

## MEDLINE / PubMed

Preferred route to PubMed - Use the proxy server or VPN if you are off-campus, then either use the A-Z icon to navigate to *Medical Connections* or go to the alphabetic list of online databases. You will find a link to PubMed in both places. Searching PubMed through Brown enables access to Brown's online journal subscriptions.

First, decide on a specific question. Next, isolate each of the most important concepts in your question. Then identify the best subject terms to describe each concept and finally, combine them using the most appropriate techniques as outlined below.

### To narrow your search

Use **MeSH Headings**



**Do not explode** MeSH headings.



Restrict a MeSH heading to use as a **major descriptor only**.



Select **subheadings**.



Combine terms or search statements using **AND**



Apply **limits** (language, age, gender, publication type, subset).



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Combine search with "**AND systematic[sb]**" to see only systematic reviews or run the search on the "**Clinical Queries**" search screen.

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### To broaden your search

Use **free text**.

Combine **free text OR MeSH headings** for largest retrieval.

**Truncate** a free text term to search for its variant endings. In PubMed use the \* as the truncation symbol.

**Explode headings** when possible (default).

Search Mesh heading as either a **major or minor descriptor**(default).

**Do not select subheadings**; by default all subheadings will be searched.

Combine terms or search statements using **OR**

Make sure limits box is not checked.

Click on "**Find Related**" to get similar articles.

Also try **EBM filters** at

<http://info.med.yale.edu/library/reference/publications/pubmed/>

and **Health Services Research Filters** at

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/nichsr/hedges/search.html>