

Searching *MEDLINE* via EBSCO

MEDLINE provides authoritative biomedical medical information. Created by the National Library of Medicine, *MEDLINE* allows users to search abstracts from over 4,600 current biomedical journals. The database provides coverage from the mid-1960's to the present and is international in scope.

Accessing *MEDLINE*

To access *MEDLINE*, simply go to the library home page at <http://www.unmc.edu/library>. Under the “Quick Links” menu located on the left side of the screen, click on *MEDLINE* via Ebsco.

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Sample Record

When you enter a keyword or word phrase in the default search box, MEDLINE will look for these words within the fields of each record. The following record displays all the fields of a citation:

Title of record	Olanzapine treatment of an adolescent girl with anorexia nervosa. By Ercan ES,
Author of record	Hum Psychopharmacol, 2003 Jul; Vol. 18
Journal Abbrev.	(5), pp. 401-3; PMID: 12858329; This case
Date/Volume/Pgs.	report presents a severe case of anorexia
Publication type	nervosa in a 15-year-old female
Abstract	adolescent. The patient suffered from
	extreme weight loss and agitation that
	required hospitalization in the Intensive
	Care Unit.

Basic Searching

Keyword Searching

When you enter MEDLINE, you will be taken to the Advanced Search screen. Next to the **Find** box the default fields option will be selected. This means that when you enter a single word or word phrase, MEDLINE will search for these words in **all** the fields of **all** the records.

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Database: MEDLINE [Database Help](#)

Find: in Default Fields Search Clear

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and in Default Fields

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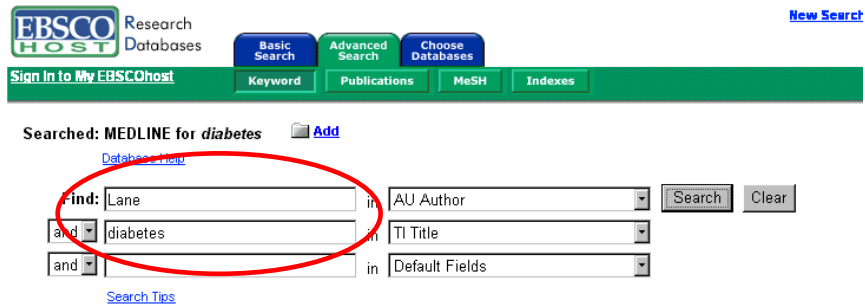
Using keywords is the broadest way of searching and often times can result in a large number of citations. Searching for the word "heart" in the first find box results in over 730,000 records. If the truncation symbol "*" (asterisk) is used at the end of the word, meaning records with the word "heart" or "hearts" will be found, more than 10,000 additional records will be returned. In some cases, doing a keyword search is a good way to start searching when:

- You are searching for an esoteric topic.
- You just want to see how much has been written on the topic.
- You don't know what specific search terms to use to narrow the topic.
- You are just beginning your search.

Field Searching

Searching in only certain fields is a useful way to locate very specific information. A good use of field searching is when you are looking for a specific author or trying to verify that a citation is correct.

For example, you know that the author **Lane** wrote an article about **Diabetes**, but you do not recall the name of the journal, the year, or the page numbers. Click on the pull down menus to the right of the Find box. You will have the option of selecting which field you want CINAHL to search.



Advanced Searching

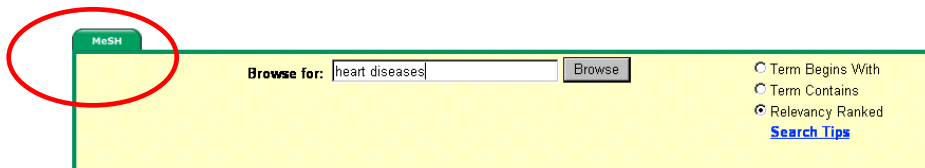
Step 1: Subject Searching

The preferred way to search is to use the controlled vocabulary called **MeSH Headings**. This will help ensure that all of the articles on a particular subject will be retrieved. These subject terms are assigned to each record to describe the content of the article. MeSH headings are arranged in a hierarchy, to allow you to search from the most general to more narrow terms. The headings can be **exploded** to retrieve all references indexed to that term as well as all references indexed to any narrower term(s). Searches can also be limited with specific qualifiers (**subheadings**) to improve the precision of the search, and limited to **major** subject headings to indicate the main focus of an article.

