

## PubMed: Tips and Hints for Searching

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- 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 librarian.
- The MeSH Database:
  - Is accessible from PubMed's left blue navigation bar or at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/clinical.shtml>.
  - 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, "policies OR procedures" retrieves information about either lactation or policies.
  - 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 a reference managers, including EndNote and RefWorks).