



Searching the Journal Literature: PubMed Example

Step 1 – Define the topic, plan the search

1. Develop a statement of your topic.
2. Identify the specific concepts and determine any special requirements (time period, language, gender, type of article)

Step 2 – Connect to PubMed

Important: Although PubMed is freely available, you will get immediate information about KSU and OhioLINK holdings only if you connect through the Libraries' Website. From off-campus, you will need to have authenticated through KSU VPN.

Where do I find this KSU link to PubMed?

Go to: "Nursing Resources" subject page (<http://www.library.kent.edu/nursing>) and click on "Nursing and Health-Related Databases" **OR**

Go to: "Research/Research Databases" from the Libraries & Media Services homepage. There you will find the alphabetical listing of all databases.

Step 3 – Search on your topic

PubMed does a lot behind the scenes, so with their "automatic term mapping," you are able to put in your search topic. To insure you search by a specific phrase, put it in quotation marks. If you include a logical operator, it needs to be in all caps.

"pet therapy" AND dementia OR, alternatively, you could use **"pet therapy" dementia**

"Search Details" on the right-hand part of the screen shows the actual terms and term combinations that were searched.

Step 4 – Limit results as needed

Click **Limits** located above the search box to customize your search results. **Caution:** do not choose the *Links to full text* option--it does not take you directly to KSU/OhioLINK full-text, nor to free text—.

Note the limits for "humans", "English" language, gender, "Nursing journals," and age. PubMed does not have a "research" limit.

Step 5- Review results

The default display is *Summary*. Use the pull-down select *Abstract* to see more detail. The



link will display to provide information about availability through KSU or OhioLINK.

Step 6 – Mark items of interest and save

1. Check off the box to the left of any reference of interest. To save all citations in the list, do not check any boxes.
2. From the Send to box, pull down and select whether you want to save to a file on your computer, print, email, or place on the clipboard (PubMed's equivalent of a shopping cart).

Step 7 – Combining sets

If you have done several searches and wish to combine them, click on the Advanced Search link above the main search box. By clicking on the set numbers for search statements of interest, you will be given the option to designate the kind of combination you wish to execute.

Step 8 – Transferring selected references to RefWorks

1. After choosing the items of interest from the results screen, choose MEDLINE from the *Display* pull-down menu.

2. A page will open with all your references displayed in the necessary tagged format. Go to the *Edit* option in your browser toolbar and “Select all” and then “Copy” the text.
3. Open a separate browser window and go to <http://www.refworks.com/Refworks> and log into your account.
4. Within your RefWorks account, select *References* from the RefWorks toolbar and then select *Import* .
5. A RefWorks Import Form will open. For *Import Filter/Data Source* select “NLM PubMed.” PubMed will show in the *Database* box.
6. Select the choice to *Import Data from the Following Text*.
7. Use your browser’s *Edit* menu to paste the text into this box or use CTRL-V.
8. At the bottom of the form, click the *Import* button.
9. Items will import. Click on *View last imported folder* to see citations. references to. There is no limit to the number of references or folders you can have in RefWorks.

Aug.2010: bfs