Accessing PubMed

PubMed is freely accessible to the public via the internet. University of Otago staff and students can increase their access to full-text articles by linking to PubMed via the Article Databases webpage.

To link to PubMed via the Article Databases webpage go to:
Library home page → Article Databases → choose P then scroll down and click on PubMed. If prompted, enter your username and password.

Searching PubMed

PubMed includes Medline and offers keyword and MeSH (Medical Subject Heading) searches. PubMed provides a series of brief online tutorials that are easy to follow. To view these tutorials:
Go to PubMed → click Tutorials → click an appropriate tutorial

Searching PubMed using keywords

To search PubMed using keywords:

- select PubMed from the Search pull-down menu
- enter keywords in the box
- click Search.

The truncation symbol for PubMed is *. If more than 600 word variations are found, PubMed will suggest you rethink your use of truncation.

Searching PubMed using Advanced Search

To search PubMed using Advanced Search:

- select Advanced from below the main search box
- enter your similar search terms connected with the Boolean term OR (make sure it’s in capitals)
- connect your lines of similar search terms using AND in the builder in the left most column
- click on Search to run your search

You will note that you have as many search term lines in the builder as you like – when you fill one another is automatically generated.
Combining search results
To combine your PubMed search results:
• clear the search box of any earlier searches
• click the Advanced tab
• go to History below the builder and click the number of a search (for example, #12) and select OR / AND from the pop-up box
• click the number of another search (for example, #3) and select OR / AND from the pop-up box
• check that the search box lists the searches you wish to combine (for example, (#12) OR / AND (#3))
• click Search.
Combine as many searches as you wish.

Limiting a search
You can narrow your search by applying filters. Filters will remain in effect until they are removed.

To apply a Filter:
• Select the required limits (such as Publication dates or Article types) from the filters menu on the left side of the screen
• To select more filters that are not showing click on Show additional filters

To remove all filters:
• Click on Clear all

Using Search Results
Emailing records
• select the records you wish to set aside
• from the Send to pull-down menu select E-mail.

Endnote X7
• Open your EndNote library
• From within PubMed select the records you wish to set aside by clicking the tick box
• From the Send to pull-down menu and select Citation Manager → Create File → click default OK
Your results will appear in your Endnote Library in the Imported References folder