Countway Library of Medicine
Reference and Education Services

Expert Searching in PubMed

Use operators AND, OR, NOT in caps.
Use 'Details' tab to review and edit searches.

Need help with a search strategy? Contact Countway Reference
at **617.432.2134** or **countref@hms.harvard.edu**

Search by field

FIELD NAME	[tag]	DESCRIPTION AND EXAMPLES
Author	**[au]**	Author name *ex:* smith ab [au] smith a [au] (retrieves smith ab, smith ac, etc.) "smith a" [au] (retrieves only smith a)
Author Affiliation	**[ad]**	Institutional affiliation of first author ex: harvard [ad] AND medical [ad]
Journal Title	**[ta]**	Ttitle abbreviation, full title, or ISSN *ex:* j biol chem [ta] 0021-9258 [ta]
Publication Date	**[dp]**	Date the article was published, YYYY/MM/DD *ex:* 1998/04/06 [dp] (day and month are optional) "last n days" [dp] (or months, or years) 2004/01:2004/03 [dp] (date range)
Entrez Date	**[edat]**	Date the citation was added to PubMed, YYYY/MM/DD *ex:* 1998/04/06 [edat] (same options as Publication Date)
MeSH Term	**[mh]**	Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) *ex:* cytokines [mh] "ethics, medical" [mh] (quotes disable term mapping) hypertension [mh:noexp] (exclude narrower terms)
Pharmacol. action	**[pa]**	Pharmacologic action of a substance. ex: diuretics [pa] diuretics [pa] AND caffeine [nm] (finds caffeine as a diuretic)
MeSH (Major Topic)	**[majr]**	Major MeSH topic; main topic of the article *ex:* hypertension [majr] "ethics, medical" [majr]
Substance Name	**[nm]**	Name of a chemical *ex:* cycloheximide [sn] benzo a pyrene [sn] (replace parentheses with spaces)
Enzyme Number	**[rn]**	CAS Registry Number or EC Number *ex:* 71-00-1 [rn]
Publication Type	**[pt]**	Type of material, e.g. Practice Guideline, Review, Clinical Trial *ex:* practice guidline [pt]
Language	**[la]**	Language of the article or the citation (use excludes non-indexed citatons) *ex:* english [la]
Title	**[ti]**	Words in the title of the citation *ex:* diabetes [ti]
Text Words	**[tw]**	Words in title, abstract, or MeSH terms of the citation *ex:* sox8 [tw]
PubMed ID	**[uid]**	PubMed Unique Identifier, or PMID *ex:* 9854421 [uid] 9854421 (field tag is optional) 9854421 9701929 (search more than one PMID)

Restrict to special subsets

Citation Status Subsets
Use with Boolean operator.
ex: asthma AND in process [sb] find recent articles without MeSH terms (i.e. not yet indexed)

SEARCH	DESCRIPTION
medline [sb]	Medline; searches only indexed articles (with MeSH terms)
publisher [sb]	Citations as supplied by publisher; no MeSH
in process [sb]	In process citations; no MeSH
(NOT medline [sb])	All articles without MeSH terms
oldmedline [sb]	Articles before 1966

Subject Subsets
Each maps to specialized search strategies. Used in the same way as citation subsets.
ex: (tuberculosis AND history [sb]) finds articles on the history of tuberculosis.

SEARCH	DESCRIPTION
systematic [sb]	Sytematic reviews
history [sb]	History of medicine
bioethics [sb]	Bioethics
aids [sb]	AIDS
cancer [sb]	Cancer
tox [sb]	Toxicology
cam [sb]	Complementary and alternative medicine

Journal Subsets
To search a journal subset use the syntax jsubset?, where ? is the subset abbreviation.
ex. (neoplasms AND jsubsete) finds cancer articles in bioethics journals.

ABBREVIATION	SUBSET TITLE
aim	Core clinical journals
d	Dentistry journals
e	Bioethics journals
h	Health administration journals
k	Consumer health journals
n	Nursing journals
q	History of medicine journals
t	Health technology assessment journals
x	AIDS/HIV journals

Restrict by availability

free full text [sb]	free online access through PubMed
loprovhulib [filter]	online or print through Harvard; follow "Find It @ Harvard
loprovhulib [filter] OR free full text [sb]	available in at least one of the above ways

For more detailed information about constructing searches in PubMed, see the Help documentation and Tutorial at PubMed (under 'Entrez PubMed' on the left of the PubMed interface)