



EBSCO Public Session

Advanced Medical Searching in the New EBSCO Interfaces

Tibor Foltinsky, May 21, 2025

Today's Agenda



- 1. Searchable fields in medical databases**
- 2. How to use wildcards, truncation symbols and proximity searches**
- 3. Building of search strategies using Clinical Queries**
- 4. Live Demo:**
 - MeSH/CINAHL Headings searching
 - Citing and exporting records into your favorite citation tool
- 5. Q&A**

MEDLINE Searchable Fields



TX All Text	GN Geographic Subject Minor	NP Named Person	SU Subjects
XB Title and Abstract	CY Country	PG Pagination	TI Title
AB Abstract	DT Date of Publication (CCYYMMDD)	PM PMID	VI Volume
AF Author Address	EM Date Created	PT Publication Type	JN Publication [Exact]
AU Author	CD Date Completed	RN CAS Registry Entry	SO Publication Name
CA Corporate Author	GI Grant Information	DS SCR Disease	TT Transliterated Title
CR Comments and References	GS Gene Symbol	PR SCR Protocol	LA Language
MJ Word in Major Subject Heading	IP Issue	OG SCR Organism	UD Update Code
MW Word in Subject Heading	IS ISSN	SP Start Page	AZ Abstract Category
MM Exact Major Subject Heading	MS Molecular Sequence	SB Citation Subset	AN PMID
MH Exact Subject Heading		CI Contributed Indexing	DO DOI Phrase
GM Geographic Subject Major			

CINAHL Searchable Fields



TX All Text

TI Title

AU Author

AB Abstract

MW Word in Subject Heading

MH Exact Subject Heading

MJ Word in Major Subject Heading

MM Exact Major Subject Heading

SU Subject

DH Exact Minor Subject Heading

SO Publication Name

JN Publication [exact]

AF Author Affiliation

AG Age Group

AN Accession Number

CA Corporate Author

CH Cochrane AN

CR Commentary

CT Gender

DN Dissertation Number

DT Publication Date

EM Entry Date

GI Grant Information

IB ISBN

IN Instrumentation

IP Issue

IR Supplement Title

IS ISSN

JT Journal Title Abbreviation

LA Language

LE Legal

NM Name

NP Named Person

NT Notes

OS Original Study

PB Publisher

PG Number of Pages

PM Medline PMID

PP Pagination

PT Publication Type

PY Year of Publication

RP Report Number

SB Journal Subset

SC Special Interest

SE Series Title

SP Start Page

TC Table of Contents

VI Volume

PsycINFO Searchable Fields



TX All Text

TI Title

AU Author

AF Author Affiliation

SU Subjects

DE Subjects [exact]

MJ Word in Major Subject Heading

MA MeSH Subject Heading

AB Abstract

AN Accession Number

AG Age Group

BK Book Type

CC Classification

CF Conference Information

DT Date of Publication

DN Dissertation Number

PZ Document Type

DI DOI

GR Grant/Sponsorship

AI Intended Audience

IB ISBN

IS ISSN

IP Issue

KW Keywords

LA Language

PL Location

MR Methodology

NT Notes

PO Population

RD Release Date

SO Publication Name

PT Publication Type

PB Publisher

PM PMID

RA Reviewed Author

RW Reviewed Item

SE Series Title

SL Supplemental Data

TC Table of Contents

TM Tests & Measures

VI Volume

PY Year of Publication

New searchable field XB – Title & Abstract



- **EBSCOhost databases that support XB:**

- Academic Search (all versions)
- CINAHL (all versions)
- Medline (all versions)
- Health Business (all versions)
- SPORTDiscus (all versions)
- APA: PsycInfo, PsycBooks, PsycTherapy, PsycExtra,
(PsycArticles and PsycTests coming in July 2025)

New searchable field XB – Title & Abstract



- **XB Display in New UI field code drop-down menu**
 - **XB will only appear in the Field Code drop-down list when doing single-database searches in supported databases**
 - **When doing multi-database search across databases that all support XB, then a command line search using XB will work as intended, but XB will not display in the field code drop down list.**
 - **If the user types XB into a command line search of a database that does not have it, XB will be treated as a word instead of a Field Code, which will skew results.**

New searchable field XB – Title & Abstract



- **Recommendations**

- When searching with XB for a phrase or a concept, it is best to use Proximity search mode
- Otherwise, your search could match records that have some words in the Title and others in the Abstract
- Another option is to use explicit Proximity operators or quotation marks:
 - XB (foreign N3 doctors)
 - XB (“foreign doctors”)

Proximity Searching with „Near“ (N) Operator

- A way to search for two or more words that occur within a certain number of words from each other, regardless of the order in which they appear
- Written as NX, where X specifies the number of words

  

[ClickGen: Directed *exploration* of synthesizable chemical *space* via modular reactions and reinforcement learning.](#)

Autor: [Wang, Mingyang](#); [Li, Shuai](#); [Wang, Jike](#); + dalších 12 • **V:** Nature communications, 2024 Nov 22 • MEDLINE Ultimate

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.

Proximity Searching with „Within“ (W) Operator

- A way to search for two or more words that occur within a certain number of words from each other, in the order in which you entered them
- Written as **WX**, where **X** specifies the **number of words**

  

Correction: Finding a safe *space* for learning and *exploration*: A qualitative study of recently diagnosed men's experiences of peer support for HIV in Sweden.