To find articles about the quality of life of outpatients who have heart disease, first we would decide what our main concepts are. This particular search has three main concepts:

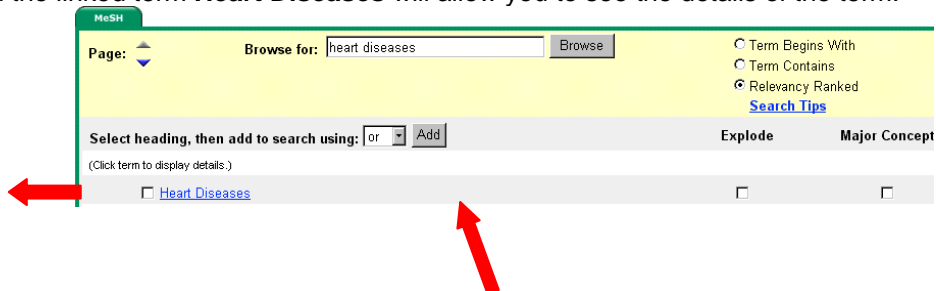
1. heart diseases
2. quality of life
3. outpatients

To select terms from MeSH, click on the MeSH button . Enter the first concept, heart diseases, in the search box and click the browse button.



MeSH headings that match the word or word phrase that you entered will be listed (see next page).

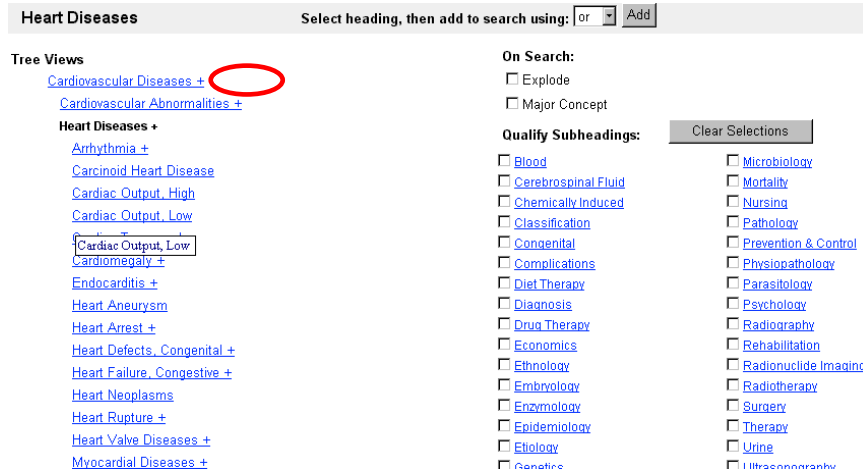
Clicking directly on the linked term **Heart Diseases** will allow you to see the details of the term.



Option 1: Exploding A Term

The **Explode** box following the heading “Heart Diseases” indicates that narrower terms are available to search and they are listed below the term.

If you click in the **Explode box**, MEDLINE will search for all the records indexed for “Heart Diseases”, as well as the narrower terms. When a heading is exploded, all of the terms will be searched together using ‘OR’. Exploding a term will broaden your search.



The screenshot shows a search interface for "Heart Diseases". At the top, there is a header "Heart Diseases" and a sub-header "Select heading, then add to search using: or Add". Below this, there are two main sections: "Tree Views" and "On Search:".

