



European  
Commission

# The EURL ECVAM Search Guide

The promotion of global standards  
for searching information  
on alternative approaches  
in biomedical sciences

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The EURL ECVAM Search Guide was developed to provide a proven, systematic and structured data retrieval approach together with supporting information to find all of the relevant information needed for *preparing and conducting projects for research and regulatory testing in the field of biomedical sciences and toxicology thereby reducing the reliance on animal use.*

In particular, to satisfy a legal and ethical imperative that animals should only be used in a study if all alternatives have been considered and judged to be inadequate for clear reasons. An obligatory ethical review process ensuring the application of the Three Rs principles Europe-wide was introduced by Directive 63/2010/EU.

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**Note:** The Three Rs refer to the replacement, reduction and refinement of laboratory animal procedures in accordance with the principles developed by Russell, W.M. & Burch, R.L. in 1959

## Content

- **“Seven golden steps”** prepared as a **sound strategy and handy check list** to undertake searches in a structured way and to document the search procedure
- **Suggested search terms relevant to the Three Rs** with their definitions, occurrences in selected databases and classification
- **Examples of search procedures** for research purposes and regulatory testing showing how to quickly find the most relevant information
- **Relevant information resources** as *handy summary tables* or *detailed descriptions* covering high-quality, selected added-value and literature databases, database host, organisations and their services, open access resources and web search engines
- **Thesauri** containing specific Three Rs terms, used for indexing database contents

