

Finding Bioethical Literature

- Databases and Databiases



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- 1. Ethical Pluralism (in the Western World)**
- 2. Example Stem Cell Research**
- 3. Literature Databases and their -biases**
- 4. Eurethnet**

Talking about ethics...

Descriptive Ethics

- Analysis of contemporary or historical ethical debates

Normative Ethics

- Moral Values

Meta-Ethics

- Elements and forms of moral statements

Bioethics

- Applied Ethics concerning Life-Sciences

On what basis do we make moral decisions?

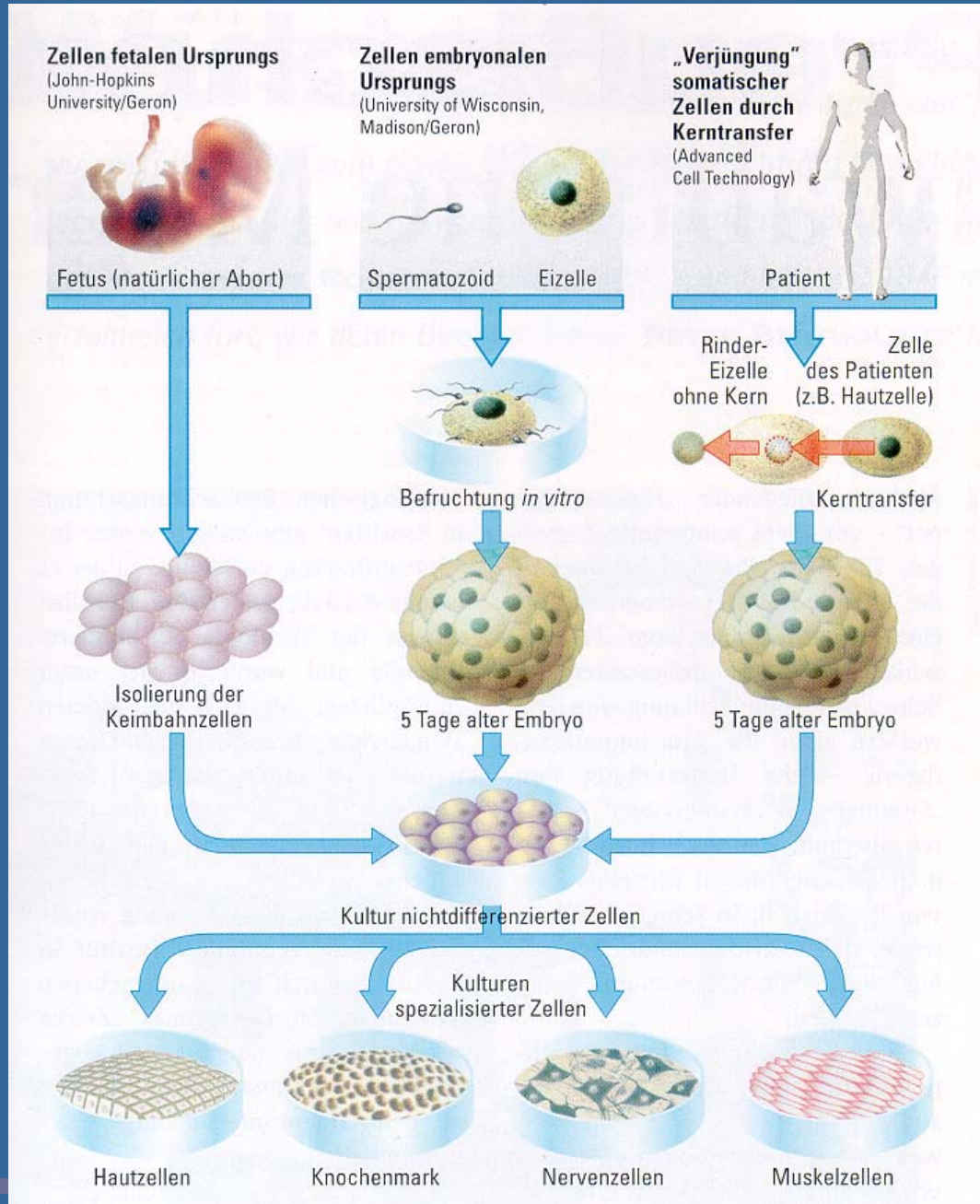
Deontological

- “Do what the Bible tells you” Divine Command Theories
- “Do the right thing” The Ethics of Duty
- “... certain unalienable Rights” The Ethics of Rights
- “Daddy, that’s not fair” The Ethics of Justice
- “Be a good person” Virtue Ethics

