Subject Guide for ScHARR Students

Start with these databases:

MEDLINE via Ovid - Access via StarPlus
Main database for medical literature. Uses MeSH.

Pubmed – free access to Medline
Useful for papers not yet indexed in Medline and for doing a scoping search.
Uses MeSH. Pubmedreminer – Useful to find search terms and map out a new topic.

CINAHL - Access via Starplus
Good for nursing and allied health professions research and **qualitative research**. Uses CINAHL headings not MeSH.

Cochrane Library (made up of 3 databases)
Cochrane database of systematic reviews, central register of controlled trials and clinical answers. Uses MeSH.

EMBASE please contact ScHARR Library (scharrlib@sheffield.ac.uk) for login details
A huge health sciences database, on pharmacological substances. Includes a lot of papers that you won't find on MEDLINE. Uses Emtree headings not MeSH.

PsycINFO - Access via StarPlus
Good for mental health topics uses The Thesaurus of Psychological Index terms not MeSH

Other useful databases/ websites depending on your topic:

ASSIA (Applied Social Sciences Index & Abstracts) Access via StarPlus (e.g. health, social services, education)

Dimensions - Access via Starplus
Find full text journal papers, clinical trials, patents and policy documents in a wide range of research fields including medicine, social science, arts and humanities.

Humanities Index - Access via StarPlus
Major subjects e.g. art, philosophy, music

IBSS International Bibliography of the Social Sciences Access via StarPlus (e.g. anthropology, economics, political science and sociology)

Scopus / Web of Science - Access via Starplus
Multidisciplinary broad databases, good for public health questions.

Econ Lit– Access via Starplus
Useful for economic literature.

DARE (Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects) and NHS EED (Economic Evaluation Database) archive 1994-2015 available at:
https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb

ScHARR HUD- https://www.scharrhud.org/
Health utilities database produced within ScHARR

Centre for Evidence Based Medicine
http://www.cebm.net/

NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries https://cks.nice.org.uk/
CKS – summaries of evidence & best practice guidance for over 300 primary care presentations.

ClinicalTrials.gov   https://clinicaltrials.gov
Registry and summary results of publicly and privately supported clinical studies conducted around the world for a wide range of diseases and conditions.

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Funding and Awards
https://www.fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/search
Information on NIHR health and care research, including expenditure and research findings.

NIHR-INAHTA Database
https://www.inahta.org/hta-database/
Ongoing and published health technology assessments.

TRIP database https://www.tripdatabase.com
Clinical search engine designed to support evidence based practice. E.g. clinical guidelines, systematic reviews.

Future NHS
Information useful for those commissioning, managing, prescribing, dispensing and administering drugs.

WHO (World Health Organisation) Regional Databases (Global Index Medicus)
Regional health and medical databases information about the health material published locally. Complements a Medline search.

British Sociological Association

British Association of Social Workers

For help and advice please consult ScHARR Library staff: 0114 222 5420 / scharrlib@sheffield.ac.uk / www.sheffield.ac.uk/scharr/sections/ir/library

UK Social Policy Association
Provides access to publications, information on social policy, and access to Social Policy Net, the SPA's social policy Internet gateway.

Social Care Institute for Excellence
Includes access to the electronic Library for Social Care (eLSC).

Grey Literature

Grey literature is evidence which is not published in journals databases like Medline. Examples are theses, reports, service evaluations, practitioner research and so on.
General tip - think through relevant organisations (e.g. government bodies, policy organisations, charities, patient / self-help groups, research organisations, research conferences) and consult their webpages - there is often a publications page to be found. Conference papers published in a journal will come up through a regular database search (e.g. Medline).

Grey Matters A practical tool for searching health-related grey literature

Open Grey
First port of call for grey literature, multidisciplinary.

NICE Evidence search
Useful for grey literature including public health, drugs and technologies, commissioning and health management and social care information. Allows the user to limit the search by organisation, type of information and subject focus.

NICE - National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Includes access to the BNF and NICE Guidelines. NICE is an independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and preventing and treating ill health.

Social Care Online
This indexes social care information which is very rich in grey literature. Requires registration. To search for grey literature search within Advanced search and content, type: government report, inspection report, practice guidance, statistical information or consultation document.

White Rose e-theses online
eTheses Online, a shared repository of electronic theses from the University of Leeds, the University of Sheffield and the University of York.

Proquest Dissertations and Theses Database
Access via Starplus. All subjects, international

EThOS (Electronic Thesis Online Service)
Search over 600,000 doctoral theses. Download instantly for your research, or order a scanned copy quickly and easily. All subjects, UK only

DART Europe E-Thesis Portal – All subjects, Europe
Access open access research theses from 579 Universities in 29 European countries

Open Access Button
Free research articles and data - Avoid Paywalls

Filters and other tools

A search filter is a set of search terms (e.g. "randomised controlled trial or rct") that you add at the end of your search to cut it down to only one kind of study e.g. rcts, systematic reviews, qualitative or economic evaluations. You can find some pre-made filters below, just copy and paste into Medline etc. Don't forget to reference where you got the filter from in your work.

ISSG (InterTASC Information Specialists' Sub-Group)
Filters produced by information specialists working on NICE Technology Assessments

SIGN
https://www.sign.ac.uk/what-we-do/methodology/search-filters/

McMaster Hedges
http://hiru.mcmaster.ca/hiru/HIRU_Hedges_MEDLINE_Strategies.aspx

Pubmed Clinical filters http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/clinical
Limits your pubmed search results to particular study types

Pubmed health services research filters
Scroll down to see the option to limit to different categories e.g. qualitative research

Systematic Review Handbooks
Centre For Reviews and Dissemination guide

Cochrane handbook
Describes in detail the process of preparing and maintaining Cochrane systematic reviews on the effects of healthcare intervention

Quality Assessment Checklists (others are available, ask your supervisor):

CASP(Critical Appraisal Skills Programme)
Offers critical appraisal skills training, workshops and tools. These help you read and check health research for trustworthiness, results & relevance.

Joanna Briggs Institute
JBI's critical appraisal tools assist in assessing the trustworthiness, relevance and results of published papers

The Systematic Review Toolbox
The Systematic Review Toolbox is an online catalogue of tools that support various tasks within the systematic review and wider evidence synthesis process