

# How to search for Articles on PubMed

(taken from PubMed web site; June 13, 2007, Brad Stith, Univ of CO Denver)

For more detail, see:

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=helppubmed.section.pubmedhelp.Searching\\_PubMed#pubmedhelp.A\\_basic\\_search](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=helppubmed.section.pubmedhelp.Searching_PubMed#pubmedhelp.A_basic_search)

## **1. Search by key terms:**

Go to web site:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=PubMed>

Type in your key words after “for” in the bar, then hit “Go”:

Search  for  Go Clear

Use \* at the end of the word (e.g., mimic\*) if you want to search for different endings of mimic, mimicking, mimicks, etc.

**Click on the authors’ names in a citation to see the abstract if it is available.**

### **Then TO GET THE ARTICLE:**

Click the icon to go to the abstract view and then click on the links:



**Or the article may be free from the publisher; look for the symbol:**



## **2. Search by Author:**

Full author names can be entered in natural or inverted order just after the word “for:”

julia s wong  
wong julia s

However, for some names it is necessary to distinguish which name is the last name:

ryan, james  
james, ryan

- Author names are automatically truncated to account for varying initials and designations such as Jr. To turn off the truncation, use double quotes around the author's name with the author search field tag [au], e.g., "smith j" [au].
- Use the [au] search tag if the author name is also a subject term, e.g., moran a [au]. If you do not use the [au] search tag, moran a will search as "moran A"[Substance Name] OR moran a[Text Word].
- If only the author's last name is entered, tag the name search with the author search field [au], to find the name in the author field only.

for example: type in “woods [au] “ to get all references by anyone with the last name of Woods.

### 3. Feature Tabs-

To limit your search to a certain year(s), to limit to only review articles, etc.

See rectangle around “Limits”, etc in the figure on the next page.

- Limit searches to specific fields, age groups, gender, type of study, Entrez or publication date, a specific language, types of articles, or subsets.
- Use the Preview/Index feature to preview the number of search results before displaying the citations or view and select terms from the Index.
- Use the History feature to view and combine your previous search queries.
- Use the Clipboard feature to collect selected citations from one or several searches for further action.
- Use the Details feature to view your search strategy as it was translated by PubMed.



### 4. Modify searches:

- AND, OR, NOT can be used to combine search terms in PubMed. They must be entered in uppercase letters.



- Example to right to pull up all references with three terms: use three terms and “AND:”
  - Used to retrieve a set in which each citation contains *at least one* of the search terms.
  - Use OR when you want to pull together articles on similar topics.
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- AND, OR, and NOT, must be entered in UPPERCASE.
  - AND is the default operator used in PubMed. If you do not include Boolean operators in your search, PubMed will automatically use AND between terms.
  - PubMed processes Boolean connectors in a left-to-right sequence.
  - You can change the order in which PubMed processes a search statement by enclosing, that is nesting, an individual concept in parentheses. The terms inside the parentheses will be processed as a unit and then incorporated into the overall strategy.
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*salmonella AND hamburger OR eggs*



*Try: salmonella AND (hamburger OR eggs)*

## **5. To search for a certain paper when you have page numbers, journal name, dates, etc:**

Type in: "Gamete research"[Jour] AND 3[volume] AND 45[page]

Or go to citation match:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/citmatch.html> “PubMed’s [Single Citation Matcher](#) is a fill-in-the-blank form that allows you to enter partial journal citation information to locate a record for a specific single article, or items indexed from a particular volume or issue of a journal. The Single Citation Matcher is available from PubMed’s sidebar. “

## **6. How do I find articles about my disease or condition?**

### **Clinical study category**

The Clinical Study Categories use built-in search filters that will limit retrieval to citations to articles reporting research conducted with specific methodologies, including

those that report applied clinical research. To find citations for a specific clinical study category:

1. Click [Clinical Queries](#) from the PubMed sidebar.
2. Click Search by Clinical Study Category.
3. Enter your search terms in the search box.
4. Select a category: therapy, diagnosis, etiology, or prognosis.
5. Select a scope: narrow, specific search or broad, sensitive search.
6. Click Go.

### Example

If you are researching the clinical aspect of gene therapy for cystic fibrosis, from the Clinical Queries page, select the category “therapy” and the Scope “narrow, specific search” and enter the following search terms in the search box:

cystic fibrosis gene therapy

## **7. Can I use PubMed on my handheld device?**

The [PubMed Text Version](#) will probably work well with your handheld. Additional NLM projects including access to PubMed using devices such as Palm Powered and Pocket PC handheld computers is available from the [NLM Mobile](#) page.

**After I look at an abstract, I use my browser's back function to return to the total retrieval, but I get an error message such as, "Warning, this page has expired?" Do you have any suggestions?** If clearing the cache of your browser does not help, please see these [suggestions](#).