Teleological

- “Make the world a better place” Utilitarianism
- “Watch out for #1” Ethical Egoism

(Lawrence Hinman 2002)



Problems

- Potential Human Beings
- Continual Development
- Human Dignity?
- „Living Beings“

Cultural Differences concerning Stem Cell Research

Christian Religion(s)

Catholic Church:

Embryo as Human Being from the moment of conception

Protestants:

Differing views

(e.g. Presbyterians pro research,
Southern Baptist Convention contra research)

Judaism:

Embryo as potential Human Being,
Soul 40 days after conception

Islamism

Soul 40 days after conception

Agnosticism

Differing Opinions, Question of Human Dignity, Instrumentalisation
etc.

Table 1. Stem cell derivation and research – European regulatory situation

Country or jurisdiction	Embryonic stem cells				Adult stem cells
	research allowed on stem cell lines already derived	research permitted using spare embryos	creation for research permitted	creation for research permitted using cell nuclear replacement	research seen as relevant or equivalent alternative to embryonic stem cell research
Oviedo Convention of the Council of Europe	Yes	Yes	No	No	N/A
European Union	Yes	Yes, but moratorium on funding until end of 2003	Yes, but moratorium on funding until end of 2003	?	?
USA ^a	Yes, if on specified list of stem cell lines	Yes, but not federally funded or in federally funded institutions	Yes, but not federally funded or in federally funded institutions	Yes, but not federally funded or in federally funded institutions	Yes
Austria ^b	Yes	No	No	No	?
Belgium ^b	Yes	Yes	Yes, but only if scientifically necessary	Yes	?
Denmark ^{c, d, e}	Yes	No	No	No	No
Finland ^{c, d, e}	Yes	Yes	No	No	?
France ^a	Yes	No	No	No	?
Germany	Yes, if stem cell line derived before January 2002	No	No	No	Yes
Greece ^{c, d, e}	Yes	Yes	No	No	?
Ireland ^a	Yes, in theory	No	No	No	Yes
Italy ^{a, b}	No regulation				
The Netherlands ^a	Yes	Yes	No, 5-year moratorium (can be lifted earlier)	No, 5-year moratorium (can be lifted earlier)	No
Portugal ^a	No regulation, but has ratified the Oviedo Convention				
Spain ^{c, d, e}	Yes	No, not unless embryo is non-viable	No	No	?
Sweden ^{c, d, e}	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
United Kingdom ^a	Yes	Yes	Yes, but only if scientifically necessary	Yes	No

(Soren Holm 2004)

