

Step-by-Step Searching in PubMed



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This help sheet will walk you through a sample Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) search in **PubMed**. For detailed information, consult the **Using PubMed** help sheet (<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/pdf/pubmed.pdf>) or ask a librarian.

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Access

- Access PubMed through the UT Libraries website: <http://www.utoledo.edu/library>
- You can find PubMed in the **Research Databases by Name** or **Subject** pages under the **Quick Links** menu on the left side of the page

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Starting the search

- **Sample topic:** treating hypertension in elderly patients with diabetes
- Click on **MeSH Database** under **More Resources** or choose **MeSH** from the drop-down menu at the top of the page
- Type **hypertension** in the search box and click **Search**
- Click on the link to the MeSH term **Hypertension**
- Below the definition of Hypertension is a list of **subheadings**; select diet therapy drug therapy and therapy
- Under the subheadings, check the box for **Restrict to MeSH Major Topic** to limit the search to citations with Hypertension as a main concept
- Leave unchecked the box that says **Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH Hierarchy** (this will allow PubMed to search for the main term of Hypertension plus any narrower terms, i.e. Malignant Hypertension, Renal Hypertension, etc.)

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Combining MeSH terms in the Search Builder

- Add Hypertension to the **PubMed Search Builder** by clicking
- Next, type **diabetes** in the search box at the top and click **Search**
- Click on the link to the MeSH term **Diabetes Mellitus**
- Check the box for **Restrict to MeSH Major Topic** and leave unchecked the **Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH Hierarchy** box
- To combine Diabetes Mellitus with Hypertension, click again and make sure is selected from the menu:
- Click to view search results




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Limits

- To narrow and refine your search results, click **Limits** at the top of the screen
- Under **Ages**, check the box for **Aged: 65+ years** to limit to citations on the elderly
- Choose other limits as necessary
- After selecting your limits, click **Search**

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Full-text

- Click the title of an article to look for the full-text. You will see the following links:
  
If you see this link, click here first If the EJC link is not there, or does not work, click Find It Tried everything? Click here.
- Is the article from a journal we don't have? Request a copy from another library. After clicking Find It, click the link that says **Get a copy via interlibrary loan**.