

Quick Reference Guide: PubMed® www.pubmed.gov

WHAT SUBJECTS DOES IT COVER?

PubMed® includes over 17 million citations for biomedical articles, in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, healthcare systems and pre-clinical sciences, from the 1950s to the current week. These citations are from MEDLINE and additional life sciences journals. PubMed® includes links to many sites providing full-text articles and other related resources.

HOW TO GET IN

Access is freely available to all, on or off-campus. If you follow the library's link to PubMed® you will see an SFX icon showing which articles are available as full-text to members of Imperial.

From the library website www.imperial.ac.uk/library, click on the following links:

- Digital Library
- Databases and e-books
- A-Z list
- Select 'P' from the A-Z list
- Click on the PubMed® link

SEARCHING

- Enter your search words in the search box.
- Click on Go.

Your search words can be a keyword or phrase.

SEARCH TIPS

Author

To search for articles by, e.g., Pedro Chocair who writes as both P Chocair and PR Chocair:

- Type the author's surname, a space and first initial in the search box
- Click on Go

PubMed® automatically looks for authors who also have second initials.

The search operators OR and AND broaden or narrow your search.

- tea OR coffee retrieves records containing **either** tea **or** coffee **or both** (widening the search)
- tea AND coffee retrieves records containing **both** tea **and** coffee (narrowing the search)

Limits

Below the search box is a features bar with access to Limits, Preview/Index, History, Clipboard and Details.



- Make sure that the word or phrase you wish to search for is still entered in the Search box
- Click on Limits
- You can choose to limit by Type of Article, Language, Ages, Human or Animal, Gender, Publication Date, etc.
- Click on Go

A tick in the box beside the word Limits shows that you have activated limits on your search.



- Remember that the limits will continue to apply to all subsequent searches until you untick the box.

History

The History feature keeps track of your searches and numbers them, allowing you to go back to earlier searches and combine or modify them.

To combine previous searches:

- Click on History
- Enter the search numbers separated by OR or AND
e.g. #2 OR #5
#3 AND #4
- Click on Go

You can use brackets for a more complex search eg (#2 OR #3) AND #4 to find #2, #3 or both together with #4.

Using medical subject headings

PubMed® gives all its records medical subject headings (MeSH). They provide a consistent way to retrieve information, where different authors may have used different terminology for the same concept.

- Select MeSH in the Search bar at the side of the screen
- Enter your search term in the search box
- Click on Go

Terms that PubMed® finds to match your search term will be displayed.

- Click on the term you are interested in.

A list of subheadings and associated terms will be displayed.

- Tick the subheadings you wish to search for (if applicable).
- In the Send to drop-down menu, choose the kind of search you want to use (AND, OR or NOT).
- Click on Send To.
- Click on PubMed Search.

Your results will be displayed.

You should get more accurate and comprehensive results if you break down your search into concepts, search for them separately using free text or MeSH and then use History to combine the searches.

RESULTS

The bar above the results shows the number of hits.



Your results appear in a summary format. To see more of the record

- Use the pull-down menu next to the Display button to choose Abstract, Citation or MEDLINE format.

Full text

Most PubMed® records contain the title of the article, its abstract, and bibliographic information that lets you find the article in the journal it comes from. Some records have links to the full text of the article.



If there is a button labelled SFX within the record, you can view the full text.

- Click on the SFX button.
- Choose the relevant journal provider
- Click on Go.

For some journals you will require a username and password.

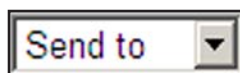
If Imperial does not subscribe to the journal you may be denied access or asked to pay a fee. Look the journal up in the library catalogue, which can be found in the Digital Library section of the Library website, to see if we have the journal in print form.

Selecting useful results to keep

- To select particular records, tick the box beside the result.

Using Send To

The Send To drop down menu on the right of the screen allows you to save the results of a search, email them to yourself or print them.



You can send all your results from the main search screen, the contents of your clipboard, or just the particular records you have selected.

Clipboard

The clipboard lets you group selected records from more than one search, so you can print or save them all at once.

- Select the records you want to keep.
- Change the Send to drop down menu to Clipboard.

To view the contents of your clipboard, click Clipboard in the features bar. Clipboard items will only be saved while you are online so you need to save or email them if you wish to keep them longer.

Printing

- Select the records you want to keep.
- Change the Send to drop down menu to Printer
- Click on Print this page button

Emailing

To email the results to yourself:

- Choose E-Mail from the Send to drop down menu.
- Enter your email address in the screen that appears.

Saving

To save your results:

- Choose File from the Send to drop down menu.
- Choose the drive you want to save your results in.

HELP

- For on-screen help click on Help|FAQ on the blue menu bar at the left hand side of the screen.
- For a PubMed® tutorial click on the Tutorials link on the same blue menu bar.

Library staff can help you with PubMed® queries.

Email: medlib@imperial.ac.uk

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