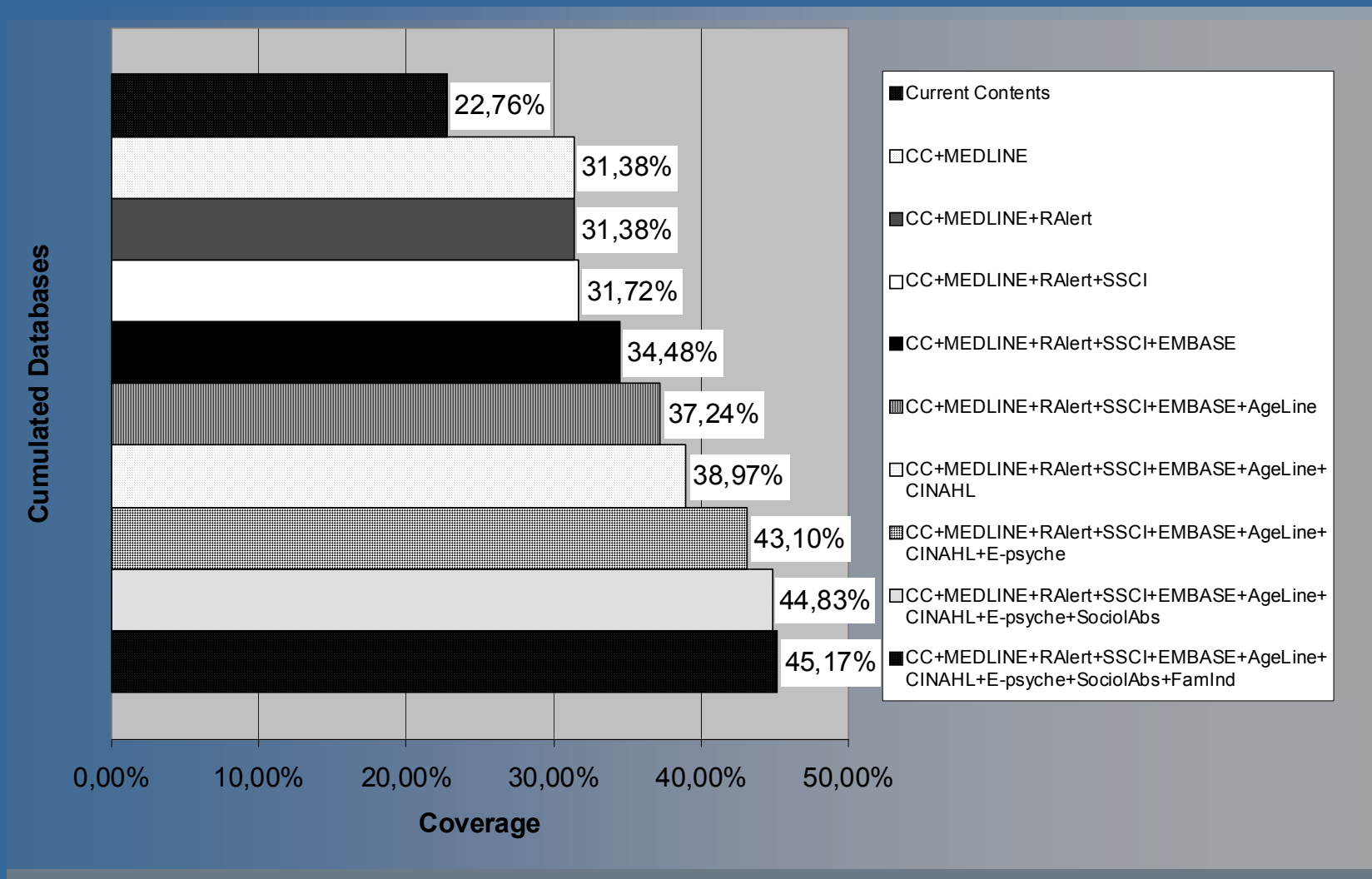
Finding bioethical literature in electronic bibliographies

- **which databases index how much bioethical literature**
- **do these databases show regional or language preferences (and thus an ethical bias)**

