Research log
Literature review on human embryonic stem cell research

- I know this topic is pretty popular, so I’m confident that I can find a lot of stuff on stem cells.
- I started at the MIT Libraries web page and chose the link for databases and e-journals because I want to find the most recent information on this topic online.

  **VERA E-journals + databases**

  SFX FullText Finder

  I typed in the search box “embryonic stem cells” and got no results. This only took about 2 minutes. I’m disappointed because I thought I would find a lot here.

  Find titles of journals or databases

  Beginnings of words in title (j of cell bio)  

  Show 100 titles per page

- Next I went to Google since I know there will be a lot of recent information on the web. Again I typed in “embryonic stem cells”. This time I got a lot of results – about 13,000,000. I should find some really good sites here and it should be easy to read since it’s all online on the web.
- I chose the link for “Embryonic stem cell – Wikipedia.” This looks like a really good site because it has an explanation of what stem cells are, then some nice graphics and also a section on research history and developments. I think I’ll use this one.


  Embryonic stem cell

  From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

  **Embryonic stem cells** (ESCs) are stem cells derived

- Then I went back to the Google results and chose “What are embryonic stem cells?” This also looks good and has a lot of different sections, covering the difference between embryonic and adult stem cells and potential uses of human stem cells. There are also some interesting graphics here. I think I can learn a lot from this site, so I’ll use it.


- Back at the Google results page, I chose “Fact sheet: embryonic stem cell research” which is from the White House -

• The last result from Google’s first page is “Embryonic stem cells isolation”. It’s from the Washington Post and it’s short with a nice graphic, so this is something to look at. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/cell110698.htm

• The Google search took only about 10 minutes total, between doing the search and looking at the 4 results. I’m feeling pretty good because I’m almost done!

• For my last result, I’ll go back to the MIT Libraries page because I must have missed something the first time.

• This time I searched directly from the main page under Barton catalog quick search. I searched again for “embryonic stem cells”. I got 6 results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barton Catalog Quick Search</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title Keyword</td>
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<td>embryonic stem cells</td>
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<td>Search</td>
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• I chose the second result because the title is exactly what I need: Human embryonic stem cells. I clicked to display the full record and then clicked the link for the Table of contents. This looks good because it has chapters on a lot of aspects of stem cells, like the biology of them, characteristics, and genetic engineering. I think I’ll get this, but I’m not sure how to get it because it only gives me the table of contents and not the whole thing. This is the location: Hayden Library - Stacks | QH588.S83.H86 2005

I’m not sure where that is and when I click the link, it only gives me a short “Availability/holdings display” and nothing else. I’ll ask some friends if they know how to get stuff from the library. If I can’t find this, then I’ll just go back to Google again since there were a lot of results I didn’t look at the first time.

• The library search took about 5 minutes to do the search and look at the results.

• I feel really good about this because it was pretty quick and easy to find 5 documents about stem cell research.