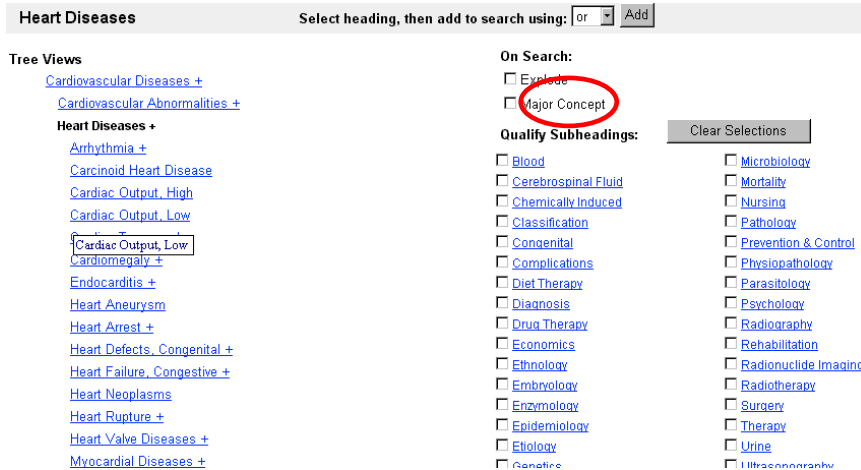
Tree Views: This section lists various sub-terms under "Heart Diseases +". The term "Cardiovascular Diseases +" is circled in red. Other terms include "Cardiovascular Abnormalities +", "Arrhythmia +", "Carcinoid Heart Disease", "Cardiac Output_High", "Cardiac Output_Low", "Cardiac Output, Low", "Cardiomegaly +", "Endocarditis +", "Heart_Aneurysm", "Heart Arrest +", "Heart Defects, Congenital +", "Heart Failure, Congestive +", "Heart Neoplasms", "Heart Rupture +", "Heart Valve Diseases +", and "Myocardial Diseases +".

On Search: This section contains two checkboxes: "Explode" (which is checked) and "Major Concept" (which is unchecked).

Qualify Subheadings: This section lists various subheadings with checkboxes, including "Blood", "Cerebrospinal Fluid", "Chemically Induced", "Classification", "Congenital", "Complications", "Diet Therapy", "Diagnosis", "Drug Therapy", "Economics", "Ethnology", "Embryology", "Enzymology", "Epidemiology", "Etiology", "Genetics", "Microbiology", "Mortality", "Nursing", "Pathology", "Prevention & Control", "Physiopathology", "Parasitology", "Psychology", "Radiography", "Rehabilitation", "Radionuclide Imaging", "Radiotherapy", "Surgery", "Therapy", "Urine", and "Ultrasonography".

Option 2: Major Concept

If you click in the box next to **Major Concept**, you will limit your results to only the records where “Heart Diseases” or any of the narrower terms are the *main focus* of the article.



The screenshot shows a search interface for "Heart Diseases". At the top, there is a header "Heart Diseases" and a sub-header "Select heading, then add to search using: or Add". Below this, there are two main sections: "Tree Views" and "On Search:".

Tree Views: This section lists various sub-terms under "Heart Diseases +". The term "Cardiovascular Diseases +" is circled in red. Other terms include "Cardiovascular Abnormalities +", "Arrhythmia +", "Carcinoid Heart Disease", "Cardiac Output_High", "Cardiac Output_Low", "Cardiac Output, Low", "Cardiomegaly +", "Endocarditis +", "Heart_Aneurysm", "Heart Arrest +", "Heart Defects, Congenital +", "Heart Failure, Congestive +", "Heart Neoplasms", "Heart Rupture +", "Heart Valve Diseases +", and "Myocardial Diseases +".

On Search: This section contains two checkboxes: "Explode" (which is unchecked) and "Major Concept" (which is checked).

Qualify Subheadings: This section lists various subheadings with checkboxes, including "Blood", "Cerebrospinal Fluid", "Chemically Induced", "Classification", "Congenital", "Complications", "Diet Therapy", "Diagnosis", "Drug Therapy", "Economics", "Ethnology", "Embryology", "Enzymology", "Epidemiology", "Etiology", "Genetics", "Microbiology", "Mortality", "Nursing", "Pathology", "Prevention & Control", "Physiopathology", "Parasitology", "Psychology", "Radiography", "Rehabilitation", "Radionuclide Imaging", "Radiotherapy", "Surgery", "Therapy", "Urine", and "Ultrasonography".