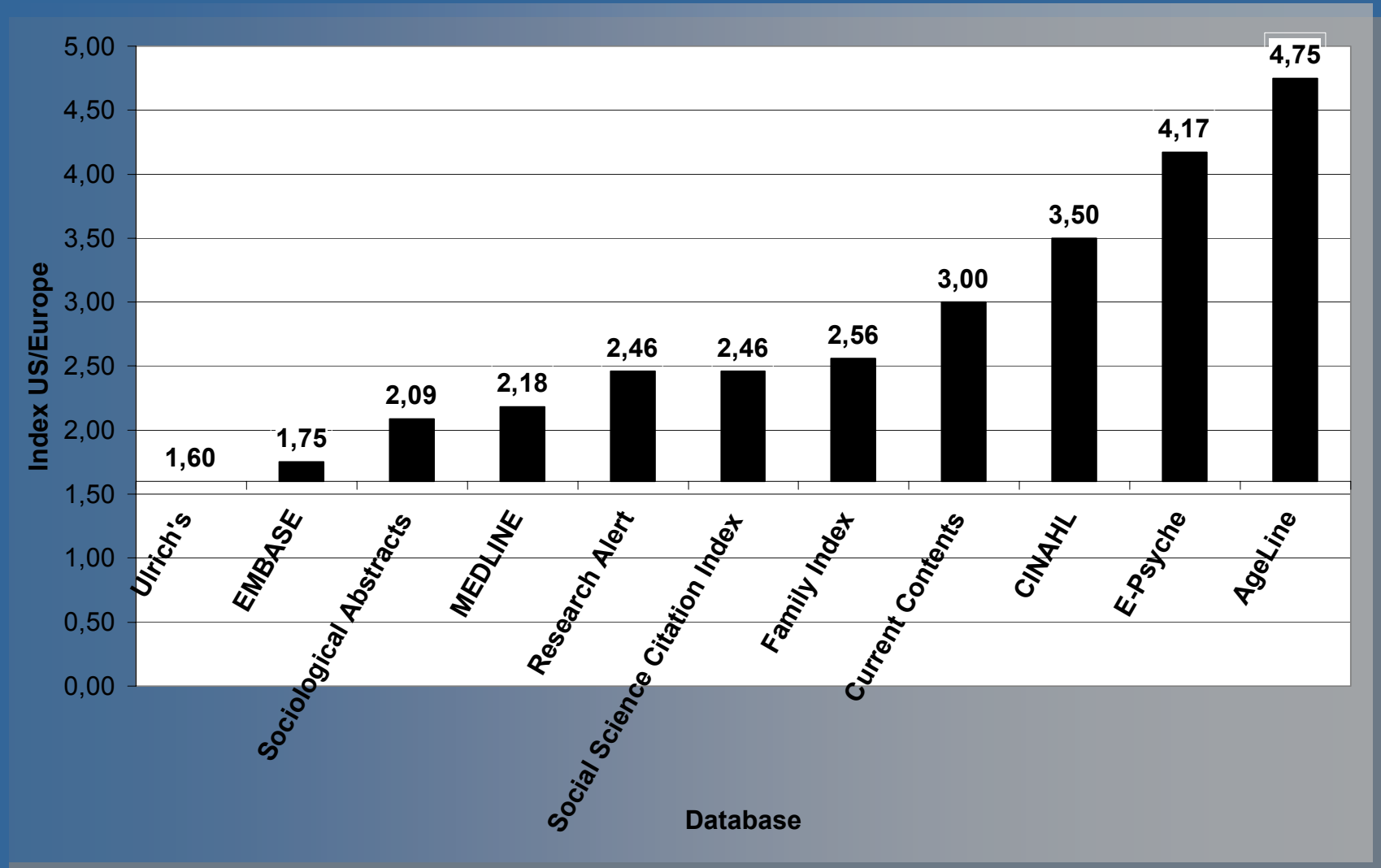
Top „Abstracting and Indexing Services” collecting at least 15 periodicals dealing with medical ethical issues

1. Current Contents (22.8%) (<http://www.isinet.com>)
2. MEDLINE (22.1%) (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>)
3. Research Alert (18.6%) (<http://www.isinet.com>)
4. Social Science Citation Index (18.6%) (<http://www.isinet.com>)
5. EMBASE (17.6%) (<http://www.excerptamedica.com>)
6. AgeLine (17.2%) (<http://research.aarp.org/ageline/home.html>)
7. CINAHL (14.5%) (<http://www.cinahl.com/>)
8. E-psyche (13.5%) (<http://www.e-psyche.net>)
9. Sociological Abstracts (13.1%) (<http://www.csa.com>)
10. Family Index (12.4%) (<http://www.famindx.com>).

Coverage of international medical ethical journals by several databases in combination



