

Other features

- **MeSH** is the acronym for medical subject headings, the vocabulary authority list of the National Library of Medicine
- It is used for indexing journal articles for MEDLINE
- It uses American terminology
- Next to the **Search box**, **click** on the dropdown menu and scroll down to select **MeSH** if you prefer to search using these headings
- When you find a relevant citation, look at it in **Citation** format. You will then be able to see which MeSH terms have been used, enabling you to find more articles e.g. searching for *general practice* will retrieve citations. You will then see that PubMed uses the MeSH term *family practice*. Searching on *family practice* will retrieve more citations.
- PubMed offers many other options, including a **Bookshelf interactive** search. This allows you to search for specific topics/chapters/sections in textbooks



You may also find it useful to work through the PubMed **online tutorial** at: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/pubmed_tutorial/m1001.html

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Library and
Information Services



MEDLINE using PubMed

(This help sheet is available in other formats on request)

What are MEDLINE and PubMed?

MEDLINE is the US National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database, covering the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary science, the health care system, the preclinical sciences and some areas of the life sciences. It contains citations (references) and abstracts (synopsis of the articles) from over 4,000 journals. It will not give you the full text of articles.

PubMed is a database of bibliographic information from MEDLINE and other databases. It will give you citations and sometimes the full text of articles.

Getting started

You can access **PubMed** from any computer with an Internet connection.

- Go to the Library website www.ucsm.ac.uk/library
- Click on **Databases** on the left-hand list
- Scroll down the Databases page to **Medline**
- Click on **PubMed**

OR

- Go direct to the PubMed web site: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/>

How to search

- Remember to use **Help/FAQ** on the sidebar if you need help
- To search, simply type in your search term(s) in the query box
- Click the **Go** button
- If PubMed does not retrieve a phrase, put it in double quotes, e.g. "pressure point"

Automatic term mapping

- PubMed uses this feature to search for terms
- You can find more information on it in the PubMed online tutorial (**Other features** section)
- Using double quotes bypasses the ATM feature so you are advised to try your phrase with and without quotes

To broaden search

- Using the asterisk (*) truncation (stemming) symbol after the stem of the search term will help broaden your search, e.g. **implant*** will retrieve implant, implants, implantation etc.
- Boolean operators and/or/not also broaden or refine your search, e.g.: **nurse AND emergency** will find citations which contain both words or phrases; **nurse practitioners OR nurse clinicians** will find references/citations that contain at least one of these search terms; and **lead poisoning NOT children** will eliminate citations about this condition in children

To limit search

- Click on the **Limit** button on the Features bar to limit your search to specific fields (e.g. title word, MeSH term – see **Other features** section below), age groups, type of study or subset (e.g. to restrict search to nursing journals)
- Click on **Go** to run search with limits applied

Displaying results

- Results (citations) can be viewed in different formats. PubMed citations are displayed by default in the **Summary** format
- You can view results in other formats, e.g.:
 - To view one citation:** click on the author name hyperlink to display in the **Abstract** format
 - To view selected citations:** click the checkbox next to the desired citations. Change **Display** pull-down to required format and click on **Display** on Action bar
 - To view all the citations on the page:** change display pull-down to required format and click on **Display NB** Use your browser's back/forward buttons to move between screens

Saving/Emailing/Printing citations

- You can save/email/print the citations you want by:
- **Clicking** in the boxes next to your chosen citations
- **Click on Send to** box at the top of titles list
- Select your option from the dropdown menu
- **Click on Send to**
- To **save** citations **click on Send to**, choose **File** from dropdown menu and **click on Send to**
- Leaving *file type* as *fcgi* will enable you to open in Word
- To **print** your citations, select **Send to Text** and then use your browser's Print command

