MODULE 4  How to use PubMed


Instructions

This part of the course is a PowerPoint demonstration intended to show a guided tour of the PubMed interface.

This part of the module is off-line and intended as an information resource for reference use.

This part of the module should be taken before using the live tutorial on the PubMed and does not required a HINARI training password.
Before logging into PubMed we can Log In to the HINARI website using the URL http://www.healthinternetwork.org
You will need to insert your HINARI User ID and password in the Log In box and click on the “Sign On” Icon.
From the main HINARI webpage you can access PubMed from the “Find articles” link in the body of the webpage. Click on Search for articles through PubMed (Medline).
Welcome to the PubMed Homepage, Part 2 of the tutorial will look at using the Limits function to narrow down your search results by different parameters.
If you type in a search statement such as “Tuberculosis” in the query box you will get many records in your results.
The tuberculosis search will return over 143000 hits. This is too many to view in any meaningful way.
We can begin to narrow this down by looking at the “limits” function.
Here is the Limits page. Searches can be limited by restricting terms to fields or setting specific date or record tagging parameters.
To limit a term to a specific field in the record select an option from the dropdown menu under "All Fields". For this example we will limit to the "Affiliation" option.

- Use All Fields pull-down menu to specify a field.
- Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT must be in upper case.
- If search fields tags are used enclose in square brackets, e.g., rubella [ti].
- Search *urate* may exclude in process and publisher supplied citations.
We can now search for “TDR” in the “Affiliation” field. This should now limit our search to articles where the first author listed has TDR in the address.
Results displayed using limits

We can see from the results page that TDR is listed as part of the affiliation. The Limit used is also highlighted on the information bar below the query box.
In this example we will look for *Plasmodium falciparum* in the Title/Abstract.
The results show that our search term is present in Title/Abstract. The information bar displays the limits used.
Limiting to Publication Types

From the “Publication Type” dropdown menu there are a number of options offered. For the example shown we will limit “malaria and bednets” to the publication type “Randomized Controlled Trial”.
Using these limits we have 19 records that are Randomized Controlled Trials with malaria and bednets in the Title/Abstract.
Limiting to Ages

The Ages limits are determined by the indexing at the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Age tags are given to records where appropriate over specific ranges. All child 0-18 years and sub groups within, and All Adults 19+ years and sub groups within.

NB. You cannot search across age groups, for example 14-25 years.
In this example we will look for “Tuberculosis AND HIV” in records tagged with the age groups “All Child 0-18 Years”.
Here are the results for “Tuberculosis AND HIV” in records tagged with the age groups “All Child 0-18 Years”. The Yellow information bar displays the limits “All Child 0-18 Years”.
The "Entrez Date" limit refers to all record added to PubMed during a stated period such as the last 60 days.
In this example the search term “Schistosomiasis” will be limited to articles added to PubMed over the last “30 Days” using the “Entrez Date” limit.
The results show the latest 11 articles to be added to PubMed on "Schistosomiasis" over the previous 30 days.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leibens M, Sun JE, Czechinsky C, Holmen J.</td>
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</table>
The “Publication Date” limit uses YYYY/MM/DD format. Publication date information is supplied to PubMed by the publisher. To search for articles from 1995 to present requires only the “year” field in the “From” box to be completed.
This example shows all Schistosomiasis articles published since 1995.
To limit to publication dates between two years as in the example, only the year information is needed.
This example shows all Schistosomiasis articles published between 1995 and 1999.
To search for articles from a single year, fill in the year information in the “From” and “To” boxes as above.
This example shows all Schistosomiasis articles published in 1999.
The Language dropdown menu allows you to limit the seven most common languages in PubMed.
For this example we will limit the Search term “Dengue” to articles published in “French”.
From the results you can see all the articles are in French.
To limit to languages not in the dropdown menu, you can use the field identifier [LA] for language of article.
Using the field identifier [LA] with the search term “Hungarian” we can find articles in Hungarian.
Medline articles are tagged as human or animal, or both.
Medline articles are tagged as either Female, Male, or no tag.
PubMed contains a number of Subsets. These subsets are collections of journals or articles specific to a particular topic.
In this example we have the search term “Tuberculosis” limited to the “AIDS” subset.
The example above is looking for the search term “Malaria” and limiting to the “Title/Abstract” field, publication type “Review”, age limits of “All Child 0-18 years”, and only articles with “Abstracts”.
Here are the results, 138 articles matching the limits selected.
This is the end of Module 4 Part 2.

There is a Work Book to accompany this part of the module. The workbook will take you through a live session covering the topics included in this demonstration with working examples.