Primary Literature Searches
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MeSH Searches

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) is a comprehensive controlled vocabulary for the purpose of indexing journal articles and books in the life sciences; it can also serve as a thesaurus that facilitates searching. Created and updated by the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM), it is used by the MEDLINE/PubMed article database and by NLM’s catalog of book holdings.

For an online tutorial, visit http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/viewlet/mesh/searching/mesh1.html

Example search:

2. Change the drop-down box in the top banner of the page to MeSH.
3. Type in a search term, e.g. BURSITIS.
4. Click ADD TO SEARCH BUILDER button on the right-hand side of the page.
5. Clear the search banner and type in KNEE JOINT.
6. To restrict the search to only major MeSH headings, check the box that says RESTRICT TO MeSH MAJOR TOPIC.
7. Click the ADD TO SEARCH BUILDER BUTTON again to add this criterion.
8. Click SEARCH PUBMED.
9. Articles returned will appear in the center of the page.

Try It

1. Find citations to articles about the ethics of liver transplantation. Check Details to see how the terms are mapped. Filter to review articles. Select a few items and add them to the Clipboard. Go to the Clipboard and view the selected items in Abstract format to see the assigned MeSH terms.
2. Use the MeSH Database to build a strategy that will find citations to articles about schizophrenia resulting from prenatal exposure to influenza. Schizophrenia and influenza should be the major topics of the articles.
EbscoHost Searches

EBSCO Publishing is an aggregator of full-text content. EBSCO Publishing’s core business is providing online databases via EBSCOhost to libraries. The company provides more than 375 databases and more than 350,000 e-books.

*CINAHL Plus® with Full Text* is a robust collection of full text for nursing & allied health journals, providing full text for more than 770 journals. indexed in CINAHL®. This database contains full text for many of the most used journals, with no embargo.

*Academic Search Premier* is a multi-disciplinary database provides full text for more than 4,600 journals, including full text for nearly 3,900 peer-reviewed titles. PDF backfiles to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for more than 1,000 titles.

Example search:

1. Navigate to Ebsco via the SUCOP Portal (CINAHL Plus with Full Text). If you are prompted for a login, use your SU user name and password.
2. In the Ebsco search page, click the database(s) you wish to search; e.g. CINAHL Plus with Full Text). Then, click the CONTINUE button near the page banner.
3. Populate the search box with your search terms. You can limit your search by date, language, full-text availability, et.al. by using the advanced options on the page.
4. Here, using the Boolean search term “and” we can enter BURSITIS AND KNEE JOINT. Click the box next to FULL TEXT to limit the search to articles with full text.
5. Click SEARCH once you have filled in the search box and limiters.
6. The page returns journals matching your terms.

Try It

1. In *CINAHL Plus*, find citations to articles about the effects of drug abuse during pregnancy. Limit your search to articles in the last 2 years and those with full-text articles.
2. In *Academic Search Premier*, search for articles in the English language related to the ethics and legal issues of concierge medicine.

Search Tips

- Identify the key concepts.
- Determine alternative terms for these concepts, if needed.
- Refine your search to dates, study groups, etc., as appropriate
- Practice helps. Strategies and styles will differ according to personal choice.
- Make use of Boolean search joining words like AND, OR, and NOT to further drill down your subject search.