

PubMed Search Tips

Field	To Do	Model	Example	Notes
Abstracts	Abstracts are available	combine with hasabstract	baseball [mh] & hasabstract	No field name is used. Articles without abstracts are not retrieved. Abstracts could be available at the Journal's web site, even if none is in PubMed.
Author	Author one or more initials	lastname 1st initial [au]	St Clair M[au]	Retrieves all those with 1st initial P and any second initial or no initial. First and middle names are always initialized. Note periods are not used in names as in St. Clair.
	Author with no automatic truncation	"lastname 1st initial"[au] or lastname 1st initial@	"santana A"[au] or santana A@	" " turns off truncation and will find only those with 1st initial A.
	Author word order	lastname first name number	van der Vaart JM 3d	Keep natural word order for last name. Use 2d and 3d for second and third.
	Author, First Only	[last name initials[1au]	Fauci As[1au]	Retrieves only those articles where the author is the first author. Will not retrieve any citations where a person is not the First author.
	Lastname only automatic truncation	Lastname[au]	santana [au]	Will search for all authors with last name of santana regardless of initials.
Clipboard	Refer to citations in Clipboard	#0	#0 & eng[la]	Citations stored in the Clipboard are stored as the 0(zero) set and can be referred to in any search statement.
Comment/Correction	Original Report	hasoriginalreportin	Ann Intern Med[ta] & hasoriginalreportin	See Hassummaryforpatientsin.
	Patient Summary	hassummaryforpatientsin	N Engl J Med[ta] & hassummaryforpatientsin	Summary maybe in the same journal or in another journal title. See hasoriginalreportin.
Date of Publication	Range of Years	(YYYY[dp] : YYYY[dp])	(1990[dp] : 1999[dp])	Also can limit to month and day as in YYYY/MM/DD, but doesn't work consistently due to lack of uniformity in publisher practices.
Diacritical Marks	Diacritical Mark search	use regular charcters to retrieve words with diacriticals	Larsen o	Diacritical Marks have no effect on searching. Search using regular characters retrieves both words with diacritical marks and those without. Diacriticals display in the XML format.
Entrez Date	Date citations were added	date[edate]	1999/07/01 [edat]	Also use 1999[edat] or 1999/07[edat] Use colon (:) to range 1993/01/06:1999/06/30
Issue Number	Journal issue	number[ip]	12[ip]	
Journal Subset	Abridged Index Medicus Journals (AIM)	jsubsetaim	neoplasms & jsubsetaim	The 120 AIM Journals (http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/aim.html) are the most commonly held by Hospitals and other Medical Libraries. About 1.4 Million articles
	AIDS Journals	topics word & jsubsetx	tuberculosis AND jsubsetx	Retrieves from fairly small group of AIDS journals that were not previously in PubMed. Distinguish from AIDS[sb], which retrieves broadly on the AIDS topic. About 159,000 articles.
	Bioethics Journals	jsubsete	Right to Die[mh] & jsubsete	Limits to articles from Bioethics database. About 52,000 articles

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Journal Subset	Biotechnology Journals	jsubsetb	Gene Splicing & jsubsetb	Retrieves articles from Biotechnolgy journals, non-IM (1990-98), About 11,000.
	Communication Disorders journals	jsubsetc	Agraphia & jsubsetc	Includes articles from Non-Index Medicus journals, 1977-97. About 7,300 articles
	Consumer Health journals	jsubsetk	Naturopathy & jsubsetk	Retrieves articles from consumer health journals. Fewer than 3,200 articles.
	Dental Journals	jsubsetd	oral surgical procedures[Mh] & jsubsetd	PubMed Includes all citations from the Index to Dental Literature. About 371,00 articles
	Health Administration journals	jsubsetth	Eligibility Determination & jsubsetth	Retrieves health administration articles. About 182,000 articles.
	Index Medicus journals	jsubsetim	Eligibility Determination & jsubsetim	Retieves over 90% of articles in PubMed. Over 10.8 Million
	Medical History	jsubsetq	Galen & jsubsetq	Limit to articles from the Histline database. About 189,000 articles.
	Nursing Journals	jsubsetn	hospital administration [mh] & jsubsetn	Retrieves articles from nursing journals. Over 411,00 articles
	Oldmedline articles (pre 1966)	jsubsetom	lithium & jsubsetom	Most pre-1966 articles that were in Oldmedline are to be converted to "PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE" from Oldmedline in the SB field in December 2006. This includes mapping Oldmedline keywords to MESH. After which using Oldmedline[sb] will retrieve very few older articles. Must use the date of publication qualification to do this.
	Population journals	jsubsetr	Ethnic Groups & jsubsetr	Retrieves from Non-Index Medicus Journals, 1972-1979. About 3,600 articles
	Space articles	jsubsets	Extravehicular Activity[mh] & jsubsets	Limit to articles from the Spaceline database. About 164,000 articles
	Technology Assessment journals	jsubsettt	social costs & jsubsettt	Retrieves articles from health care assessment journals. Fewer than 20,000 articles.
Journal Title Abbreviation	Journal Search	journal abbreviation(ta)	new england journal of medicine[ta]	Also you can use the official Medline abbreviation like N Engl J Med[ta]
Language	English-language articles	eng[la]	spa[LA] OR english[la]	Use the first three letters or entire word for any language
Local Holdings	Limit to Holdings at MU HSL	loprovmedlib[filter] where Medlib=library code	loprovwmuhslib[filter]	
	Limit to holdings at MU HSL	loprovmedlib[SB] where Medlib=library code	loprovwmuhslib[sb] & patient advocacy/lj	
Mesh	Animal Subjects	animal [mh]	malaria [mh] AND animal[mh]	Articles discussing both humans and animals will be retrieved; human only studies will not.

