Database Searching Quick Reference

Contents

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PubMed

Interface: NLM

Overview: PubMed (Public MEDLINE) is a US-government funded resource through the National Center for Biotechnology Information and the National Library of Medicine that provides access to search and retrieval of biomedical and life sciences literature. It is comprised of approximately 36 million citations and includes several databases, including MEDLINE, PubMed Central (PMC), and NCBI Bookshelf.

Controlled Vocabulary: MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)

Publication Types: Journal articles citations, Books,

Citation Management: Export into .nbib file

Searching:

Boolean: AND, OR, NOT. Use all caps for Boolean operators

Truncation: truncate with an asterisk * before or after a term. Truncated terms are not mapped to subject headings

Phrases: Phrases may be identified with the automatic term matcher (ATM). Enclose phrases (not in ATM) in quotation marks " "

Proximity: search for multiple terms appearing in any order within a specified distance of one another in the [Title], [Title/Abstract], or [Affiliation] fields. "search terms"[field:~N]

Example: **"diet adherence"[ti:~3]** finds the words diet and adherence in the title within three words of each other in any order

"accidental overdose"[tiab:~4] finds the words accidental and overdose in the title or abstract within 4 words of each other in any order

Field Codes: [tw] text word

[tiab] title/abstract

[ti] title

[au] author

[mh] MeSH term

[majr] MeSH major topic

Other

CINAHL Ultimate

Interface: EBSCO

Overview: CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature) covers nursing, biomedicine, health sciences librarianship, alternative/complementary medicine, consumer health, and allied health. Indexing journals in nursing and allied health dating back to 1937.

Controlled Vocabulary: CINAHL Subject Headings

Publication Types: Journal articles, books, Evidence-Based Care Sheets, Quick Lessons, nursing dissertations, selected conference proceedings, standards of practice, educational software, and audiovisual materials

Citation Management: Direct Export to specific citation managers

Searching:

Boolean:	AND, OR, NOT. Use all caps for Boolean operators
Truncation:	The asterisk (*) matches multiple characters.
	The hash sign (#) matches one optional character.
	The question mark (?) matches exactly one character.
Phrases:	Enclose phrases (not in ATM) in quotation marks " "
Proximity:	search for multiple terms appearing in any order within a specified distance of one another using the Near Operator: N#

        Example: diet N3 adherence would find "Adherence to a diet"

        Search for multiple terms appearing in the order specified within a specified distance of one another using the Within Operator: W#

        Example: compliance W4 treatment would find "Compliance to the specified treatment" but not "reports of treatment compliance"

Field Codes:	TX All Text
	TI Title
	AU Author
	AB Abstract
	MH Exact Subject Heading
	SU Subject
	SO Publication Name

Other

MEDLINE (Ovid)

Interface: OVID

Overview: Includes all MEDLINE indexes with coverage from 1946 to the present and includes fully indexed records as well as in-process and other non-indexed citations.

Controlled Vocabulary: MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)

Publication Types: Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations, PubMed-Not-MEDLINE, Back files from 1946 forward

Citation Management: Export into specific citation manager formats or general formats such as RIS or XML

Searching:

Boolean: AND, OR, NOT (Upper or lowercase)

Truncation: The asterisk * or dollar sign $ used for unlimited right-hand truncation

The pound sign or hashtag # is used as a mandated wild card (one alphanumeric character within a word or at the end of a word.)

The question mark ? is an optional wild card character (zero or one alphanumeric character within a word or at the end of a word.)

Phrases

Proximity: Adjacency operator ADJn retrieves records that contain your terms (in any order) within a specified number (n) of words of each other.

Field Codes: .mp. Keyword

.au. Author

.ti,ab. Title/Abstract

Other

Embase

Interface

Overview: Embase is a biomedical database that covers the most important international biomedical literature. Embase contains three databases:

Embase database: Contains biomedical literature from 1974 to the present.

MEDLINE database: Covers journals from 1966 to present.

Embase Classic: The Embase backfile covers almost 2 million biomedical and pharmacological citations drawn from over 3,000 international titles between 1947 and 1973.

In addition, Embase includes some older articles indexed in Embase Classic and the MEDLINE database, dating back to 1907. Embase retrieves information in a combined search unless you have specifically designed your search to retrieve records from one database. Includes Medical Device, Drug, and Disease focused search interfaces.

