



# IFLA Special Interest Group Evidence for Global and Disaster Health

Evidence Based Librarianship: Building the Base as We Respond to the COVID-19  
Pandemic / Infodemic

Webinar Question and Answer Bank

## 1. How will the results of these projects be disseminated?

To follow the progress of these projects:

- Follow the Librarian Reserve Corps on Twitter [Librarian Reserve Corps \(@LibReserveCorps\) / Twitter](#)
- Visit our website [Home - Librarian Reserve Corps - LibGuides at Librarian Reserve Corps](#)
- View the Database Validation Study on OSF [Currency and Completeness of Specialized COVID-19 Collections](#)

## 2. What themes have emerged in the best practices meeting discussions held to date?

With one discussion remaining, themes that have emerged include:

- Transparency: whether evaluating databases, search strategies, or other information resources, or reporting a search protocol, transparency and clear documentation are essential for enabling use, adaptation, and reuse.
- Timeliness: when determining how and where to search and how broad or narrow a search to design, the urgency of the request and the currency of the information must be considered.
- Teamwork: Information professionals must collaborate within communities of practice to reduce duplication of effort and coordinate with database providers, publishers, and researchers to support a responsive information ecosystem and emergency response efforts.
- Trust: Transparency in documentation provides some level of trust. Information professionals will also turn to reputable organizations for guidance and resources.



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3. **For the COVID-19 collections, if the results for the collections are comparable to PubMed, why not just use PubMed?**

PubMed served as a basis by which to compare other collections because PubMed is often used by medical and health sciences librarians and because PubMed provides more search functionalities. PubMed, however, indexes articles beyond those specific to the emergency.

The COVID-19 collections continually review and revise their search strategies, e.g. [the WHO COVID-19 Database](#), to ensure they are capturing COVID-19 publications and, in some cases, capture subject areas outside of those indexed in PubMed, which may be critical in public health emergencies.

4. **Did you look at all at how the search functions in the Covid-19 collections compare to subscription databases?**

While this was not a formal aim of the database validation study, search functions and usability will be addressed in the discussion.

5. **For the 5 covid databases which are free access? can we comment on duplication across dbases? ideally a number of dbases would have clear complementarity, with each dbase filling a need that is not met by the others - is this evident? do we know which dbases are most used and for what purposes?**

All five COVID-19 databases are free to access. The table on unique collaboration to other collections does address the overlap of the COVID-19 databases. In terms of most used, that is not determined at this time.

6. **For the 5 covid databases, is there a guide available for users about the strengths and limitations of each?**

There has not been a guide on the strengths and limitations that we are aware of yet. Our hope is that the results of the database validation study will lead to more clarity in this area. Additionally, the best practices for searching project aims to provide guidance for searchers to evaluate databases and collections for their unique needs in the context of COVID-19 and in future public health emergencies.



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**7. I recently came across one more resource: <https://coronacentral.ai/> Would you be able to rate this one?**

Our database validation study is in its final stages. Unfortunately, Corona Central was not included in this study. However, the database creators recently published their materials and methods, with links to code and data.

*Lever J, Altman RB. Analyzing the vast coronavirus literature with CoronaCentral. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2021 Jun 8;118(23):e2100766118. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2100766118. PMID: 34016708.*

At the conclusion of this version of the study, we will consider future research directions.

**8. A preliminary review of many systematic reviews, it would seem that very few systematic reviews are using the specialised databases. This is a behaviour probably should studied as how Librarians feel their confidence in new resources such as WHO COVID 19 Database**

One of the aims of the database validation is to provide data to searchers interested in using COVID-19 specific collections, so that they can evaluate and consider these databases for use in systematic reviews objectively.

It would be interesting to survey librarians to add a qualitative element to this information to inform future information responses to emergencies.

**9. Do you plan to remove preprints from the specialised database of COVID 19 publications if the publication has been published?**

This question would be best answered by the database creators and managers, who may be able to share detail on their strategies and plans.

**10. Please, what languages were/not included in the study?**

There were no language restrictions and several of the databases included in the study, especially the WHO Database, have worked to ensure coverage in all languages and from all regions throughout the course of the pandemic.



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### 11. Is priority given for those with skills like previously serving in a military

The Librarian Reserve Corps is currently not accepting volunteers. As we vision our future, including special projects, we will consider the skills needed.

### 12. Could COVID-19 publications/databases from developing economies like AJOL database which has more articles from Africa included be in this study?

Articles from AJOL are currently included in the WHO Global COVID-19 database.

### 13. What measures have you put in place or done to check biases in the study?

The study is independent from the database producers. For information on epidemiological bias please see our full methods in our protocols.

### 14. How can we get involved in the projects?

While the Librarian Reserve Corps is not currently launching any new projects, we encourage you to keep an eye on our website and follow us on Twitter to be notified of opportunities.

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### 15. In Iran, we are working on a short education period for librarians to be ready for disasters and we are searching for courses about this topic around the world. could you give us some recommendations?

We recommend the MLA Disaster Information Specialization courses [MLA : Professional Development : Disaster Information Specialization \(mlanet.org\)](#)

#### **Commented Resources/Useful Information:**

<https://preview.zbmed.de/?query=&page=0&size=20&sort= score%2Casc>  
<https://connect.biorxiv.org/relate/content/181>



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## **COVID-19 Database Links**

### **WHO COVID-19 Global Literature Database**

Homepage: <https://search.bvsalud.org/global-literature-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

Quick Search Guide: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/quick-search-guide-who-covid-19-database>

### **CAMARADES COVID-19 SOLES**

Homepage: <https://camarades.shinyapps.io/COVID-19-SOLES/>

### **Cochrane COVID-19 study register**

Homepage: <https://covid-19.cochrane.org/>

Search help: <https://community.cochrane.org/search-help-covid-19-study-register>

### **LitCovid**

Homepage: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/research/coronavirus/>

FAQ: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/research/coronavirus/faq>

### **Epistemonikos COVID-19 L-OVE**

Homepage: [https://app.iloveevidence.com/loves/5e6fdb9669c00e4ac072701d?utm=epdb\\_en](https://app.iloveevidence.com/loves/5e6fdb9669c00e4ac072701d?utm=epdb_en)