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Mesh	Category Search, Also called Tree Top	Top Mesh Term +" Category"[MH]	diseases category [mh]	Tree Top searching is very broad, retrieving large data sets for every sub-category indexed under the 15 Top Mesh terms. Diseases Category[MH] retrieves about 9 million citations. Anatomy [A], Organisms [B], Diseases [C], Chemicals and Drugs [D], Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment [E], Psychiatry and Psychology [F], Biological Sciences [G] Physical Sciences [H], Anthropology, Education, Sociology and Social Phenomena [I], Technology and Food and Beverages [J], Humanities [K], Information Science [L], Persons [M] Health Care [N], Geographic Locations [Z].
	Human Subjects	human [mh]	malaria [mh] AND human[mh]	Articles discussing humans will be retrieved. Also articles discussing both humans and animals will be included. Articles referring to animals only will be excluded.
	Mesh Term Search	Term[mh]	heart diseases[mh]	Includes automatic mapping and exploding. Must use correct word order and punctuation
Mesh Major Topic	Major topic	mesh term[mj]	heart diseases[mj]	Retrieves articles where heart diseases are central theme.
Operator	AND	term AND term OR term & term	physician impairment[mh] AND substance-related disorders[mh]	AND must be in upper case when combining MESH terms. "&" character is quicker.
	OR	term OR term	kidney kidney diseases	OR must be uppercase when combining MESH Terms. " " symbol is quicker.
Page Number	Page number	number[pg]	125[pg]	Very helpful in citation verification
Personal Name as Subject	Person or Name search	name [ps]	lincoln a [ps]	
Phrase Search	Phrase Search	"term1 term2 term3"	"chronic sialadenitis"	When you use " ", automatic term mapping and exploding will be deactivated. Without " " you will lose adjacency and will be same as Term1 & Term2
Publication Type	Clinical Trials	Clinical Trial [pt]	clinical Trial, phase II [pt]	Can use Phase I through Phase IV or just Clinical Trial for all types
	Patient Education Handouts	Patient Education Handout [pt]	Hypertension/pc[mh] & Patient Education Handout [pt]	Articles published in professional medical journals that are intended for patients.
	Review Articles	Review [PT]	Review [PT]	
PubMed Subset	Bioethics Citations	term & bioethics[sb]	stem cells AND bioethics [sb]	"...ethical, legal and public policy issues surrounding health care and biomedical research."
	Complementary and Alternative Medicine	cam[sb]	Prostatic Hyperplasia & cam[sb]	Also in Limits subsets list. 220,000 citations
	Free Full Text available online	free full text [sb]	smallpox vaccine AND free full text [sb]	No payment or subscription required to see entire article.
	Full Text available online	full text[sb]	children bipolar disorder AND full text [sb]	All citations with online full text regardless of whether free or not.