Autor: PLOS One Staff • **V:** PloS one, 2025 Feb 05 • MEDLINE Ultimate

[This corrects the article DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0283570.]



Searching with Wildcards

- **You can use wildcard and truncation symbols to create searches with unknown characters, multiple spellings or various endings:**
 - **The asterisk (*) matches multiple characters.**
 - **The hash sign (#) matches one optional character.**
 - **The question mark (?) matches exactly one character.**

Asterisk Wildcard

vaccin*



✓ Peer reviewed | Journal Article, Academic Journal

Factors influencing *vaccine* hesitancy toward non-covid *vaccines* in South Asia: a systematic review.

✓ Peer reviewed | Journal Article, Academic Journal

Design of a peptide-based *vaccine* against human respiratory syncytial virus using a reverse *vaccinology* approach: evaluation of immunogenicity, antigenicity, allergenicity, and toxicity.

treating * pain



✓ Peer reviewed | Journal Article, Academic Journal

Comparisons of different electrical stimulation modalities for *treating* visceral *pain* in a rodent model of irritable bowel syndrome.

✓ Peer reviewed | Journal Article, Academic Journal

Needling trigger points for *treating* myofascial *pain* syndrome: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

Hash Wildcard

 ✕ 🔍

✔ Peer reviewed | Journal Article, Academic Journal

POCUS in the PICU: A Narrative Review of Evidence-Based Bedside Ultrasound Techniques Ready for Prime-Time in *Pediatric* Critical Care.

✔ Peer reviewed | Journal Article, Academic Journal

Effectiveness of a hybrid, obesity-specific counselling programme in improving medical students' self-efficacy and motivational interviewing skills for *paediatric* obesity counselling.

Question-Mark Wildcard



AU Drahom?r Vyprachticky



✓ Peer reviewed | Academic Journal

Carbazole-Fluorene Copolymers with Various Substituents at the Carbazole Nitrogen: Structure—Properties Relationship.

By: Cimrová, Věra; Výprachtický, Drahomír; Růžička, Aleš; +1 more • In: Polymers (20734360), Jul2023 • Academic Search Ultimate

Academic Journal

Supplementary Material: Novel and Simple Synthesis of Brominated 1,10-Phenanthrolines.

By: Vyprachticky, Drahomír; Kanková, Dana; Pokorná, Veronika; +3 more • In: Australian Journal of Chemistry, 2014 • Academic Search Ultimate

- Question marks at the end of words or character strings are not treated as wildcards. They are automatically removed from a query.

Combining Wildcards

- **Wildcards can be combined in a search term. For example, the following searches are allowed:**

Search Term **Example Matches**

colo#r* colorblind coloring colorings colorization colorize colored
colouring colourings colourisation colourization colourize
colourized colourizing . . .

p#ediatric* pediatric pediatrics pediatrician pediatricians paediatric paediatrics
paediatrician paediatricians . . .



Restrictions When Using Wildcards

- Wildcards are not allowed as the first character in a search term.
- If there is only one leading character before a wildcard then, there must be at least one additional literal character within the first four characters:
 - **f#r*** allowed because two literal characters are within the first four characters
 - **f??*** not allowed because only one leading character within the first four characters

Restrictions When Using Wildcards

- When using any wildcard in a search term, the plural or possessive forms and any synonyms for the word will not automatically be searched:
 - Example: when searching for colo#r, the plural words "colors" and "colours" are not searched.
- Wildcards do not work with Chinese (中文), Japanese (日本語), and Korean (한국어) languages.
- The use of the truncation wildcard character (*) expands a term in a query up to a limit of 2000 expansions.

MEDLINE Clinical Queries



• **You can refine your search using specific search strategies designed to narrow your results in nine research areas:**

- **Therapy**
- **Diagnosis**
- **Prognosis**
- **Reviews**
- **Clinical Prediction Guides**
- **Qualitative**
- **Causation (Etiology)**
- **Costs**
- **Economics**

MEDLINE Clinical Queries



- **Three strategies are provided for each area:**
 - **High Sensitivity** - the broadest search to include ALL relevant material. It may include less relevant materials.
 - **High Specificity** - the most targeted search to include only the most relevant result set, may miss some relevant materials.
 - **Best Balance** - retrieves the best balance between Sensitivity and Specificity.

Stop words in medical databases



- **The stop words for the EBSCOhost medical databases are as follows:**

- and
- are
- as
- at
- be
- because
- been
- but
- by
- for
- however
- if
- not
- of
- on
- or
- so
- the
- there
- was
- were
- whatever
- whether
- would



 EBSCOhost

Live Demo of searching MeSH/CINAHL Headings

Useful Resources



- [EBSCOhost XB Field Code - Simultaneous Title and Abstract Searches](#)
- [What are the search strategies used by the MEDLINE Clinical Queries?](#)
- [How do I create a proximity search?](#)
- [Searching with Wildcards in EDS and EBSCOhost](#)
- [What are the stop words used in EBSCOhost medical databases MEDLINE and CINAHL?](#)
- [Using CINAHL/MeSH Subject Headings in the new EBSCOhost Interface](#)
- [EBSCO Database Help Files](#)
- [How to Create and Manage a MyEBSCO Account](#)

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Thank you for your attention

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