

# BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES USAGE IN RESEARCH AND REVALIDATION FOR HEAD AND NECK SURGEONS

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## INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Digital databases are the most commonly used method for researching surgical topics.
- ▶ Literature search can be a cumbersome task
- ▶ Part of the revalidation process is providing evidence of publications and their impact
- ▶ Electronic Bibliographic Databases and some social networks offer help with research.

## Aims

- ▶ Assess availability of web based search engines for efficacy and ease of use when searching for current and historic evidence related to to Head and Neck Surgery.
- ▶ Suggest a suitable research profile for usage in appraisal .

## Method

- ▶ Researching two Head and Neck Surgery subjects 'Orbital Floor Fracture' and 'Radial Forearm Free Flap' on different bibliographic databases comparing results for ease of search, availability of publications, cost and accessibility.
- ▶ Assessment of websites that can be used in creating publications profiles and if they can be used as evidence in appraisal and revalidation.

## Results

- ▶ Ovid- Medline gave more options for narrowing search terms and specify exact topics.
- ▶ Google Scholar offers summary of author's publications and number of citations.
- ▶ ResearchGate can provide author's publications list and their impact factor.

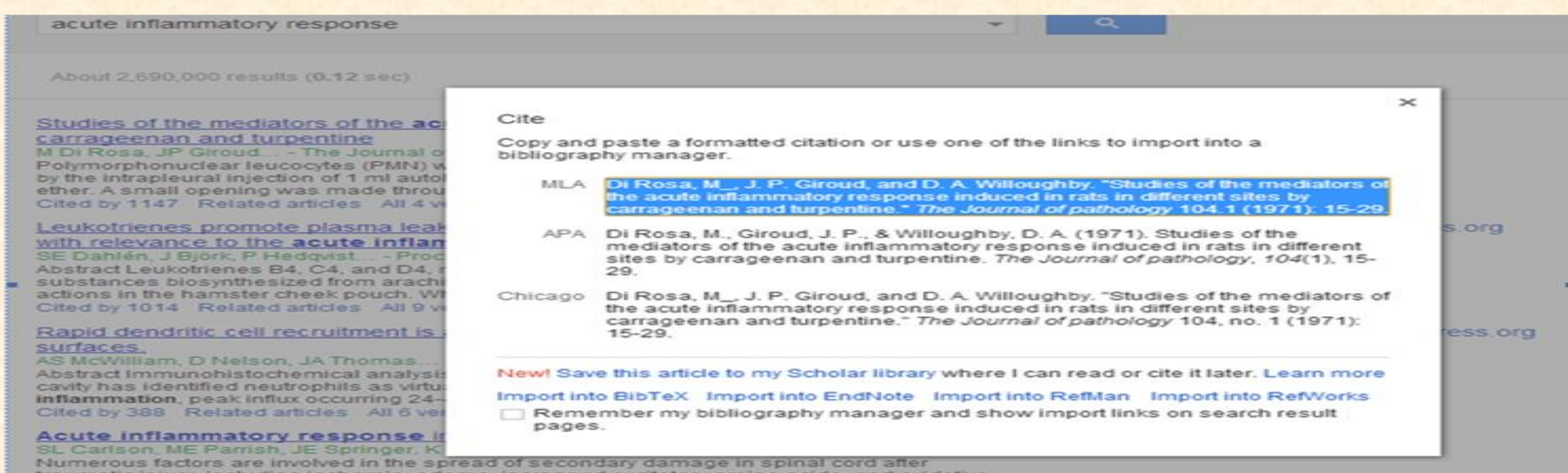


Figure 1. Options for citation on Google Scholar

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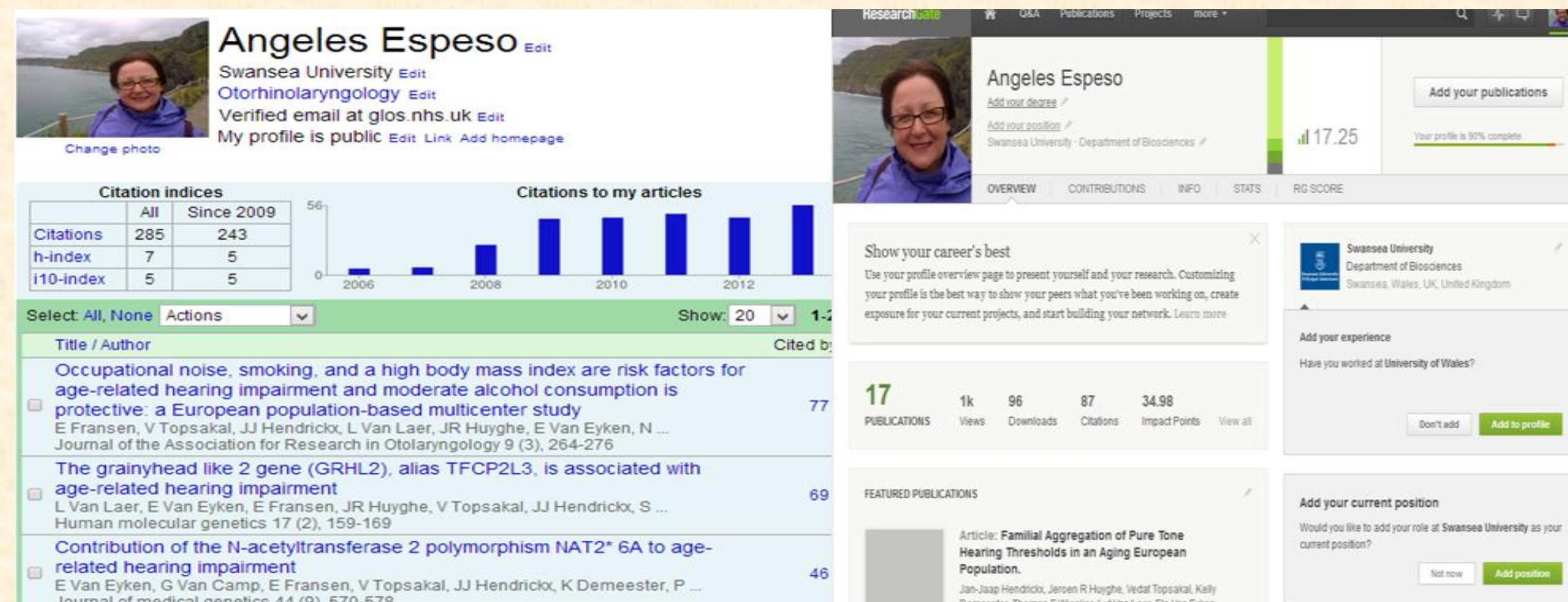


Figure 2. Same author's profiles on ResearchGate (left) and Google Scholar (right) showing different presentation of publication , Impact factor is shown only on ResearchGate

	Access Fees	Link to publisher's website	Search options	Citations report
