A MEDLINE Comparison: PubMed, EBSCOhost, and MD Consult

There are many versions of MEDLINE (PubMed, MD Consult, EBSCOhost, Ovid, etc.). Most contain the same information; they only differ in their search interfaces. The three versions available at UT are 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. *PubMed is recommended for most types of searching.*

Features	PubMed	EBSCO*host*	MD Consult
Access *Remote access information is available on the Library's Web page:* http://www.utoledo.edu/library/mulford/remote.html	Free access to anyone with Internet access; from Library's web page, click on **PubMed@UT** link	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on **PubMed@UT** 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 sheet and online help	Library help sheet and online help
Resources	**PubMed**	**EBSCO*host***	**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 *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!**	Links 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 (as available) **OLinks, EJC, UT Print, UT Electronic**	Click **OLinks** or **Find It!**	No

Content	PubMed	EBSCO*host*	MD Consult
Years Included	1949 - 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)	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	Yes	No	No
Citations that precede the date a journal was selected for MEDLINE indexing	Yes	No	No

Search Features	PubMed	EBSCO*host*	MD Consult
Field Searching (such as Author, Subject, Title, etc.)	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 **Related Articles** link	Click **Find More Like This**	Use **Find Similar Articles** (for selected articles only)

More Search Features	PubMed	EBSCO*host*	MD Consult
Thesaurus search option	Click **MeSH Database** link on left side of the page	Select **Suggest Subject Terms** or click the **MeSH** link at the top of the page	No
Medical subject headings (MeSH) look up	Click **MeSH Database** link on left side of the page	Select **Suggest Subject Terms** or click the **MeSH** link at the top of the page	No
Limit to major subject heading (main point of the article)	In thesaurus, check **Restrict Search to Major Topic headings only.**	In thesaurus, check **Major Concept**	No
Expand/explode (includes narrower MeSH terms in search)	Default explode; In thesaurus, uncheck **Do not explode this term**	In thesaurus, click **Explode**	No
MeSH terms subheadings option	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	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
Save Search History	Click **History** tab; print page (or opt to print selection only)	Click **Print Search History** link	

Limiting Methods	PubMed	EBSCO*host*	MD Consult
Narrow results **before** search, using available limits	Click **Limits** tab	Click **Refine Search** tab	On search form
Narrow results **after** search, using available limits	Click **Limits** tab	Click **Refine Search** tab	No, must re-run entire search
Language	Click **Limits** tab	Click **Refine Search** tab; full list of languages past English checkbox	No
Human or Animal	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)	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	56 types under **Type of article** in **Limits** tab	59 types; click **Refine Search** tab; can select multiple types at once	**Article Type** drop-down menu has 4 options: Reviews, Cochrane, Opinions, Trials
Review Articles	Click **Limits** tab; review is a **Type of article**	Click **Refine Search** tab	In **Article Type** drop-down menu
Evidence-based practice resources	Click **Clinical Queries** link on left side of page	Click **Refine Search** tab; select **EBM Reviews**	In **Article Type** drop-down menu
Date limits	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	PubMed	EBSCO*host*	MD Consult
Store/save citations	Mark records and select **Clipbard** from **Send to** menu	Click on **Add** icon (looks like a folder)	No
Email citations	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	Click on **Clipbard** tab, select **MEDLINE** from Dispdlay menu, then select **File** from **Send to** menu	Store records, then click on **Folder has items – Folder View.** Click **Export** icon then select Bib Manager format	No
Store/save searches	Temporary (8 hours) or a permanent save using **My NCBI**	**Temporary (24 hours) or permanent save on** Search History/Alerts **tab**	No
Current awareness	Use **My NCBI**	**Click** Search History/Alerts **tab**	Weekly summaries of selected journals; **News** tab, **In this Week's Journals**
Jolene M. Miller, MLS, Head of Information Services, Maria C. Melssen, MLIS, Reference/Education Librarian, Janice Flahiff, MLS, Reference Librarian Latest update: jan09 Gerald Natal, MLIS			