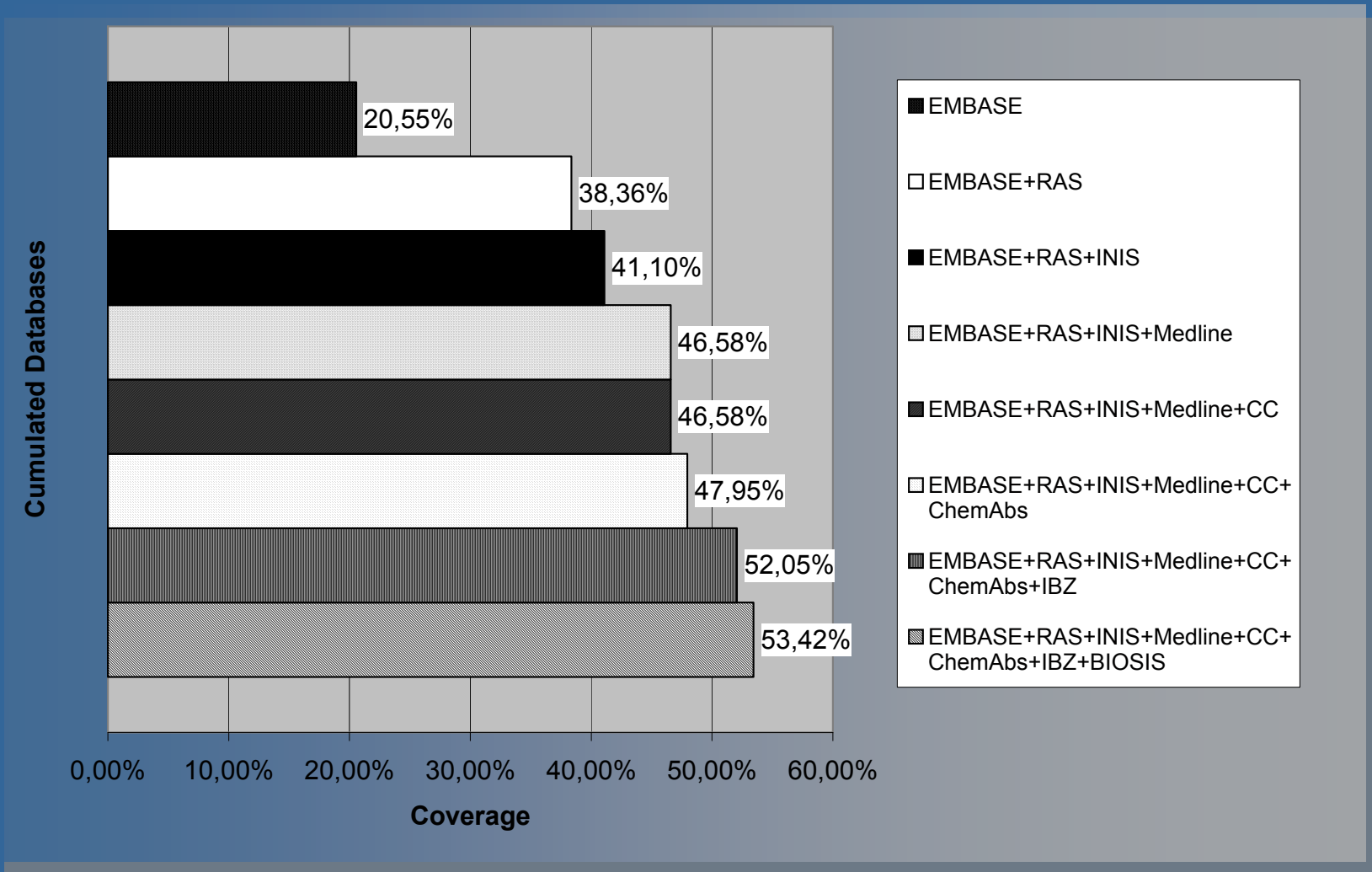
Regional Preferences



Top „Abstracting and Indexing Services” indexing European journals dealing with medical ethics

