

**Supplementary table 2: Scoring system for comparison of coverage**

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Maximum score given</b>	<b>Justification for scores</b>	<b>Score distribution (Scores are indicated in brackets)</b>	<b>Examples of tools</b>
<b>Breadth/ coverage of journal sources</b>	10	The number and the quality of journals hosted by a particular search tool are the most important parameters that determine the output quality as well as the recall of the tool.	Medline indexed journals covered (8). Other journal sources included (9 to 10). If number of journals (n) is mentioned $(n*8)/5000$ .	Scopus covers maximum number of journal sources while PMC covers relatively lesser number of journals among the tools considered. Scopus, Scirus, Google Scholar cover journals other than MEDLINE indexed (about 5000) journals also.
<b>Clinical trials covered</b>	1	Clinical trials coverage by a tool is important for clinicians.	Feature present (1).	All the tools except CiteXplore, eTBLAST, GS and Scirus have this feature.
<b>Breadth/ coverage of other web sources</b>	2	The spectrum of other web sources including useful websites covered by a tool enhances its output.	Depending on the web sources covered and their usefulness (0.5 to 2).	Scopus and Scirus seem to be most efficient followed by GS.
<b>Patents covered</b>	1	Coverage of patents by a search tool is an added advantage for a researcher.	Feature present (1).	BioAsk, Brij.in, CiteXplore, Scopus and Scirus have this feature.
<b>Data update</b>	2	The frequency with which the data is updated significantly affects the performance of a search tool in retrieving latest articles.	Feature present (0.5 to 2, depending on the frequency of data update). Daily update (2).	Scopus and all the search engines covering MEDLINE indexed journals update data daily. Our studies show that GS and HWP are comparable while Scirus lags behind in data update.