Bookmark the Biomedical Library’s home page to access the most current links for electronic resources and library services.

For more information, see:

Resources in Medicine - http://guides.library.ucla.edu/medicine

Questions? Send an e-mail message to biomed-ref@library.ucla.edu.
Tips for Searching

- Use the Key Resources tab to connect to databases.

- **Think First:** What is your question and where would you expect to find the answer? Are you looking for the latest research? You know you’ll need an article database like PubMed or BIOSIS. Are you looking for the anatomy of the arm? You are more likely to find that in a textbook. Need statistics on births in California? Think about who would collect the data (CDC in this case) before you spend hours surfing the web.

- **Use Boolean Operators (AND, OR and NOT) and quoted phrases (“”)** Boolean Operators and quotation marks around phrases will help ensure the database picks up your exact search term and will help eliminate the unrelated results.

- **Truncation will increase your results! Use * ? $ !** Each database has its own truncation symbol. Check the help documentation to see which symbol works in the database you’re using. PubMed uses the asterisk (*) after the root of the word. Other databases use ?, $ or !

- **MeSH, the backbone of PubMed!** Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) can translate your question into something more understandable to PubMed and more specific to your topic. How would you describe crystallized stones that painfully migrate through the urinary tract? Kidney stones, kidney calculi, renal stones, etc. MeSH gathers all variations of common medical terms under a single heading (renal calculi) and also lets you mark your search term as the major point of the article. Major points help you eliminate noise from your search results.

- **Clinical Queries: evidence based approach to clinical questions** The Clinical Queries feature of PubMed allows you to focus your search on articles dealing with direct patient care. Results will be narrowed based on the appropriate study design and article type for your question.

- **Don’t forget the Limits!** Limits in PubMed can help you tailor your search results to a particular date range for publication, study type, gender, age group, or journal subset. Core Clinical Journals is a popular limit that can help you reduce the number of citations you retrieve and bring forward articles from major medical journals (JAMA, Lancet, etc.).