PubMed Data Search Handout

ABOUT PUBMED

PubMed is one of the largest biomedical databases available (created by the National Library of Medicine in the US). It gives bibliographic access to the contents of journals, and you can search by author, subject headings and keywords.

ABOUT THE MESH

In the dropdown arrow besides PubMed's search box, select the MESH to search a thesaurus of medical terms.

Try the PubMed tips and view the online tutorial available in the "...search databases" box of this page to learn more about using the MESH to do really effective searches in PubMed.

METHOD 1 – FIND DATA BY ADDING SUBJECT HEADINGS TO YOUR SEARCH

Search for the following terms in the MESH. You can explode them or select individual headings from their tree:

- Epidemiological Methods
- Vital Statistics

To find data, simply combine these terms with your topic. For example, you could search for myocardial infarction AND vital statistics.

METHOD 2 – ADD SUBHEADINGS TO YOUR MESH TERM

Search for your topic in the MESH. Then, add a data-related subheading:

- Epidemiology
- Mortality
- Statistics & numerical data

For example, you could search for Myocardial Infarction and add the Epidemiology subheading, search for Lung Neoplasms and add the mortality subheading, search for Accidental Falls and add the statistics & numerical data subheading.

FINDING NOVA SCOTIAN OR CANADIAN DATA

Combine your search term with the Subject heading Nova Scotia.

If you decide to broaden your search for data to include all of Canada, remember to search for Canada in the MESH and 'explode' the term (this will encompass all the provinces and territories).