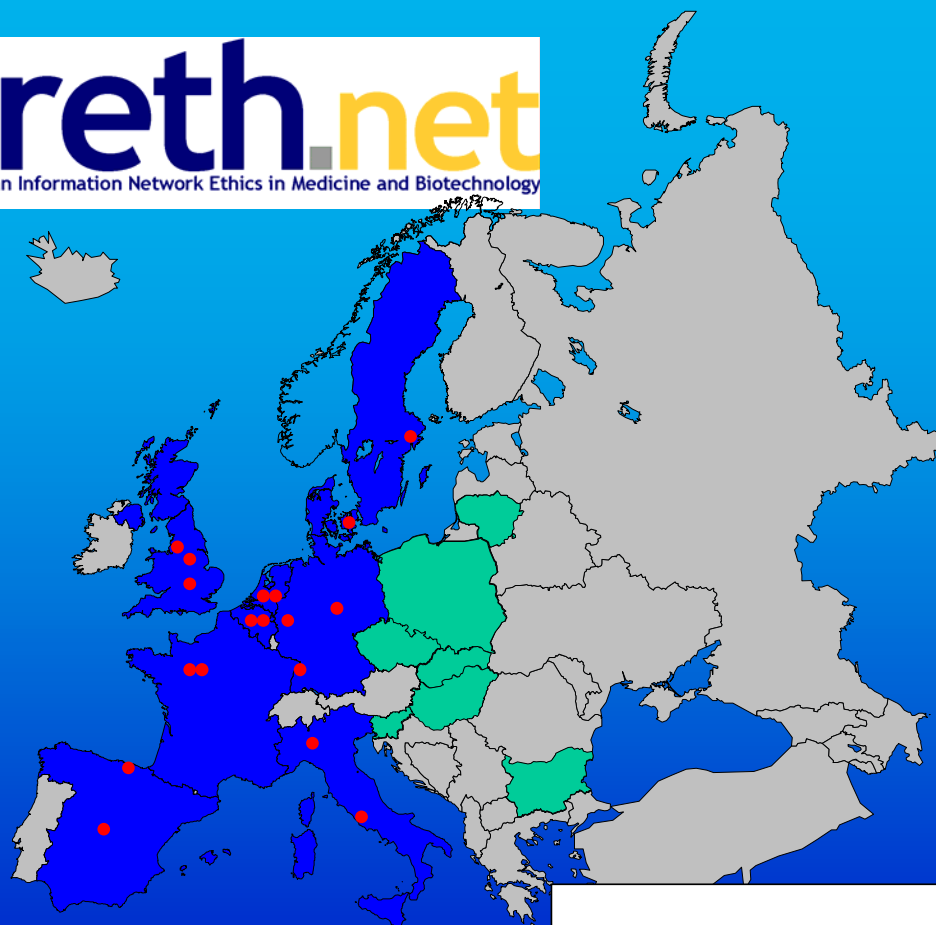
1. EMBASE (N=15/ 20.6%) (<http://www.excerptamedica.com>)
2. Russian Academy of Sciences Bibliographies (RAS) (N=14/ 19.2%) (<http://www.rlg.org/cit-ras.html>)
3. I N I S Atomindex (N=13/ 17.8%) (<http://www.iaea.org/inis/inisdb.htm>)
4. MEDLINE (N=13/ 17.8%) (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>)
5. Current Contents (CC) (N=10/ 13.7%) (<http://www.isinet.com>)
6. Chemical Abstracts (ChemAbs) (N=10/ 13.7%) (<http://www.cas.org/>)
7. I B Z Internationale Bibliographie der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaftlichen Zeitschriftenliteratur (N=10/ 13.7%) (<http://www.saur.de/dietrich/>)
8. BIOSIS (N=9/ 12.3%) (<http://www.biosis.org/>).

European medical ethics core journal coverage of several databases in combination



Improving information systems:

EURETHNET



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http://www.eureth.net/

eureth.net European Information Network - Ethics in Medicine & Biotechnology

A project of the European Commission, Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources Programme

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Welcome to **Eureth.net**, a project funded by the [European Commission, Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources Programme](#).

We are a group of 26 partner institutions in 15 EU countries, aiming to develop an information network and knowledge base in the field of European ethics in medicine and biotechnology, providing relevant sources, value-added information, and related legal sources available to academics, researchers, bioethical professionals, decision-makers and consumers alike. The Eureth.net consists of six core projects.

[>>> Go to Eurethnet's cross-searchable interface for EUROETHICS and ENDEBIT <<< \(bibliographic databases on medical and biotechnological ethics\)](#)

[Learn more about Eureth.net's activities and projects](#)

[Eureth.net members' page \(restricted to project partner institutions only\)](#)

News and Announcements

Latest News (June 2005):

- [Concern over proposed prenatal screening changes](#)
- [Safety of egg donation unclear](#)
- [Slimmed down breast cancer gene patent upheld](#)
- [Have we been oversold the stem cell dream?](#)
- [Germany to fund research into the safety of green gene technology](#)

[...more news from June, 2005](#)

Announcements:

The Eureth.net project concluded on 30 June 2005. We're looking for ways to continue the News updates and other services provided on this page.

New products from Eureth.net

- Eurethnet's [cross-searchable interface](#) for ENDEBIT & EUROETHICS databases is available.
- The ENDEBIT database prototype (European bibliographic database on biotechnology ethics) is now available. [goto the ENDEBIT database / ENDEBIT main page](#)
- The EUROETHICS database (European bibliographic database on medical ethics) is now available. [goto the EUROETHICS database / EUROETHICS main page](#)

Selected bibliography by our Project Partners

- [Annotated bibliography on bioethics](#) by Cátedra de Derecho y Genoma Humano, Universidad de Deusto (Spain)
- [bibliography on animal ethics & human/animal relations](#) by IEPPI (UK) (pdf file)
- [UK medical ethics links list](#) by Ethox (UK) (MS-Word file)
- [Ethical and Legal Aspects on Clinical Trials with Children](#) selected bibliography from Karolinska Institute University Library (pdf file)

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