

# INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE

**F**or two and a half years, this column has sought to present the intersection of information and veterinary medicine in a practical, non-intimidating way.

Often I write about questions I receive from practitioners. One question has been asked more than others: "How do I pull this together into a strategy?" The answer, of course, is down to personal preference. Here is a flexible framework to consider. The components have been discussed in previous Librarianious Veterinarius columns. These are available at the TVMA website, <https://tvma.azurewebsites.net>, for members and freely for everyone through Texas A&M by searching for Moberly at <https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu>.

## Start with a Solid Foundation

You need a solid methodological framework for considering your questions and seeking information to answer them. This may be developed in school, through experience or from continuing education. A great place to start is the Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine (EBVM) Learning online tutorial at <https://ebvmlearning.org>.

## Gather Information Actively

When you have a question, you often actively seek information to assess. This includes deciding the type of information you need (fact, study, treatment, guideline, etc.), the type of publication (article, chapter, book, etc.) and the resource to locate it. For example, articles may be located through PubMed, Google Scholar, IVIS, VetMed Resource, VetSRev and others.

## Gather Information Passively

When you have a question or resource you want to follow, you can do this passively. Set up an alerting system and allow the information to come to you. You can create and save searches and be alerted each time there is a new article. Use My NCBI for PubMed.



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You can follow specific journals when each issue is published. Look for alert options at sites of interest. You can use a service like ChangeDetection.com to see when websites are updated.

## Use Tools to Locate Full Text

When you have a citation, you need to find the full text. You can enter the title of an article into Google Scholar to find freely available full text. You also can use web browser extensions/browser buttons like Unpaywall, Open Access Button or Kopernio.

## Use Software to Efficiently Manage Information

After you have found information, using software to organize it can be a tremendous time-saver. Citation management software can organize your articles like an electronic filing cabinet even if you don't use other features. Zotero and Mendeley are freely available choices.

## Be Creative About Additional Ways to Collect Information

You will find information that you want to capture in many places. Use your mobile phone or tablet as a scanner to create a PDF. For textual items you capture, some software includes optical character recognition (OCR) to change the item from an image back to a textual document. Popular apps to consider are Dropbox and AdobeScanning. Another strategy to collect information online is to use Zotero. As mentioned above, it

## AUGUST 2018 CORRECTION

Several web addresses were inadvertently omitted from October's "Back to School: Veterinary Resources and Lesson Plans for Grades K-12." They are:

### TAMU

*IIAD and AgriLife Veterinary Science Certificate Program/Youth Veterinary Science Program*

<https://aevm.tamu.edu/4-h-veterinary-science/>

### AVMA

*Tools for K-12 Educators*

<https://www.avma.org/KB/K12/Pages/AVMA-educational-resources.aspx>  
*National Pet Week*  
<https://petweek.org>

### USDA

*FDA CVM*

<https://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/AnimalHealthLiteracy/ucm136153.htm>  
*Science and Food*  
<https://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodScienceResearch/ToolsMaterials/ucm2006976.htm>

can be used to manage information, but it also can collect website information and a snapshot of the site. It can collect information about articles from Google Scholar and other places online and download the article if freely available.

## The Bottom Line

Thinking about your information needs before you search can make the process more successful and less stressful. With all programs and websites, check the privacy policy, terms and conditions to be sure you are comfortable. When you are not paying cash for something, you are likely trading something else, such as being tracked or other elements of privacy. **IV**

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*Do you need a full copy of an article? A literature search? Economic facts and figures about veterinary practice? Animal owner demographics and spending patterns? Texas veterinarians may contact the Medical Sciences Library at Texas A&M University for assistance at no cost for reference service, literature searching and copies of articles, chapters and conference papers from our collection. Details can be found at <http://tamu.libguides.com/txvetalum>.*