Controlled Vocabulary: Emtree

Publication Types: Journal article citations, conference abstracts

Citation Management: Export in RIS format

Searching:

Boolean:	AND, OR, NOT
Truncation:	Use the asterisk * for one or more letters
	Use the question mark ? for single-letter truncation
	Use the dollar sign $ for zero to one character
Phrases:	Single or double quotes
Proximity:	NEAR/# retrieves words within a specified # of words in either direction
	NEXT/# retrieves words within a specified # of words in the direction specified
Field Codes:	:ti Title
	:ab Abstract
	:de Indexed term (combined Drug term and/or Medical term)
	:dd Drug term
	:dv Device term
	/exp Exploded term

Other

Scopus

Interface: Elsevier

Overview: Scopus is one of the largest multidisciplinary abstract and citation databases containing both peer-reviewed research literature and quality web sources. It includes over 94 million records, nearly 30,000 active serials, and 330,000 books. The citation index includes over 2.4 billion cited references going back to 1970. It also includes bibliometric tools such as author profiles, citation analytics, and author h-indices.

Controlled Vocabulary: none

Publication Types: Journal article citations

Citation Management: Export into specific citation manager formats or general formats such as RIS or XML

Searching:

Boolean:	AND, OR, AND NOT (ie: Lung AND NOT Cancer)
Truncation:	Use asterisk * or question mark ?
Phrases:	No quotation marks searches for words that appear together or separately
	Quotation marks searches for a loose phrase
	Braces { } are used for an exact phrase
Proximity:	W/# for distance between words in any order
	PRE/# words appearing in a specified order
Field Codes:	TITLE-ABS-KEY Title, abstract, or keywords

Other

Web of Science

Interface: Clarivate

Overview: Web of Science is a multidisciplinary resource platform with a variety of databases, including Web of Science Core Collection (which includes Science Citation Index (1900-present) and Social Sciences Citation Index (1900-present), Journal Citation Reports, Essential Science Indicators, KCI Korean Journal Database, MEDLINE, Preprint Citation Index, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Citation Index, SciELO Citation Index

Controlled Vocabulary: none

Publication Types: Journal article citations, Conference abstracts, Preprints, Dissertations

Citation Management: Export in RIS format

Searching:

Boolean:	AND, OR, NOT
Truncation:	The asterisk (*) represents any group of characters, including no character. The question mark (?) represents any single character. The dollar sign ($) represents zero or one character.
Phrases:	Quotation marks for an exact phrase No quotation marks assume AND between words
Proximity	Use NEAR/# to find records where the terms joined by the operator are within a specified number of words of each other.
Field Codes:	TS= Topic TI= Title AB= Abstract AU= Author

Other

Cochrane Library

Interface: Wiley

Overview: Cochrane Library is a collection of evidence-based databases that contain high-quality, independent evidence to inform healthcare decision-making. It includes the Cochrane Central Register of Clinical Trials (CENTRAL), Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), and Cochrane Clinical Answers.

Controlled Vocabulary: MeSH (Medical Subject Headings)

Publication Types: Systematic Reviews, Clinical Trial citations, Evidence-based Summaries

Citation Management: Export as RIS files

Searching:

    Boolean: AND, OR, NOT

    Truncation: Asterisk * or a question mark ?

    Phrases

    Proximity: next or near/#

    Field Codes

Other: Limit by content type (Trials = CENTRAL Trials)

    Can use MeSH subheadings, trees, etc. in MeSH View

    PICO search is available

PsycINFO

Interface: EBSCO

Overview: PsycINFO is a bibliographic database providing abstracts and citations to the scholarly literature in the psychological, social, behavioral, and health sciences. The database includes material relevant to psychologists and professionals in related fields such as psychiatry, management, business, education, social science, neuroscience, law, medicine, and social work.

Controlled Vocabulary: Psychological Thesaurus

Publication Types: Journal Articles, Book Chapters, Dissertations

Citation Management: Direct export to specific citation managers

Searching:

    Boolean: AND, OR, NOT. Use all caps for Boolean operators

    Truncation: The asterisk (*) matches multiple characters.

        The hash sign (#) matches one optional character.

        The question mark (?) matches exactly one character.

    Phrases: Enclose phrases (not in ATM) in quotation marks " "

    Proximity: search for multiple terms appearing in any order within a specified distance of one another using the Near Operator: N#

        Example: diet N3 adherence would find "Adherence to a diet"

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        Example: compliance W4 treatment would find "Compliance to the specified treatment" but not "reports of treatment compliance"

    Field Codes: TX All Text

        TI Title

        AU Author

        AB Abstract

        MH Exact Subject Heading

        SU Subject

        SO Publication Name

Other

ERIC

Interface: EBSCO
Overview: Search for educational-related content, 1966 to present. ERIC is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES), which supports a free online version of the database.
Controlled Vocabulary: ERIC Thesaurus
Publication Types: Journal article citations, books, and reports.
Citation Management: Direct export to specific citation managers
Searching:

Boolean:	use AND, OR, NOT. Use all caps for Boolean operators
Truncation:	The asterisk (*) matches multiple characters.
	The hash sign (#) matches one optional character.
	The question mark (?) matches exactly one character.
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