Topics covered in this guide include:

Main Navigation + Search Details + Advanced -- Combining Searches + Filters/Limits + MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) + Using the Clipboard + Access Full-text Articles / Order Articles via PubMed (LoansomeDoc) / Email Request via PubMed

To Start

- Access the Health Sciences Library through the Intranet by selecting Library, Health Sciences in the right hand Quick Links menu, or from the public site at http://library.nshealth.ca/Home
  - Select Collections & Resources in the left menu of the Health Sciences Library page and select PubMed from the Databases A–Z list

Main Navigation

Develop a PICO Question (Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome) and Search Each Key Concept Separately

P – In adult males with heart disease

I – is Zyban an effective treatment option

C – (n/a)

O – to aid in quitting smoking?
Key Concepts: heart disease, Zyban, quitting smoking

- Enter heart disease into the main search box and select Search.
- All articles that match the search for heart disease will be listed.
- In the top search box, delete heart disease, enter Zyban, and select Search.
- Follow the same process to complete a search for quitting smoking.

Search Details
- Once the search for quitting smoking has been completed, scroll down the page and note the Search details box to the right.

Advanced -- Combining Searches
- Below the main search box, select Advanced.

Through the process of automatic mapping, PubMed consults various tables to locate precise language that matches the entered search (including any MeSH terms). PubMed may also combine this language with keyword searching. This is done to strike a balance between being very precise and being broad; to get articles that may have otherwise been missed.

- Select Add for each search to send the corresponding search to the Builder.
Since this search is for articles which have all search terms, **AND** is the appropriate boolean operator.

**NOTE:** To change a boolean operator or alter the search strategy, select **Edit** underneath the top search box. Drop-downs containing boolean operators are also located between fields.

**Filters / Limits**
*With a large number of results, filters or limits can be used to reduce references and to make browsing manageable.*

- At the results page view filters to the left of results.
- Select **5 years** under **Publication dates** to limit the result list to articles published in the last 5 years.

**Remember, apply filters or limits last!** Applying too early in a search can cause valuable resources to be missed.

**MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)**
*Locating MeSH subject headings allows for precision or more exact results. MeSH is the "language" used by PubMed to describe articles. By translating “key concepts” into MeSH the same “language” as the database can be used when searching.*

- At the **PubMed** main page, set the drop-down menu in the top search box to MeSH.
• Enter **heart disease** in the box next to the MeSH drop-down and select **Search**

Results: 1 to 20 of 25

- **Heart Diseases**
  1. Pathological conditions involving the HEART including I

- **Rheumatic Heart Disease**
  2. Cardiac manifestation of systemic rheumatological con disease can involve any part the heart, most often the I
  Year introduced: 1963

- **Pulmonary Heart Disease**
  3. Hypertrophy and dilatation of the RIGHT VENTRICLE of t I
  This condition is often associated with pulmonary parer OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE and PULMON

Consulting MeSH will give you options for subject headings to search with. The search for **heart disease** returned 25 possible subject headings. Review the note under each to see how the subject heading is used. Select the hyperlinked term to view more about a particular subject heading.

• Select the hyperlinked subject heading to view options:
  - Add subheadings to be more specific
  - Mark ✔ “Restrict to MeSH Major Topic” to limit results to articles whose main point or subject is represented by that subject heading (the subject heading will have * next to it in the article view)
  - Mark ✔ “Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy” / or “No Explode” will narrow results by excluding more specific subject headings. Consult the **See also:** area to view where the subject heading “sits” within the MeSH Hierarchy

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**All MeSH Categories**

**Diseases Category**

**Cardiovascular Diseases**

**Heart Diseases**

**Arrhythmias, Cardiac**

**Arrhythmia, Sinus**

**Atrial Fibrillation**

Broader subject heading will get more results

Subject heading in view. Check “Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy” to limit to strictly **Heart Disease**

Narrower subject headings will get fewer results. Will automatically explode subject heading to include narrower terms unless “Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy” is checked.
• Select
  • "Heart Diseases"[MeSH] will appear in the search builder box. Select
    • PubMed Search Builder
    "Heart Diseases"[Mesh]
    • Add to search builder
    • Search PubMed

• You will now be presented with all articles that have the MeSH heading "Heart Diseases"
• At the top of the results page, set the drop-down to MeSH again, delete "Heart Diseases"[MeSH] and enter Zyban, select
  • A number of options will appear. Mark □ Buproplion
    ▪ When there is only one MeSH subject heading available for a search, □ marking is not required before sending to the search builder box
  • Select
  • Select
  • You will now be presented with all articles which have the MeSH heading "Bupropion"
• Repeat this process and search MeSH for quitting smoking

Use Advanced to Combine MeSH Subject Headings & Search in PubMed

• At the results page, select Advanced located below the main search box
  • Note the MeSH searches are located below History
  • Select Add for each MeSH term in the History
    • History
      | Search | Add to builder |
      |--------|---------------|
      | #13    | Add Search "Smoking Cessation"[Mesh] |
      | #11    | Add Search "Bupropion"[Mesh] |
      | #9     | Add Search "Heart Diseases"[Mesh] |
  • The MeSH term searches appear in the box at the top of the page and in the Builder fields. The default is to join all terms with boolean operator AND

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Since this search is for articles which have all MeSH terms, **AND** is the appropriate boolean operator.

Select

Notice that the number of results retrieved using MeSH to search is less than the number retrieved in the initial search without using MeSH.

**Using the Clipboard**

*Use the Clipboard feature to collect references while searching. This will allow viewing and accessing references later, in one list. This process is useful for accessing full-text articles, ordering articles through LoansomeDoc, emailing the library, and sending references to RefWorks.*

- While searching/browsing mark references of interest to begin the process of sending to the Clipboard
- Once all useful articles are marked and searching is completed, select
  - **Send to:**
  - Mark **Clipboard** and select **Add to Clipboard** from the menu presented
- **1 item was added to the Clipboard** will now appear above the results
- Access the **Clipboard** by selecting the number of items hyperlinked to the upper right
**Access Full-text Articles / Order Articles**

- To get a more in-depth view of each reference in a results list, select `Display Settings: ∨` and select **Apply**. For individual references, select the article title hyperlink.

- If **Fulltext online** is located below an article select this icon for full-text.

- If you do not get a full-text link you can request the article through **Loansome Doc** or **Email** the library directly via **Send to**:

**Loansome Doc (Order)**

- To request article(s) in PubMed through Loansome Doc, select **Send to:** and mark **Order**
  
  - Select
  - Loansome Doc page will open. Log in
  - The article from PubMed will be listed. Select **Proceed to Delivery Options**
    
    - Fill in required boxes and select **Continue**
    - Review the details of the order and select **Continue**
    - The library will send notification when the article is ready for pick up

**NOTE:** To get a Loansome Doc account, select the **Sign up!** link on the Loansome doc main page

[https://docline.gov/loansome/login.cfm](https://docline.gov/loansome/login.cfm)

**Direct Email to Library**

- To request article(s) in PubMed through Loansome Doc, select **Send to:** and mark **E-mail**
  
  - In the **E-mail** field enter the library address: **asklibrary@nshealth.ca**
  - In the **Additional text** field enter your name and email address
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