PubMed Searching Tips

How to Access

- Access from Dykes Library home page library.kumc.edu
- Click on PUBMED from the left side of the home page. This will help you a seamless integration of accessing the full text articles from Dykes library subscription journals.

Clinical Queries

- Access PubMed Clinical Queries from the PubMed home page. Under Tools, the 4th is Clinical Queries
  - With the specialized search filters, clinical Queries are ideally suited for retrieving quickly and having an overview of evidence on clinically oriented literature
  - Search tips:
    - Formulate your clinical question.
    - Identify the primary concepts or the phrase to search Clinical Queries.
    - Enter full terms instead of abbreviations. E.g. Medial Collateral Ligament, not MCL
    - Search results will be displayed in three categories; clinical study category, systematic reviews and medical genetics. Click on See All for viewing all citations in each categories
    - In the Clinical Studies category, results display can further change to Therapy, Diagnosis, Prognosis and Clinical Prediction Guidelines.
    - Scope of the Clinical Study category can change Broad (more citations, but may include less relevant citations as well) or Narrow (fewer retrieval with precise citations)

Using Boolean Operators

- Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) entered in the PubMed search box should be in UPPER CASE letters. If no Boolean operator is entered between search terms PubMed applies the AND operator which returns results that contain all of your search terms
- **AND** is used for combining two discrete concepts; you will be retrieving both concepts. E.g. Fibromyalgia AND swimming
- **OR** is used for broader retrievals; you will be retrieving either one of the terms. E.g. gait OR walking OR walk

Basic Search

- Identify key concepts in your question and enter the terms in the search box, click search
- Searching using keywords in the PubMed search box typically retrieve broader results. PubMed automatically map your terms to synonyms and available MeSH terms (in most cases) and search for all your terms using the Automatic Term Mapping (ATM)
- Take a look in the **Search Details** box displays on the right hand side of the results page for understanding how PubMed interpreted your query.
- Take the advantage of using Filters when you search PubMed in basic search mode

Searching Using MeSH

- MeSH is a controlled vocabulary, representing the subject content of articles in PubMed. PubMed searches can be built and executed from within the MeSH Database using MeSH terms, using the search builder. MeSH terms are arranged in an alphabetical and hierarchical order. MeSH terms start with a broader term, which will branch into narrower, specific concepts.
• Select MeSH from PubMed homepage, under More Resources. It is always a good idea to look in the definition of the MeSH term, year of entry, information about previous indexing, related MeSH terms, synonyms, and the broader/narrower terms. You will also see:
  o Subheadings – checking a subheading will narrow the focus of your search by emphasizing the specific aspect of the MeSH term you selected
  o Restrict to MeSH Major Topic – checking this box makes it easy to narrow your retrieval to only those documents in which your selected MeSH term is considered to be a major point in the article
  o Do not include MeSH terms found below this term – checking this box makes it easy to exclude results indexed with any narrower terms included underneath your selected MeSH term

• For a comprehensive search, do not check boxes for restricting as major topic and not including narrower terms if there are any, do not attach subheading, use filters sparingly and consider also searching using keywords (text words).

• For a few, highly relevant articles, check the boxes for restricting as major topic and not including narrower terms if there are any, use relevant subheadings, customize article types and apply filters

Filters
• Filters are displayed on the left hand side of search results display
  o Click on Customize and select the desired article types
  o Click on Show Additional Filters to see more options such as publication dates, species, languages, ages, etc.

Finding Specific Citation
• Single Citation Matcher – provides a fill in the blank format to find citations; available on the PubMed homepage

More Tips
• Field Specific Searching
  o Use PubMed Advanced Search Builder for field specific search. Select from the drop down menu for appropriate fields for searching. Use appropriate Boolean operators.

• Using truncation and quotes
  o Truncation broadens your search by allowing you to retrieve all variant endings or spellings of that word. The truncation symbol in PubMed is the asterisk (*), however, using truncation in PubMed to account for variations in a word stem turns off automatic term mapping (ATM) feature. E.g. ureter* will bring ureteroscopy, ureteral, ureteric etc.

  o When you search terms using quotations, fewer results are retrieved.

Saving Your Searches
• MyNCBI – create a personal account to access additionally functionality like saving searches and results, selecting additional filter options, displaying format preferences, setting up email alerts, etc.

HELP


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