Option 3: Subheadings

You may also select one or more subheadings to further refine your search results. Adding these subheadings will reduce the number of records you retrieve. Avoid limiting to Major Concept or specific subheadings in the beginning of your search since applying these types of limits can greatly reduce your search results.

The screenshot shows the MeSH interface with 'Heart Diseases' selected in the 'Browse for' field. Below this, a tree view lists various subheadings under 'Heart Diseases +', with 'Arrhythmia +' circled in red. To the right, there are options for 'On Search' (Explode, Major Concept) and 'Qualify Subheadings' (a grid of checkboxes for various medical fields like Blood, Microbiology, etc.).

Step 2: Sending your terms to the Search

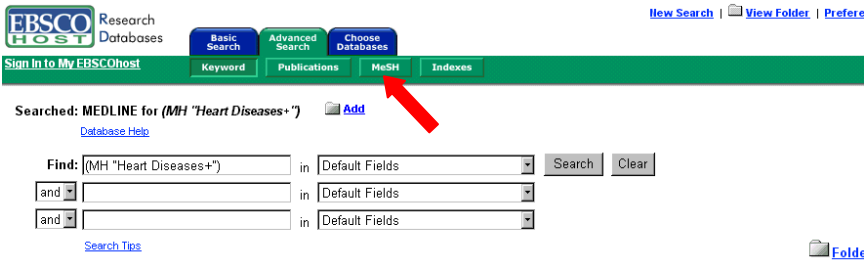
After you have decided whether or not to select explode, major concept or subheadings, click on the ADD button to send your term to the search.

This screenshot shows the MeSH interface with 'Heart Diseases' selected in the 'Browse for' field. The 'Add' button next to the 'or' dropdown is circled in red. The 'On Search' options are now checked for 'Explode' and 'Relevancy Ranked'. The 'Qualify Subheadings' grid is also visible.

Your term will now be placed in the search box, which is labeled with **FIND** (below). Click on the Search button to run the search. Each term that you search will be saved into the History.

The screenshot shows the MEDLINE search interface. A red arrow points from the 'Add' button in the previous screenshot to the search box. The search box contains the text '(MH "Heart Diseases+")' and has 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons next to it. Below the search box, there are options for 'Term Begins With', 'Term Contains', and 'Relevancy Ranked'.

Repeat these steps for each search term. To return to MeSH Headings, click on the MeSH button.

