Searching the literature

PubMed

PubMed interface offers a variety of tools to help you to find the right information. Here some for literature searches:

To build your search in an efficient way!

In a rush? Clinical Queries is an efficient way to find clinical studies and systematic reviews.

Use this tool to find a known article

MeSH = Medical Subject Heading Find the MeSH terms to create precise literature searches

NOTE: Access PubMed from UO website (ie from library’s webpage) to access to the full text of the article.
Searching PubMed with MeSH

Before to start: What is your question? Have you identified your concepts of research (main ideas)?

“I want to implement a new room of exercises for adolescents in rehabilitation after a cardiac accident (stroke)... I’m thinking using video games? I’m wondering what evidence is existing on its efficacy?”

Steps to follow:

1) Break your research question on individual concepts

I want to implement a new room of exercises for adolescents in rehabilitation after a cardiac accident (stroke)... I’m thinking using video games?

Hint: Sometimes you do not need to include every concept – if the set is too small try removing a concept.

Hint: Need help to identify or combine ideas/concepts in nice sets??
Use the form to organize your research strategy:

PICO Search Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Search terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
<th>Comparison</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Results (language, study types...)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR
2) **Find the MeSH terms for your concepts:**

Use the [MeSH database](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh) to identify the MeSH terms that match your concepts: read the definition and explore the MeSH tree structure to identify the most appropriate one(s).

3) **Start to build your search by adding your terms through the builder box**
4) **Follow the same way for the other concepts.** When you finish, combine your results and see... Too much? Too little???

Try combining less concepts at once – you might find some relevant results:
5) Take a look on the article(s) identified:

![Image of article search results]

- Access to full text via UO site
- Related citations in PubMed
- PubMed suggests related articles based on the abstract of the current article. You could discover new articles.

Don’t forget to explore the MeSH terms provided for a good article. You could find inspiration and run new searches with them.

6) Browse the other sets that you have created and identify new relevant articles.

![Image of article search results]

- Different options to present the list of results: Date, Relevance...

Here, some filters very useful for adjusting your search: language of the article, population age, type of articles, etc. Note that the filters stay active for the rest of the session, unless you remove them.

Rehabilitation – Searching the literature – mcd – may 2016 p. 5/6
Searching PubMed with Clinical Queries

Allows you to create a specialized search based on clinical study category, systematic reviews or for medical genetics (for comprehensive searches use PubMed).

Searching PubMed with Titles/Abstracts

If you’re still in need of information, or you just want to be sure to not miss any articles, PubMed offers you the option to search in title and abstract only, from the Advanced Search: