

A MEDLINE Comparison: OhioLINK, PubMed, EBSCOhost, and MD Consult



There are many versions of MEDLINE (OhioLINK, PubMed, MD Consult, EBSCOhost, Ovid, etc.). Most of them contain the same information; they only differ in their search interfaces. The four subscript based versions available at MUOT are OhioLINK, PubMed, EBSCOhost, and MD Consult. This guide lists the pros and cons of each to aid in selecting the best database for individual research needs. **OhioLINK MEDLINE is recommended for most types of searching.**

Features	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Access <i>Remote access information is available on the Library's Web page:</i> http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/remote.html	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on MEDLINE link	Free access to anyone with Internet access; from Library's web page, click on MEDLINE link	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on MEDLINE link	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on Full-Text Resources link
Available Help http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/education/index.html	Library help sheets and online help	Library help sheets and online help	Library help sheets and online help	Library help sheets and online help

Resources	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Links to selected full-text articles (no version of MEDLINE has the full-text of all articles)	To all online journals available to UT Health Science Campus; click Find It!	To all online journals available to UT Health Science Campus if accessed through the Library's web page; click (as available) OLinks, EJC, UT Electronic, or Free full text	To all online journals available to UT Health Science Campus ; click OLinks or Find It!	To only to full-text articles in MD Consult; does not link to all of the full-text articles available at UT Health Science Campus
Links to information about whether the Mulford Library owns the journal	Click Find It!	Click (as available) OLinks, EJC, UT Print, UT Electronic	Click OLinks or Find It!	No

Content	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Years Included	Most recent five-year period 1950-present 1950-1965 (OLDMEDLINE)	1950- present (MEDLINE and OLDMEDLINE together)	1966-present	1966-present (or can select a subset on search form)
PREMEDLINE (citations in process, but not yet indexed)	No	Yes	No	Only those few articles available full text from MDC are available before they are indexed
Out of scope citations, primarily life sciences articles from general science and chemistry	No	Yes	No	No
Citations that precede the date a journal was selected for MEDLINE indexing	No	Yes	No	No

Search Features	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Field Searching (such as Author, Subject, Title, etc.)	Yes, use drop-down menu or search with field labels (click Tips, Help then About this Database)	Click Preview/Index tab; fields in drop-down menu. Preview runs the search; Index results in an alphabetic list for browsing; Limits tab allows browsing by author or journal; journals database in sidebar	Extensive options in advanced search Keyword drop-down menu	Author and journal title search boxes available
Related article searching	Click Top 10 or All Related Records Via PubMed	Click Related Articles link	Click Find More Like This	Use Find Similar Articles (for selected articles only)
Thesaurus search option	Default search option; checkbox above the search box	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms or click the green MeSH button at the top of the page	No
Medical subject headings (MeSH) look up	Use Search for field with thesaurus checkbox above search box (recommended) or Browse > Subject	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms or click the green MeSH button at the top of the page	No
Limit to major subject heading (main point of the article)	In thesaurus, click Focus or Expand/Focus	In thesaurus, check Restrict Search to Major Topic headings only.	In thesaurus, check Major Concept	No

Expand/explode (includes narrower MeSH terms in search)	In thesaurus, click Expand or Expand/Focus	Default explode; In thesaurus, uncheck Do not explode this term	In thesaurus, click Explode	No
MeSH terms subheadings option	In thesaurus	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms then click on subject heading; or click MeSH	No
Combine results of two or more searches	Search History or search within results	Click History tab; operators must be in capital letters: AND, OR, NOT	Click Search History/Alerts tab; combine results by checking corresponding sets and using drop down box with operators (AND, OR, NOT)	No; must combine on a single line

More Search Features	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Search one or more subsets of MEDLINE (i.e. cancer, bioethics)	After search, click Limit Search	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab	No
Single citation matcher	No	Click Single Citation Matcher link on left side of page	No	No

Limiting Methods	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Narrow results before search, using available limits	Show Limit Options ; <i>not</i> a complete set of limits	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab	On search form
Narrow results after search, using available limits	All Limit Options	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab	No, must re-run entire search
Language	All Limit Options	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab; full list of languages past English checkbox	No
Human or Animal	After search, Human limit or All Limit Options ; can also limit to specific animal types; also animal classifications (i.e., genus, species) are MeSH terms	Click Limits tab; also animal classifications (i.e., genus, species) are MeSH terms	Click Refine Search tab; can also limit to specific animal types; also animal classifications (i.e. genus, species) are MeSH terms	No

Age (limiting a MEDLINE search by age can be tricky; see help materials for details)	9 options; after search, All Limit Options ; can select multiple age groups at once	13 options; click Limits tab	12 options; click Refine Search tab; can select multiple age groups at once; also all infants, all children, all adults	8 options; on search form
Publication Type	54 types; after search, All Limit Options ; can select multiple types at once	54 types under Type of article in Limits tab	49 types; click Refine Search tab; can select multiple types at once	Article Type drop-down menu has 4 options: Reviews, Cochrane, Opinions, Tials
Review Articles	After search, All Limit Options	Click Limits tab; review is a Type of article	Click Refine Search tab	In Article Type drop-down menu
Evidence-based practice resources	No	Click Clinical Queries link on left side of page	Click Refind Search tab; select EBM Reviews	In Article Type drop-down menu
Date limits	After search, All Limit Options ; year of publication only	Click Limits tab; date of publication and date of inclusion in PubMed (Entrez)	Click Refine Search tab; date of publication	Date Range and Date options on search form

Citation Management	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Store/save citations	Click on Store icon	Mark records and select Clipbard from Send to menu	Click on Add icon (looks like a folder)	No
Email citations	Store records, then click Stored Records at the top of the page	Click on Clipbard tab, then select Email from Send to menu	Store records, then click on Folder has items , then email	No
Export citations to bibliographic management software	Store records, then click Stored Records at the top of the page	Click on Clipbard tab, select MEDLINE from Display mentu, then select File from Send to menu	Store records, then click on Folder has items , Save to Disk , then Bib Manager tab	No
Store/save searches	Temporary (3 hours) save or permanent download to hard drive	Temporary (8 hours) or a permanent save using My NCBI	Temporary (24 hours) or permanent save on Search History/Alerts tab	No
Current awareness	Manually run a saved search	Use My NCBI	Click Search History/Alerts tab	Weekly summaries of selected journals; News tab, In this Week's Journals