

Medline on PubMed

Accessing PubMed

Access PubMed from the Library's Homepage: <http://www.utas.edu.au/library>. From here select from the Databases list or specific Subject Guide.

Searching for references in PubMed:

Keyword search:

- Type your search statement, eg: "osteoporosis AND treatment"
(The Boolean operator, "AND" must be in upper case).
- A list of references appear

These references will have both terms "osteoporosis" and "treatment" in any field in the record.

Search results in PubMed:

The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page. The search bar contains the query "osteoporosis AND (drug therapy OR therapy)". The results are displayed in a list format. The first result is selected, and its details are shown below. The 'Limits' button is highlighted, and the 'Display' dropdown menu is open, showing options like 'Summary', 'Text', and 'Citation'.

Type your search statement and click the Go button. Note that Boolean operators must be in upper case.

Click on "Limits" to view and select from a range of limiting functions such as publication dates, age and gender.

Select from a variety of Display options from the drop-down menu. The "Citation" display shows abstract and MeSH terms

Printing or saving records (using Internet Explorer)

Select for Clipboard:

This function enables you to select records that you want to keep from a search result, then run further searches. You can continue to add records to the clipboard until you are ready to save or print the records.

- Select the record that you want to send to the Clipboard
- Click on **Send to** drop-down menu and select **Clipboard**
- Click on **Send to** button
- Run further searches as required and repeat process

Print records saved to the Clipboard

- Click on Clipboard link (under search window)
- From Display drop-down menu, select the appropriate format.
("Citation" includes the abstract and medical subject headings (MeSH))
- From the **Send to** drop-down menu, select "Text"
- Click on **Send to** button. A window appears with the record in text format
- Click on the Internet Explorer File drop-down menu
- Click on Print

Saving records saved to the Clipboard

- Click on Clipboard link (under search window)
- From Display drop-down menu, select the appropriate format. (“Citation” includes the abstract and medical subject headings (MeSH))
- From the Send to drop-down menu, select File
- Click on Send to button
- A File Download window appears
- Click on Save button
- A Save as window appears
- Change the file suffix to “.txt” so that the data is saved as a text file
- Save the file to the Desktop, folder on your computer or network or disc.

Search strategies

Effective searches strategies are essential for finding relevant references on your topic. The search operators below will help in combining terms that reflect your topic.

Boolean Operators:

To use Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT, they must be in uppercase, e.g., vitamin c OR zinc. Boolean operators define the relationships between words or groups of words.

Use	To
AND	Narrow search and retrieve records containing <i>all</i> of the words it separates.
OR	Broaden search and retrieve records containing <i>any</i> of the words it separates. The can be used in lieu of 'or', eg: mouse mice rat is equivalent to mouse or mice or rat
NOT	Narrow search and retrieve records that do <i>not</i> contain the term following it.
()	Group words or phrases when combining Boolean phrases and to show the order in which relationships should be considered, eg: (mouse or mice) and (gene or pseudogene)

Phrase Searching:

Phrase searching ensures that PubMed searches the exact phrase

Use	To
“ “	Find the exact phrase that you want to search for. Eg. “drug therapy” in inverted commas will only retrieve records that have the exact phrase

Wildcard Symbols:

Wildcard symbols can expand the scope of your search.

Use	For
*	Truncation. This expands a search term to include all forms of a root word, eg: patent* retrieves patent, patents, patentable, patented, etc.

