

PubMed Literature Search:

Basic Search Strategy

- Boolean operators (“AND”, “OR”, “NOT”)
- Wildcard (“*”)
- Search Field Tags (e.g. [au] means “author”, “Rutherford[au]”)
- Filters

Boolean Operators

3 operators:

- AND, OR, NOT**
- Must be **CAPITALIZED**
- Lowercase operators (ex. "and", "or", "not") will *all* be replaced with "**AND**"
- Order of terms is crucial
- Quotes group phrases together:
 - diabetes mellitus phototherapy =
 - diabetes mellitus **AND** phototherapy ■
 - "diabetes mellitus phototherapy"

“OR” (Boolean operator)

Ex. football OR hockey OR soccer

Search terms	Results
football	4819
hockey	1058
soccer	2517
football OR hockey OR soccer	6090



“NOT” (Boolean operator)

Ex. arthritis NOT letter²

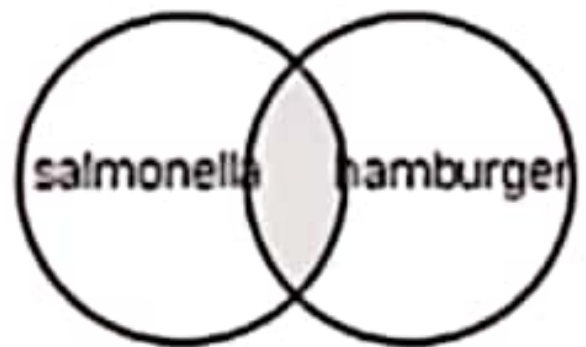
Search terms	Results
arthritis	167,933
letter	617,646
arthritis NOT letter	159,681



"AND" (Boolean operator)

Ex. salmonella AND hamburger

<i>Search terms</i>	<i>Results</i>
salmonella	64810
hamburger	2494
salmonella AND hamburger	12



"AND" is PubMed's default operator. If you do not use Boolean operators in the search, PubMed automatically uses "AND" between terms

Comprehensive Search using Wildcard “*”

Type: “prevent*”

-Finds articles with the words:

- prevention
- preventative
- preventable, etc.

Type: “diarrh*”

-Finds articles with the words:

- diarrhea
- diarrhoea
- diarrheal
- diarrhoeal, etc.



Search Field Tags

Helpful tags (also appear in Advanced Search):

[au].....author

[ti].....title

[tiab].....title/abstract

[tw].....text words

Examples:

Microbicides[ti] OR HIV[tw]



UCSP GLOBAL HEALTH SCIENCES



Using “Filters” in PubMed

- Time filter.....in the past 7 years or past 7 days?
- Sex filter.....only female or male subjects?
- Language filter.....only in English or Vietnamese?
- Age filter.....only infant subjects?
- Article type.....only randomized control trials?
- Subjects filter.....only AIDS? Cancer?



How To ☒

PubMed



prevent*[tiab] AND diarrh*[tiab]

[Advanced](#)



PubMed

PubMed comprises more than 22 million citations for journal articles and online books. Citations may include links to full-

PubMed Tools