Things to Remember About MeSH

- MeSH stands for Medical Subject Headings
- When you enter a search, PubMed automatically tries to map your search terms to MeSH
- When you use truncation (*) search terms or “quotes,” PubMed turns off mapping to MeSH and:
  ⇒ Searches for those terms only as keywords.
  ⇒ Avoid truncation, but quotes can be very useful.
- If you can’t find your term in MeSH:
  ⇒ Try searching for a few different ways to describe it
  ⇒ If you still cannot find it, try searching for the term as a keyword

Using Filters

- When you use filters, you will only get results from the Medline portion of PubMed because the filters are based on MeSH
- When you need to ensure that you are getting results from all of PubMed, you need to use other methods to filter your results

Advanced Search Builder

The Advanced Search Builder enables you to create highly specific searches. Here are some tips for using this powerful tool effectively:

- Build your search one concept at a time.
- After you have enter all your individual search terms, click Advanced under the PubMed search box:

  ![Advanced Search Builder](image1)

- Click Add to add for each concept that you would like to include in your search:

  ![History](image2)

  ![Builder](image3)

Remember!

If you only use the MeSH database:
⇒ You will only find articles in the Medline portion of PubMed
⇒ You will NOT find articles in the Pre-Medline and Additional Life Sciences portions of PubMed
General Searching Tips
It may help to apply PICO to your question.
P = problem, patient, or population
I = intervention or indicator
C = comparison or control
O = outcome

Library Guides
The librarians at Gumberg have created guides to help you search:

PubMed tutorials:
http://guides.library.duq.edu/pubmed-tutorials

Videos on Health Sciences searching:
http://guides.library.duq.edu/healthsciencessearchingvideos

Health Sciences Literature searching:
http://guides.library.duq.edu/healthsciencelitsearch

Finding Full Text:
http://guides.library.duq.edu/FindingFullText

Resources for Distance Learners:
http://guides.library.duq.edu/online-learners

Nursing Doctoral guide:
http://guides.library.duq.edu/nursing-doctoral

Additional PubMed Tutorials
PubMed also provides tutorials - click the YouTube button or click Help in PubMed’s upper right hand corner

Where to Get Help
The librarians at Gumberg are here to help with your questions! Contact them via Ask a Librarian, phone, or email.

David Nolfi, MLS, AHIP
Health Sciences Librarian
Library Assessment Coordinator
nolfi@duq.edu
412.396.4931

Ask a Librarian Reference Service
Click “Ask a Librarian” on any Gumberg page!

Current reference desk hours:
Mon- Thurs, 8 am - 10 pm; Fri, 8 am - 6 pm;
Sat, 10 am - 6 pm; Sun, 11 am - 7 pm.
While the reference desk is staffed, you can:

Call 412.396.6133
Text 412.265.3599
Email ask@duq.libanswers.com