



## Workshop - 2016

### W1 Information Does Exist Beyond the First Page of Your Google® Search! Tools and Strategies for Forensic Science Literature Searching and Use

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the value of forensic science literature and how to search and use the literature to research topics of work-related interest, such as developing appropriate training materials and preparing for admissibility hearings.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by serving as a venue for understanding the importance and value of forensic science literature and tools for finding information of interest to practitioners, researchers, and students.

Scientific fields are benefited by having access to and active use of published literature. Researchers publish their work to share knowledge with others and to gain recognition and prestige for their efforts. Knowing where to look in the scientific literature can help find answers to specific questions faced by forensic scientists. This workshop will present current practices and tools for discovering, using, and analyzing the literature from various forensic science disciplines. Strategies for reading, writing, and storing information on scientific publications will also be discussed.

As Jeff Teitelbaum notes: "Because there is no central repository for forensic science information, and because of the sheer number of disciplines under the forensic science umbrella, forensic scientists are often unable to locate material that is relevant to their needs."<sup>1</sup> The ability to use carefully selected keywords and keyword combinations to yield valuable information from publicly accessible search engines and databases such as Google®, PubMed®, Google® Scholar™, Google® Books™, WorldCat®, and the National Criminal Justice Reference Service will be demonstrated. Researchers having access to Web of Science™ or other commercial search tools and databases can extend their information searches.

Example searches will be conducted using both free resources available to any practitioner and specialized literature databases available to academic researchers and students. These case examples from multiple forensic disciplines will illustrate the challenges of searching the forensic science literature. Experienced reference librarians from the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory and the National Institute of Standards and Technology will demonstrate the types of searches that can be performed to provide information in addressing specific questions that may arise in training, troubleshooting, or testimony on the admissibility of a technique as well as to assess the impact of forensic science publications and collaborations. Approaches to visualize connections in the literature and to reflect the impact of specific authors or articles will also be discussed.

This workshop will include information on current journals by forensic discipline and a listing of literature-searching websites and other resources. The information being shared in this workshop is particularly timely given the January 2015 views document from the National Commission on Forensic Science regarding criteria for foundational, scientific literature supportive of forensic practice. Updates on ongoing activities involving analysis of forensic literature by the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be provided. Finally, a vision of potential future information resources to address current limitations of accessibility of forensic science literature will be shared.

#### Reference(s):

1. Teitelbaum J. An improved forensic science information search. *Forensic Science Review* 27(1):41–52; 2015.
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#### Forensic Literature, Search Strategies, Information Resources