

PubMed, PubMed Central, MedlinePlus: What's the Difference?

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Outline

1. Comparison: PubMed, PubMed Central, MedlinePlus
2. PubMed Overview
3. PubMed Searching
4. MedlinePlus Overview
5. MedlinePlus Searching
6. Additional Resources and Help

Comparison

PubMed

- Index/db for medical & related literature
- > 20 million citations: Medline database and more
- Scholarly & trade journals, a few pop
- Good for high level audiences (upper level undergrads and above)

PubMed Central

- Repository of free full text articles from peer reviewed medical & life science journals
- Cover-to-cover content of back issues of some journals; other journals only provide selected articles
- I only visit this site when following links from PubMed searches

MedlinePlus

- Consumer health web portal
- Original content + links to librarian-reviewed sites
- Written at 8th grade reading level
- Good for general public + students needing basic info

PubMed Overview

<http://pubmed.gov>

PubMed (1946-present) = Medline + OLDMEDLINE + citations from publishers¹

Medline (largest part of PubMed) is also available by subscription from commercial vendors

- 5,400 current biomedical and health journals²
- Medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, health care systems, some life sciences
- MeSH (**M**edical **S**ubject **H**eadings) indexing
- Useful search limits but no peer reviewed limit
- Links to free full text and article purchases

1. PubMed Fact Sheet: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/pubmed.html>

2. Medline Fact Sheet: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/medline.html>

PubMed Searching

Typically give a huge pile of results.

Keyword searching launches *Automatic Term Mapping (ATM)* to MeSH terms; if no match found, then to journal names, then author names¹

Easy starting keyword searches

- Follow *Limits* link then enter your keywords in the search box at the top
- Or *Clinical Query* at PubMed home (for patient treatment questions) = your keywords. Subject strings and publication type limits run in the background.

Search tips²:

- Use search limits
- “Force a phrase search”
- Accepts AND, OR, NOT
- Truncat* accepted but turns off Automatic Term Mapping

1. Automatic Term Mapping. Glossary. PubMed Tutorial:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/glosswin.htm>
2. PubMed help: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827>

MedlinePlus Overview

<http://medlineplus.gov>

Consumer health questions¹

- Tell the patron clearly that you can't provide medical advice.
- Online health information is not specific to one person's situation.
- Advise patron to discuss concerns and questions with a doctor.

MedlinePlus = consumer health Web portal

- Health Topics – Introductions + links to news, encyclopedia articles, videos, tutorials, clinical trials, directories, PubMed citations
- Drugs, Supplements, and Herbal Information - from American Society of Health System Pharmacists
- Videos, tutorials, interactive quizzes – Diseases, procedures, etc.
- Directories-Links for finding health care professionals and facilities, checking licensing, etc.
- Links reviewed for authority, bias, accuracy²

1. Ennis, L. (2010). It's all about the people. In: *The accidental health sciences librarian*. Medford N.J. Information Today Inc.

2. MedlinePlus Quality Guidelines: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/criteria.html>

MedlinePlus Searching

Includes health topic overviews, external links, drugs, medical encyclopedia, videos, news, etc.

Search Tips¹

- Automatic expansion to MeSH terms
- “Force a phrase”
- AND not needed, but accepts OR, NOT, -, +, *

Additional Resources and Help

PubMed Online Training (tutorials and recorded webinars):

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html>

Gallery of Online Apps and Sites (NLM): <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mobile>

Evaluating Health Information (MedlinePlus page):

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/evaluatinghealthinformation.html>

National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) <http://nnlm.gov/services> or 1-800-338-7657

NN/LM Southeast Atlantic Region: <http://nnlm.gov/sea>

- Webinars: <http://nnlm.gov/sea/services/webconf/index.html>
- Consumer health classes (some online): <http://nnlm.gov/sea/training/chis>
- SEA Currents Newsletter lists events open for general registration
- Other workshops can be offered: <http://nnlm.gov/sea/training/classes.html>

Other organizations:

- ANCHASL (Association of North Carolina Health and Life Science Libraries)
- MAC-MLA (Medical Library Association, Mid-Atlantic Chapter)
- MLA (Medical Library Association)

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