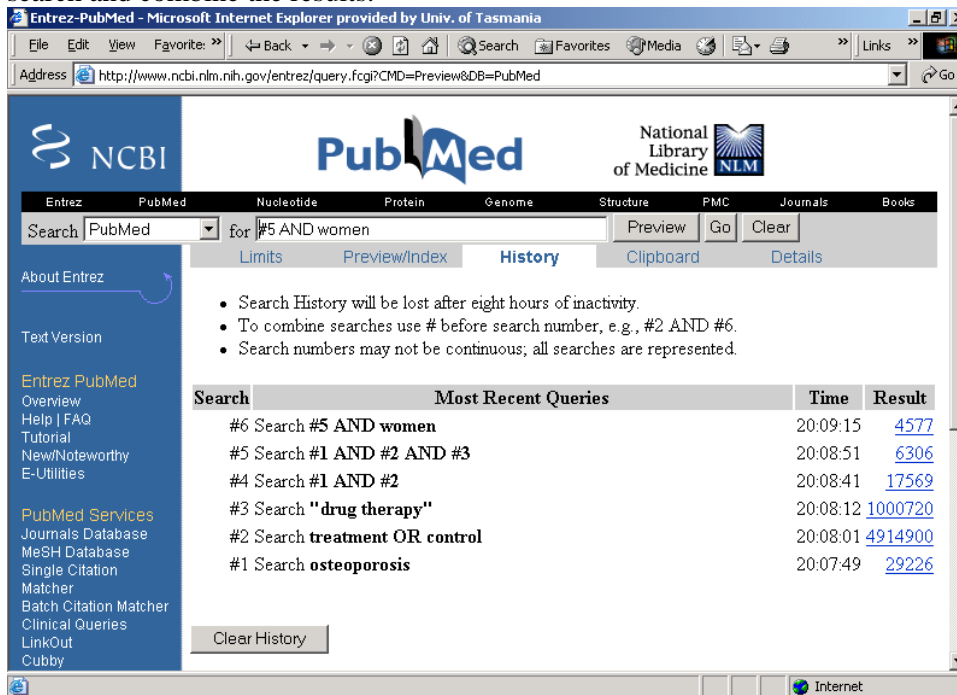
Combining search results:

Break down your searches and combine the results from the search history:

- Run searches on aspects of your search topic
- Click on the “History” link at the top of the screen
- A list of your current searches will be shown
- Combine the results in the search history by combining the numbers. Eg. #1 AND #2

Using the search history window to combine search results:

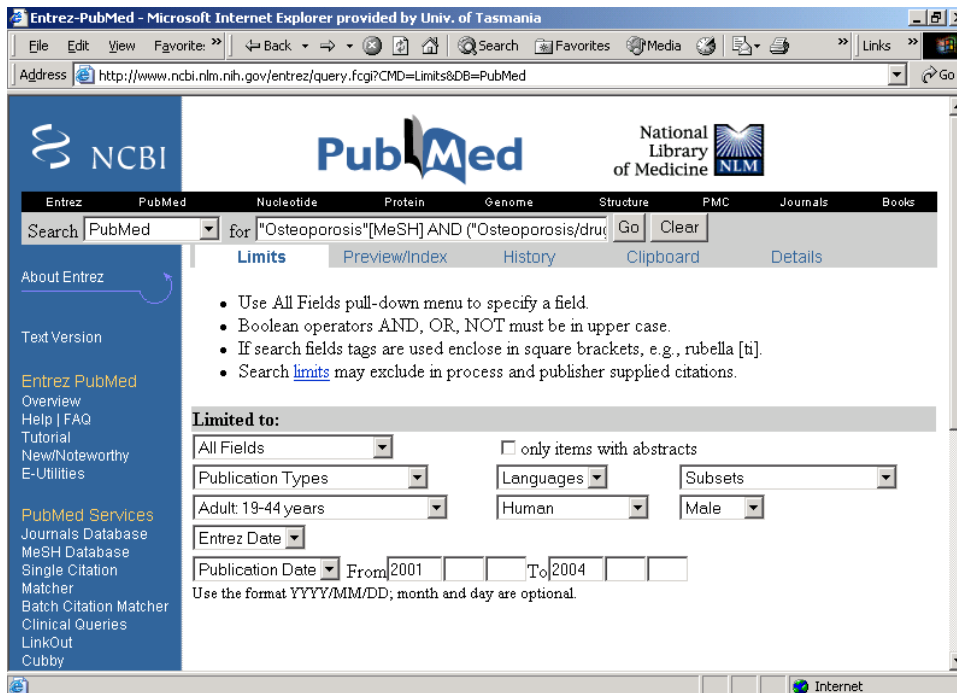
Click on History link to view the History Screen. This facility allows you to run different aspects of your search and combine the results.