<b>Ovid-Medline</b>	Yes via Athens or Shibboleth	Yes	year, subject, author, journal and/or publication type	No
<b>Google Scholar</b>	No	Yes	year, subject, author and/or journal	Each publication individually and a report for each author
<b>ScienceDirect</b>	No fee for basic search, full access via Athens or Shibboleth	Yes	year, subject, author, journal and/or publication type	Each publication individually
<b>Scopus</b>	Athens or Shibboleth	Yes	year, subject, author, journal and/or publication type	Each publication individually
<b>PubMed</b>	No	Yes	Year, text availability, article type, species and / or other options	Each publication individually
<b>ResearchGate</b>	Basic subscription is free but can upgrade to more options by paying a fee	No	Author based search but other terms can be used	Impact score, number of views and downloads

Table 1: Comparison between different Bibliographic databases

	Google Scholar	Pubmed	ScienceDirect
Orbital floor fracture	31,000	1,135	6,023
Radial Forearm Free Flap	21,500	1322	5,569

Table 2: Search sources found on three Databases

## Discussion

- ▶ Number of sources found varied between databases
- ▶ Ovid- Medline gave more options for narrowing search terms
- ▶ Both Google Scholar and ResearchGate author's publications list can be used for revalidation as summary and evidence of publications.
- ▶ Number of citations provided by Google Scholar and impact factor provided by ResearchGate can be used as evidence of publications importance.

## CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Google Scholar, PubMed, ScienceDirect and Ovid-Medline are the main search engines for researching surgical topics.
- ▶ Google Scholar seems to be easier to use and is a strong competitor for leadership in this field.
- ▶ Google Scholar and ResearchGate can be valuable tools in providing evidence for revalidation.