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PUBMED/OVID Advanced Search Techniques Comparison

PubMed Technique	OVID Technique	OVID Comments
<i>holistic [tw]</i>	<i>holistic.tw. holistic.ti. holistic.mp.</i>	<i>tw = textword; ti = title word; mp = title + abstract + chem fields See table of field codes for all options; use dot-dot style.</i>
<i>work*</i>	<i>work: work? work:1</i>	<i>Truncation symbols (":" or "\$") allow numeric limiting for number of characters to following word. Without a number, they are open-ended.</i>
<i>work*</i>	<i>work#r</i>	<i>Internal truncation single place, not available in PubMed.</i>
<i>liver [mh] OR bladder [mh]</i>	<i>Liver/ or Bladder/ or/1-2</i>	<i>Boolean operators include AND, OR, NOT. May be applied within string, or may be used at head of string with forward slash followed by set numbers of prior search sets. Capitalization optional.</i>
<i>"bone morphogenetic" [tw]</i>	<i>"bone morphogenetic".mp.</i>	<i>Phrase searching in OVID is term order dependent. (NOTE: Pubmed lacks true phrase searching.)</i>
	<i>(filled adj3 teeth).mp.</i>	<i>Adjacency operators can also use numbers to specify the range of adjacency. No adjacency operators available in PUBMED. Term ordering not valid with these.</i>
<i>wit and humor [mh]</i>	<i>"wit and humor"/</i>	<i>MeSH headings which include "and" require use of quotation marks with an ending forward slash to avoid confusion with the Boolean AND.</i>
<i>heart [mh]</i>	<i>exp heart</i>	<i>MeSH terms are now automatically exploded in both PUBMED and OVID.</i>
<i>hypertension [mh:noexp]</i>	<i>hypertension/</i>	<i>To turn off automatic exploding of MeSH headings end the MeSH term with either a forward slash or specify no explosion in the menus.</i>
<i>smoking [majr]</i>	<i>smoking.mj.</i>	<i>Post-qualify with [majr] to limit a MeSH search to major focus.</i>
<i>neoplasms/dt</i>	<i>neoplasms/dt</i>	<i>Subheadings can be spelled out or the two-letter abbreviation may be used.</i>
<i>hypertension [mh] AND metabolism [sh]</i>	<i>Hypertension/to</i>	<i>MeSH terms may be limited or focused with subheadings.</i>
<i>metabolism [sh]</i>	<i>to.fs.</i>	<i>Subheadings may be searched as floating subheadings.</i>
<i>metabolism [sh]</i>	<i>me.xs.</i>	<i>Pre-exploded subheadings are automatically exploded in PubMed, but require the <.xs.> in OVID.</i>

<i>heart diseases [mh] AND therapy [sh:noexp]</i>	<i>Heart diseases/ and th.fs.</i>	<i>In PubMed you must post-qualify with [sh:noexp] to turn off automatic explode feature when floating subheadings. This is not necessary in OVID, since the search strings are entirely different.</i>
<i>appegate ra [au]</i>	<i>appegate ra.au.</i>	<i>Author searching if you know both initials and all variants of the author's name.</i>
<i>"shields t" [au]</i>	<i>shields t.au.</i>	<i>Author searching with single initial, no truncation.</i>
<i>shields t [au]</i>	<i>shields t:.au.</i>	<i>Author searching with single initial, truncated in case of variant spellings.</i>
<i>eye [majr]</i>	<i>exp *Eye/</i>	<i>Use of an asterix before a MeSH heading indicates that this must be a primary focus of the article. The "EXP" before the term indicates that this term is both the primary topic, but that we are still accepting articles which are deeper in the tree, such as Retina or Lens.</i>
<i>eye [majr] AND english [la]</i>	<i>exp *Eye/ and English.lg. limit 58 to (english language)</i>	<i>English is the most commonly represented language in the database. You can quickly narrow the number of results retrieved by limiting to articles in the English language.</i>
<i>eye [majr] AND english [la] AND 1980:2000 [dp]</i>	<i>exp *Eye/ and English.lg. limit 58 to (english language and yr=1980-2000)</i>	<i>When applying limits to a previous search statement, you may apply several limits at a time as demonstrated.</i>
<i>eye [majr:noexp] AND human [mh]</i>	<i>*Eye/ and Human/</i>	<i>MeSH term focus of article, not exploded, and limited to "Human".</i>
<i>g suits [majr] AND 1998 [dp]</i>	<i>*G suits/ and 1998.yr.</i>	<i>Date of Publication field can be searched with four-digit number of the year of publication followed by the dot-dot with YR as field code.</i>
<i>psychotherapy {majr} AND 1997:1998 [dp]</i>	<i>*Psychotherapy/ and 1997:1998.yr. *Psychotherapy/ and (1997 or 1998).yr.</i>	<i>Ranging operations may be performed on the Date of Publication field using the colon. You may also select specific years and combine in parens as for textwords.</i>
<i>cats [mh] OR dogs [mh] AND rabies [mh]</i>	<i>(cats or dogs) and rabies</i>	<i>OVID and other search systems require searchers to consider the processing order of operations within search statements. Nesting or separate search statements are indicated by the use of parentheses. PubMed processes statements left to right.</i>
	<i>cats and rabies or dogs and rabies</i>	