "standard of care." The ultimate judgment regarding a particular clinical procedure or treatment plan must be made by the psychiatrist in light of the clinical data presented by the patient and the diagnostic and treatment options available. **Focus is on the assessment and treatment of mental health disorders.** APA practice guidelines are developed by expert work groups, who review available evidence using an explicit methodology. Iterative drafts undergo wide review by experts, allied organizations, and any APA member [on request](#). Every guideline is also reviewed and approved for publication by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. The development of APA practice guidelines has not been financially supported by any commercial organization. For more detail, see [APA Guideline Development Process \(updated May 2006\)](#).

6. National Guidelines Clearinghouse (DHHS): www.guidelines.gov

The National Guideline Clearinghouse™ (NGC) is a public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. NGC is an initiative of the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NGC was originally created by AHRQ in partnership with the [American Medical Association](#) and the [American Association of Health Plans](#) (now America's Health Insurance Plans [AHIP]). **Provides information related to health, mental health within a variety of settings (e.g. school based interventions, etc) with a variety of specific populations. You can search their website.**

7. Search Pilots (On National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Website):

http://csaweb113v.csa.com/ids70/quick_search.php?SID=ghl2laqhc0qde1aj4rspo4p237

*This is one of the leading databases on information on post traumatic stress disorder and is listed on the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder website: <http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp>

8. OJJSP Model Programs Guide: <http://www2.dsgonline.com/mpg/search.aspx>

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Programs Guide (MPG) is designed to assist practitioners and communities in implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that can make a difference in the lives of children and communities. **The MPG database of evidence-based programs covers the entire continuum of youth services from prevention through sanctions to reentry. The MPG can be used to assist juvenile justice practitioners, administrators, and researchers to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism.** The MPG is an



easy-to-use tool that offers a database of scientifically-proven programs that address a range of issues, including substance abuse, mental health, and education programs.

9. California Evidence-based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC):

<http://www.cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org/>

The CEBC helps to identify and disseminate information regarding evidence-based practices relevant to **child welfare**. The CEBC provides guidance on evidence-based practices to statewide agencies, counties, public and private organizations, and individuals. This guidance is provided in simple straightforward formats reducing the user's need to conduct literature searches, review extensive literature, or understand and critique research methodology.

10. BMJ Clinical Evidence:

<http://www.clinicalevidence.com/ceweb/conditions/index.jsp>

BMJ Clinical Evidence systematic reviews summarize the current state of knowledge and uncertainty about the prevention and treatment of clinical conditions, based on thorough searches and appraisal of the literature. It is neither a textbook of medicine nor a set of guidelines. It describes the best available evidence from systematic reviews, RCTs, and observational studies where appropriate, and if there is no good evidence it says so. There is a fee to subscribe. **Primarily focused on healthcare, but some information related to mental health.**

11. Department of Health and Human Services: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Evidence Based Practice:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/epcix.htm>

The department website provides links to evidence base practice centers in the United States and Canada performing funded research and information mainly in the area of physical health, but also provides reports in **psychiatry and substance abuse.**

12. Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/epc/>

The Oregon Evidence-based Practice Center (Oregon EPC) conducts systematic reviews of **healthcare topics for federal and state agencies and private foundations.** These reviews report the evidence from clinical research studies and the quality of that evidence for use by policy makers in decisions on guidelines and coverage issues. FYI: **Somewhat difficult to search and find what you're looking for.**

13. SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices:

<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/>

The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) is a searchable online registry of **mental health and substance abuse interventions** that have been reviewed and rated by independent reviewers.

The purpose of this registry is to assist the public in identifying approaches to preventing and treating mental and/or substance use disorders that have been scientifically tested and that can be readily disseminated to the field. NREPP is one way that SAMHSA is working to improve access to information on tested interventions and thereby reduce the lag time between the creation of scientific knowledge and its practical application in the field.

NREPP is a new registry and currently has several dozen reviewed interventions. New intervention summaries are continually being added as reviews are completed. The registry is expected to grow to a



large number of interventions over the coming months and years. Please check back regularly to access the latest updates.

14. Civic Research Institute: <http://www.civicrosearchinstitute.com>

Civic Research Institute is an independent publisher of reference and practice materials for professionals in the social sciences and law. **Topics include behavioral health; children, youth and education; corrections; criminal justice; health care; interpersonal violence; law; telehealth; taxation and financial services; and victomology.**

CRI's publications provide practical guidance, best practices and cutting-edge thinking, reporting, analysis and commentary, in all formats, including newsletters and journals, supplemented books and monographs, and loose-leaf services. Editors, authors and contributors are leading authorities and practitioners in their fields.