Using the Limit function:

The Limit function allows you to limit your search by a number of variables including: publication type (eg. review article); publication date; human or animal; ages; and gender.

- Type the search statement and click on Limits link
- The Limits screen will be displayed
- Select the variables that you wish to use to limit your search
- Click on the Go button

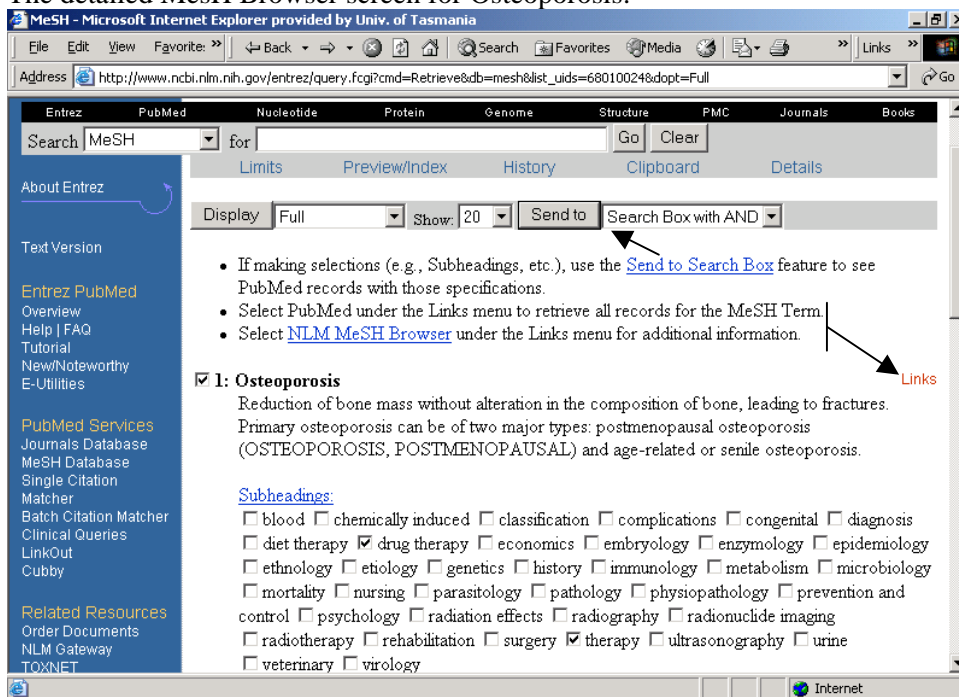


Search by MeSH Database:

Searching the MeSH Database enables you to narrow your search by using Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) terms that describe to concepts in the articles referenced

- Click on **Mesh Database** link in side bar
 - Type in term (eg. osteoporosis) and click on **Go** button
 - See definition of osteoporosis:
Reduction of bone mass without alteration in the composition of bone, leading to fractures. Primary osteoporosis can be of two major types: postmenopausal osteoporosis (OSTEOPOROSIS, POSTMENOPAUSAL) and age-related or senile osteoporosis.
 - Click on **Detailed Display** link
 - See sub-heading with tick boxes
 - Tick subheadings of interest to you (eg. 'drug therapy' and 'therapy')
 - (You may want to tick 'Do not explode this term' - depending how restrictive you want to be)
 - Click **Add**
 - The search statement will appear in search box
 - Click on **PubMed Search** button
- All these should have "osteoporosis/drug therapy" or "osteoporosis/therapy" as Major MeSH topics

The detailed MesH Browser screen for Osteoporosis:



Saving to EndNote (Using Internet Explorer)

- Follow procedure to select records for Clipboard on page 1
- Click on **Clipboard** link
- This shows what you have sent to Clipboard from your searches
- From **Display** drop-down menu, select **MEDLINE**
- From **Send to** drop-down menu, select **File**
- Click on **Send to** button
- (In IE browser, a **File Download** window appears. Click on **Save** button)
- Rename the file if you wish and save to where you can find it again (Desktop or personal folder)
- To be able to view the file in Word, change the suffix to .txt

In EndNote

- select **Import** from **File** drop-down menu
- In **Import** window, chose the file that you saved and select PubMed (NLM) filter
- Click on **Import** button