

Use these sample searches or your own to practice using the advanced features of PubMed.

MeSH Database Exploration – try a few of these terms using the MeSH database. Notice what happens with each one. Some are direct “hits”. Some lead you directly to the correct MeSH term. Some give you a list of choices.

Physicians
Skin cancer
Angina
Heart failure

H1N1
Low blood pressure
Nosebleeds
Patient education

Prozac
Vitamin C

For any of the terms above, examine the page of information about the term. You should see a definition, a list of subheadings, the “tree” structure, and more.

Single Citation Matcher – very useful if you know limited information about a particular citation. Try this example or make up your own:

In the course of conversation with a colleague, an article in the *American Journal of Medicine* by Shanafelt was mentioned - something about physicians and their health. You feel you should read the article but additional details – can you find the correct citation in PubMed? Is the fulltext of the article readily available or will you have to do an interlibrary loan?

Sample Searches - try to find articles that might help answer these questions. Use MeSH, history, limits, etc.

1. What are the recent developments in the surgical treatment of morbid obesity in adolescents?
2. What are the effects of working 30 hour shifts on medical residents?
3. In a 26 year old male with recurrent genital herpes, would prophylactic acyclovir reduce the frequency or duration of his painful recurrences? (hint: try Clinical Queries for this evidence-based medicine question)
4. Find articles about injuries from backpacks or backpacking.
5. Look for articles discussing the diagnosis of bursitis in the knee joint.
6. Has there been anything published in the last 2 years in *American Family Physician* on ear infections and their treatment?

MyNCBI – create an account if you wish and then use it to save a search strategy or a collection from your previous searches.

From the list of resources included in your packet, try at least one that you have never used before.

Explore! Explore! Explore!