15. PsycINFO: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/index.aspx>

PsycINFO is an abstract (not full-text) database of **psychological literature** from the 1800s to the present. Full-text articles can be accessed. There is a fee to subscribe unless you have access through another source. **A good source to access information about mental health or direct practice interventions and information about evidence-based assessment instruments.**

16. SumSEARCH: <http://sumsearch.uthscsa.edu/>

SUMSearch is a unique method of searching for medical evidence (including mental health evidence) by using the Internet. SUMSearch combines meta-searching and contingency searching in order to automate searching for medical evidence. Meta-searching, which is used by from general Internet search engines such as from Go2Net, Dogpile, and SavvySearch, means simultaneously searching multiple Internet sites and collating the results into one page. In addition, SUMSearch adds the idea of contingency searching. SUMSearch allows the clinician to enter a query one time, and then will: select the best Internet sites to search, format the query for each site, execute contingency searches, then return a single document to the clinician. SUMSearch removes the burden to the clinician of remembering details such as which Internet site truncates with the dollar sign and how to execute a limit for the AIM journals if too many articles are found at MEDLINE. After searching, SUMSearch organizes the list of links to documents that it returns to the clinician. The links are ordered by breadth of discussion. First, there are links to resources that provide broad discussion: relevant textbooks, followed by traditional review articles, and practice guidelines. Next there are links to resources that provide narrow discussions: systematic reviews, and original research. Thus, the clinician that is searching a topic with which they are not familiar, will find links to easy to read, broad discussions at the top of the list. A clinician that has a specific question within a topic with which they otherwise familiar, will find links to systematic reviews and original research in the second half of the results.

17. Evidence-Based Mental Health (BMJ): <http://ebmh.bmj.com/>

Evidence-Based Mental Health alerts clinicians to **important advances in treatment, diagnosis, aetiology, prognosis, continuing education, economic evaluation and qualitative research in mental health.** The journal surveys a wide range of international medical journals applying strict criteria for the quality and validity of research. Practicing clinicians assess the clinical relevance of the best studies. The key details of these essential studies are presented in a succinct, informative abstract with an expert commentary on its clinical application. Published quarterly, Evidence-Based Mental Health is multidisciplinary. It covers studies of adults, children, older adults, people who have developed psychiatric or psychological problems as a result of trauma and people with learning disabilities, head injuries, drug



and alcohol problems and personality disorders. Subscription for the year is \$103, and this allows access to the online system to search for articles.

18. PubMed: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez>

PubMed, available via the NCBI Entrez retrieval system, was developed by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM), located at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Publishers participating in PubMed electronically submit their citations to NCBI prior to or at the time of publication. If the publisher has a web site that offers full-text of its journals, PubMed provides links to that site as well as biological resources, consumer health information, research tools, and more. There may be a charge to access the text or information. **Some mental health information can be accessed at this website.**

19. NICE: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp>

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health. NICE produces guidance in three areas of health:

- public health - guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector
- health technologies - guidance on the use of new and existing medicines, treatments and procedures within the NHS
- clinical practice - guidance on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS.

If you browse topics, there is a section for mental health and this information is both for adults and children. NICE guidance is developed using the expertise of the NHS and the wider healthcare community including NHS staff, healthcare professionals, patients and carers, industry and the academic world.

20. American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:

http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/member_information/practice_information/practice_parameters/practice_parameters

The AACAP has published over 25 Practice Parameters. The Parameters are published as Official Actions of the AACAP in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. Summaries and full text parameters are available. The AACAP Practice Parameters are designed to assist clinicians in providing high quality assessment and treatment that is consistent with the best available scientific evidence and clinical consensus. The Practice Parameters describe generally accepted practices, but are not intended to define a standard of care, nor should they be deemed inclusive of all proper methods of care or exclusive of other legitimate methods of care directed at obtaining the desired results. The ultimate judgment regarding the care of a patient and family must be made by the clinician in light of all of the clinical evidence presented by the patient and family, the diagnostic and treatment options available, and available resources.

Before approval by the Council, each Parameter draft is reviewed several times by the members of the Work Group on Quality Issues, co-chaired by Heather Walter, M.D. and Oscar Bukstein, M.D. In addition, the drafts are reviewed by experts in the respective subject areas and by the AACAP general membership.



21. Information for Practice: <http://blogs.nyu.edu/socialwork/ip/>

This site provides links to meta-analyses and systematic reviews, the grey literature, and news events that have an impact on social work practice.

22. Houston Public Library: <http://www.hpl.lib.tx.us/information-by-category>

There are several online databases at the Houston Public Library that can be accessed remotely from any individual who has a public library card. If you search databases by category, there are several databases listed that pertain to health and medicine (and mental health/substance abuse) as well as history and the social sciences. One particularly helpful database is the Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection. There is also a database on Teen Health and Wellness and Academic Search Complete.

**Descriptions of web sites are either taken directly from the site or adapted from the original description.*