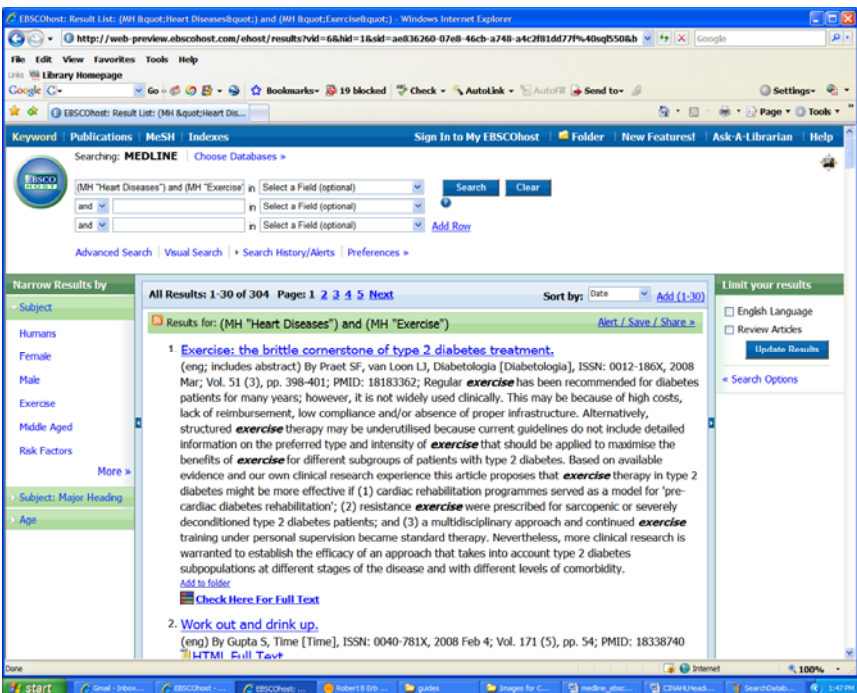


Step 3: Combining Search Terms

Once you have selected a MeSH term in the aforementioned fashion, by checking it's, box the term will remain in memory once they are checked, allowing you to select more terms to add to the search. Once you have selected all of the terms




you wish to combine, Use the "Combine selections with:" box and then click






Note how the search box is now populated with all the terms you select and the search has been run, producing a list of results:

Full-Text Articles and McGoogan Library Catalog

All records in MEDLINE provide a link to Helix, the library's online catalog. This allows you to easily check to see if the library owns a particular journal. Some records in MEDLINE have the full-text of the article available. Items that are available full-text through MEDLINE will include the following link:

 [Linked Full Text](#) - You will be given the choice of viewing and printing the document either as a:

1.  [HTML Full Text](#) - this view allows you to access links within the document.
2.  [PDF Full Text](#) - this view presents a scanned image of the actual article. This is the preferred view if the item contains graphs, charts, or pictures.

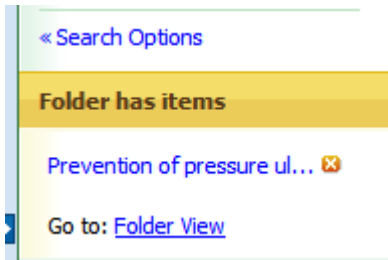
 [Check for Full Text Availability](#) – links you directly to the article, if available through other journal databases, allow you to search the library’s online catalog – Helix – to see if the journal is available in print, or provide a link to the Interlibrary Loan online form to request the article from another library.

Select Records for Printing, Saving, Emailing

The Add Folder icon Results can be saved by printing, emailing, and saving to a computer or disk.

[Add to folder](#) In order to save results, you must add each citation to the Folder. Do this by clicking the [Add to folder](#) link at the bottom of each citation you want to save.

Once citations are added, the right sidebar will indicate that items are now in the Folder. Click [Go to: folder view](#) to access the marked records.

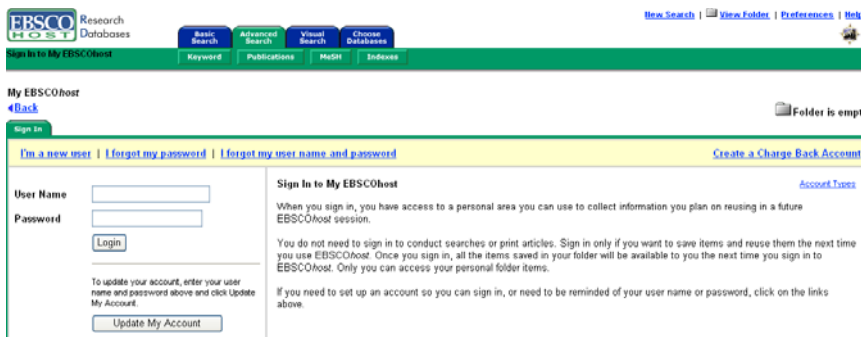


Once inside the folder, the results will be listed and the choice to print, email, save, or export will appear above them with the following icons.



My EBSCOhost

Gives you access to a personal area you can use to collect information you plan on reusing in a future EBSCOhost sessions.



Click on [Sign In to My EBSCOhost](#) located on the left corner of the search screen, Click on “I’m a new user” to register.