Maximize Your Literature Search

Decide what type of information you need

Background information: General knowledge about condition, treatment, test, etc. (Often questions begin with: What, How, Why, etc. Ex. What is the best treatment for pneumonia?)

Foreground information: More specific and complex typically concerning a specific patient or population. (Often questions begin with the Patient/Population/Problem Ex. In an 80-year-old women with pneumonia, is drug X better than drug Y for preventing mortality?

Background Information Resources

- **E-books, etc.**
  - AccessMedicine
  - ClinicalKey
  - LWW Health Library Collection
- **Point of Care Tool**
  - UpToDate
- **Drugs/Medications**
  - Lexi-Comp, Micromedex, MedlinePlus
- All of the above are found on the library website (https://library.mednet.iu.edu/): Popular Resources > Databases
- Search using Keywords

Foreground Information Resources

- **Databases**

  - PubMed – Biomedical
  - Embase – Biomedical
  - PsycINFO – Psychology/Psychiatry
  - CINAHL – Nursing and Allied Health
  - Scopus – use for forward citation searching
  - Web of Science – use for forward citation searching

- All of the above are found on the library website (https://library.mednet.iu.edu/): Popular Resources > Databases
- **Search using Subject Headings/Index Terms AND Keywords**
- Save searches within databases

Use Subject Headings/Index Terms/Thesaurus Terms to

- Avoid irrelevant articles
  - Articles that contain the topic term but aren't specifically about the topic
- Include articles that use synonyms and/or various spellings of your topic
  - heart attack vs myocardial infarction
  - pediatrics in U.S. vs. paediatrics in Great Britain
- Provide clarity when words are spelled the same but have different meanings
  - tears from your eyes vs. tears in cartilage
  - study aids vs AIDS (the disease)

Use Keywords for

- New terms
- Very recent articles
- Drug names
- Comprehensive searching

Keyword Searching tips

Synonyms	for high blood pressure, try: hypertension or hbp
Truncate	diagnos* = diagnosis, diagnosing, diagnostic, diagnostics, etc
Proximity	cell NEAR/3 block **NOTE:** Does not work in PubMed.
Use fields	look for keywords in the abstract or title.
Spelling	pediatrics OR paediatrics (consider using singular in PubMed)
Phrase	"therapeutic touch" **NOTE:** Does not work in PubMed.
Nesting	(Example below)

("therapeutic touch" OR "healing touch") AND (inpatient OR hospitalized or hospital) AND pain

Save searches within databases

- PubMed – Use MyNCBI for search alerts
- All other databases have a "Save Search" feature. Often, you must create a free login for the database.

Find full text

Look for the Find It Button. **Find It**

More [information on locating full text](https://library.mednet.iu.edu/finding-fulltext/) (https://library.mednet.iu.edu/finding-fulltext/)

Assistance

Please feel free to [email us](mailto:medlref@iupui.edu) (medlref@iupui.edu) or call 317-274-7182.