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PubMed Subset	History of Medicine	history[sb]	tuberculosis AND history [sb]	33K citations
	History of Medicine Journals	Q[sb]		
	In Process Citations	in process[sb]	premature labor & in process[sb]	Article is being considered for addition to Medline and Mesh subject indexing. Usually these are recently published articles. Data added to MEDLINE records during indexing: 1. Affiliation [ad] (additional data, e.g., grant numbers, may be added to this field during indexing) 2. EC/RN Number [rn] 3. MeSH terms [mh] (includes age groups; Human/Animal; Male/Female) 4. MeSH Major Topic [majr] 5. Publication Type [pt] 6. Subheadings [sh] 7. Subset [sb] (some data available for searching prior to indexing, e.g., Publisher) 8. Substance Name [nm] Note: English [la] is not on this list. Limiting to English language will retrieve in-process records.
	Medline file	medline [sb]	Dolphins[mh] & medline [sb]	Citations are within Medline's scope and have been processed by adding Mesh Subject Headings, PT, Register numbers, and other fields.
	Oldmedline articles only	oldmedline [sb]	Cesarian section & oldmedline[sb]	1950-1965. Data structure does not conform to Medline standards. No Mesh searching, no abstracts, use text words.
	Premedline			PreMedline was discontinued as a separate database within PubMed in the 1st Quarter of 2001.
	Publisher Citations	publisher [sb]	Dolphins & publisher [sb]	These citations were provided by publishers, from a journal not indexed in Medline, or were published before Medline indexing started. In either case the citation cannot be searched by MESH subject headings.
	PubMed articles that are not Medline	pubmednotmedline [sb]	Science[Jour] & pubmednotmedline [sb]	PubMed is both a database and a Web-based search engine. Medline is a database which comprises about 90% of the articles that the PubMed search engine has access to. Medline contains only medically related articles. The PubMed database indexes articles that are in the list of journals indexed by Medline, but are "out of topic", articles from medical journals that have not yet been recommended for Medline, or articles published in Medline journals before the date that they became Medline. Are you confused yet? PubMed articles are not tagged with Mesh terms, so you will not retrieve these articles when doing a Mesh search.
	PubMed Citations	PubMed[sb]	Atmospheric CO2 & pubmed[sb]	PubMed citations are published in regularly indexed IM journals, but the article is out of scope, i.e. it's not biomedically relevant.
	Space Life Sciences	term & space [sb]	exercise AND space [sb]	

Field	To Do	Model	Example	Notes
PubMed Subset	Systematic Reviews	systematic [sb]	exercise hypertension AND systematic [sb]	Retrieves "citations identified as systematic reviews, meta-analyses, reviews of clinical trials, evidence-based medicine, consensus development conferences, guidelines, and citations to articles from journals specializing in review studies of value to clinicians."
	Toxline File	tox[sb]	sweeteners AND tox [sb]	Toxicologic citations. Also on drop down menu on Limits Page.
Secondary Source	Secondary Source Database Name	name [si]	Genbank [si]	
	Secondary Source Molecular Sequence Number	number [si]	AF001892 [si]	Also can search genbank/AF001892 [si]
SubHeading	Attach SubHeadings	Mesh heading/subheading[mh]	lung neoplasms/rt[mh]	both the Mesh heading and Subheading will be exploded if possible.
	Explosion off	Meshheading/Subheading [mh:noexp]	hypertension/th [mh:noexp]	For floating subheading us therapy[sh:noexp]
	Float SubHeading	subheading [sh]	Therapy[sh]	Also use abbreviation like TH. Retrieves all Mesh headings with attached TH SubHeading, plus explodes all Therapy Concepts : diet, drug, nursing, prevention & control, radiotherapy, rehabilitation, surgery, and transplantation.
Subject Subset	AIDS articles	Aids[sb]	tuberculosis AND aids [sb]	Retrieves broadly for all AIDS topics. Distinguish from jsubsetx, which retrieves articles from AIDS journals that were not previously selected for PubMed.
Substance Name	Chemical Substance	term[nm]	Protein p53 [nm]	Started in Mid 1980. Many substances are also Mesh terms.
Supplementary Concept Records SCR	Non Mesh Diseases	phrase[supplementary concept] o phrase[substance name] or phrase[nm]	kindler syndrome [nm]	Displayed in Medline format in RN field. Search substance names and Supplementary Concepts, which are non-mesh disease terms. Starts in 2011 with 197,479 SCRs.
Truncation	All endings of a root word	root*	infant*	Infant* will retrieve infant, infants, infanticide, infantile, infantilism, infantum, etc
Unique Id	PubMed Id number Search	pubmed or medline number	10439726	No field designation needed.
Volume Number	Volume number Search	number[vi]	23[vi]	Very helpful in citation verification

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