

In-class search

You're working on the project: Educating Employers of Breast Feeding Mothers about Lactation Accommodation. Therefore you're interested in researching current practices for workplace breast feeding accommodations in the United States. To run this search in PubMed:

Enter in the PubMed search box: *breast feeding accommodation*

Results: 17 citations. This is a small retrieval and upon examining the search details (located in the lower right margin) you realize that "Accommodation" maps to the Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) term "accommodation, ocular". You decide to use the MeSH Database to find the appropriate MeSH term. You can access the MeSH database by using the drop-down option above the main search box.

Enter in the MeSH Database search box: Accommodation

Results: Accommodation, ocular. Because searching is a process, you experiment with other related terms in the database.

Enter in the MeSH Database search box: *work*

Results: 15 MeSH terms. You scroll down and choose "workplace" which you will use in your search. Note: It's possible to build a search using the MeSH Database, however, a search built from the MeSH database doesn't automatically search the entire PubMed database, which may mean missing recent citations not yet in MEDLINE.

Enter in the PubMed search box: *breast feeding AND workplace*

Results: 115 citations. You could look at them all, but you're only interested in the US.

Enter in the PubMed search box: *breast feeding AND workplace AND United States*

Results: 36 citations.

This now more comprehensive retrieval is too large to inspect all of the citations so you decide to limit your search. Limits are located on the Advanced Search Page.

Enter in the PubMed search box: *breast feeding AND workplace AND United States*

Limits: English

Results: 36 citations.

You are so impressed with your search and that you decide to save it to access it later. To do so:

1. Create a My NCBI Account (A free account accessed in the upper left corner of PubMed)
2. From the PubMed results page click "Advanced Search" and scroll to "Search History"
3. Click on the set # next to your search strategy and select "save to My NCBI"
4. Your search is now permanently saved in your account

PubMed: Tips and Hints for Searching

Tips and Hints for Searching PubMed

- When searching:
 - Access PubMed via Lane Library's homepage: <http://lane.stanford.edu>.
 - Click the "Details" to determine exactly what is being searched.
 - Use the Clipboard to temporarily (8 hrs) save citations from multiple searches.
 - Remember searching is a process that takes practice, time and patience.
 - If frustrated contact a Lauren at Imaggio@stanford.edu.
- The MeSH Database:
 - Is accessible from PubMed's main page or under the Advanced Search
 - Helps users to locate MeSH terms, which are like "tags"
 - Provides access to subheadings to refine searches.
 - Defines MeSH terms and provides access to the MeSH hierarchy.
 - Can be used to build PubMed search strategies, however, the resultant searches although targeted may exclude current citations.
- The Boolean Operator AND:
 - Narrows a search so that retrieved citations contain information about both search terms. For example, "breast feeding AND workplace" retrieves information about both breast feeding AND workplace.
 - AND is automatically inserted between search terms in PubMed.
- The Boolean Operator OR:
 - Broadens a search so retrieved citations contain information about either search terms. For example, "lactation OR breast feeding" retrieves information about either lactation or breast feeding.
 - Must be capitalized in order to be recognized in PubMed.
 - This is a good technique to use for searching with synonyms.
- Limits:
 - Should be added one at a time to better control searching.
 - Remain in effect until they are cleared
- My NCBI:
 - Is a free service that allows registered users to save searches, set preferences and set-up automatic updates.
- Printing, Emailing and Exporting citations:
 - Can be done by first selecting applicable citations and then using the drop-down menu labeled "send to". From this menu select either "printer", "email" or "file".
 - For exporting to reference managers, including EndNote, Zotero and RefWorks choose file and make sure that the format is set to "Medline".