

Getting Started: To take advantage of PubMed’s linkout feature showing which journals are held by the LSUHSC -S Library, start out at the Library’s homepage (lib.sh.lsuhs.edu) and select **Databases**. Among the **Core Databases** at the top, select **PubMed** to reach the opening screen, as shown above.

Simple Search: Enter terms in the search box in the upper middle of the screen for each of the concepts in your question, and press **Go**.
E.g.: *myocardial infarction statins*

Analyzing the Search: To see how the search engine translated your query, click the **Details** tab on the far right side just below the search box. Notice that *myocardial infarction* is searched both as text words and as a medical subject heading (MeSH) and that *statins* is searched not only as a text word but also as the term “hydroxymethylglutaryl-coa reductase inhibitors” in MeSH and Pharmacological Action.

Expanding Your Retrieval: If you are not satisfied with the way the query was translated or the size of the retrieval, you can revise or expand your search strategy using parentheses and the Boolean operators “AND,” “OR,” and “NOT.” E.g.: *myocardial infarction AND (statins OR calcium channel blockers)*. To find still more citations, you can use an asterisk (*) as a truncation symbol. E.g.: *myocardial infarct** finds *myocardial infarct* or *myocardial infarction*.

Refining Your Search

Finding the Right MeSH Term: If PubMed doesn’t find a MeSH equivalent for a search term, scroll through your retrieval until you find a citation with the term in the title and “[PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]” at the end. Check the box beside the citation, click the dropdown **Display** menu, and select **Citation**. Scan the MeSH terms for the one that looks closest to the term you have used. If you are unsure, look at the MeSH terms for other citations.

Using the MeSH Database: To use the full power of MeSH, click the heading **MeSH Database** on the left side of the screen under PubMed Services. Enter the MeSH term in the box at the top of the screen and click **Go**. The next screen shows suggestions – MeSH terms with similar spelling to what you entered – and a list of MeSH terms which are approximate synonyms or which contain the words you keyed in. Click the link for the term closest to what you want.

At the next screen select any subheadings appropriate to your search. If you choose, you can restrict the search to citations in which the MeSH term is one of the major topics. You can also choose not to explode the term, in other words, not to search for the terms listed under this one in the MeSH tree. Scroll down to see the nearby terms in the tree.

After making your selections, click the **Send to** dropdown menu and select **Search Box with AND** to add them to a box labeled **Search PubMed**. At this point, you can either initiate the search or add more terms.

Limiting the Search: Click the **Limits** tab on the far left beneath the search box to reach the limits screen. Each of the dropdown menus offers a way to limit your retrieval more precisely. These ways include field, publication type, language, subset, age, human or animal, gender, or date. After you limit a search and click **Go**, a checked box will appear on the **Limits** tab, reminding you that the limits will remain until you uncheck the box. The selected limits are shown beneath the tabs.

Combining Searches: Click the **History** tab in the middle below the search box to see your previous searches. You can combine any of them by clearing the search box and then entering # followed by the search number, the Boolean operator *AND*, *OR* or *NOT*, and another # and search number.

Managing Your Retrieval

Display Formats: To pick a different format for the citations, open the **Display** dropdown menu. To display the MeSH terms, choose **Citation** or **MEDLINE**. To display the abstract without MeSH, choose **Abstract**. When you select this format, the icons **LSUHSC-S Print Holdings** or **LSUHSC-S Electronic** will appear if the item is in the print or electronic collection of the LSUHSC-S Library.

Storing Citations in the Clipboard: As you scan through your retrieved citations, check the boxes for the ones that look useful. Open the **Send to** dropdown menu and select **Clipboard** to send the checked citations to the clipboard. You can use the clipboard to accumulate citations from different searches, but the clipboard will empty them after eight hours of inactivity. Clicking the **Clipboard** tab beneath the search box will take you to the clipboard.

Sorting the Citations: Either at the main menu or inside the clipboard, you can sort the citations by opening the **Sort** dropdown menu and making your selection.

Printing, Downloading and Emailing: Either at the main menu or inside the clipboard, you can print the contents of your current page using the browser's **Print** command. If you want a simple typeface, you can open the **Send to** dropdown menu and select **Text** before printing. To download to a file, select **File**; to email, choose **E-mail**. From inside the clipboard, you can empty the clipboard by selecting **Clip remove**.

PubMed Finding Tools

Finding Full Text: To limit the search to free full text, add in the search box *AND free full text [sb]*. To limit a search to this library's journals, most of which are electronic, add *AND loprovlsuhsclib [sb]* to your last search statement. To get all the full text that is electronically available and free to persons at LSUHSC-S, add *AND (free full text [sb] OR loprovlsuhsclib [sb])*.

Finding the Complete Citation: If you don't know important parts of a citation, go to PubMed Services on the left side of the main screen and click **Single Citation Matcher**. Enter the information you have in the boxes and click **Search**. All citations matching the criteria will be retrieved.

Finding Clinical Articles: To locate clinical information, go to PubMed Services on the left side of the main screen and click **Clinical Queries**. Select **Search by Clinical Study Category**. Then select the category (therapy, diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, or clinical prediction guides) and emphasis (sensitive or specific) you want, enter your subject in the search box, and click **Go**.

Finding Systematic Reviews: Go to PubMed Services on the left side of the main screen and click **Clinical Queries**. Select **Find Systematic Reviews**, enter your subject, and click **Go**.