MDWF 2003: Searching PubMed

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The following are some research tips that may be helpful as you complete your four research assignments in these two courses.

1. **Keyword searching in PubMed**
2. **MESH (Medical Subject Headings) searching in PubMed**
3. **Getting the full text of the articles you find in PubMed**

### 1. Keyword searching in PubMed

*Advantages of keyword searching: A) Can be a good way to find the appropriate subject heading if you don’t know it. B) This is the best way to search for items containing new terms, distinctive words or jargon.*

**Using a keyword search to find an article in PubMed:**

a. Go to [PubMed](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) via the Library’s [Midwifery](https://library.mtroyal.ca/midwifery) page or use one of the links provided on this page.

b. Enter your keywords into the search box and hit **Search**

c. Click on the title of any article from the results list to find out more.

d. Check out “Getting the full text of the articles you find in PubMed” to find out how to retrieve your article.

**Using a keyword search to help you find an appropriate subject heading:**

a. Go to [PubMed](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) via the Library’s [Midwifery](https://library.mtroyal.ca/midwifery) page or use one of the links provided on this page.

b. Do a search (as detailed above) and select an article of interest to go to a more detailed view.

c. Find the MESH headings listed in the supplemental information at the bottom of the record (see image)

d. If you see a MESH heading of interest you can launch a search by clicking on the heading. Search either MESH (to find more subject headings) or PubMed (to find all articles with that subject heading). If none of the MESH terms are of interest go back to your search results and pick another relevant article.
2. MESH (Medical Subject Headings) searching in PubMed

**Advantages of subject searching:**
A) If there is a list of subject terms (thesaurus) available, it can help you find appropriate search terms or provide you with suggested narrower, broader, or related terms.
B) If you use the appropriate subject term, you will retrieve all items in a database for that topic.

**Search the MESH headings database**

- Go to PubMed via the Library’s Midwifery page or use one of the links provided on this page.
- Change the drop-down box beside the search box to MESH (see image below).
- Use keywords to search for the subject heading that most closely matches your topic. Tip: If you are not finding what you want, use more general search terms and then drill down the subject headings list.
- Select the term you want and select **Add to search builder** and then **Search PubMed** to initiate a search (see image).
There are three ways to get a journal article:

1. **Best option** If the journal is part of MRU’s library holdings you can retrieve it from the MRU library (see detailed instructions below)
2. Second best option (time permitting) Order it via Interlibrary Loan (free to you)
3. Faster option than interlibrary loan Go to the UofC library and access it on their public access computers (you will need to check the UofC catalogue first to ensure that they have access to the journal).

*Best Option* Find out if your article in PubMed is held by MRU Library.
To do this you must:
   b) Be in the Abstract view of PubMed (see image below). To do this: Click on the little arrow beside Display Settings and chose Abstract.

Once you are in the Abstract Display Setting you will be able to view MRU library links for each article, both on the search results screen (see above) and from within the record (see below).
Click on the button to go to the MRU Library page.

Click on one of the Article links to retrieve your article from one of the Library databases (see image).

If MRU Library does not have access you have two other options:

Option 2: Interlibrary loan. Order a copy of the article from another library (free to you). You will need the citation information. If this is your first time using interlibrary loan you will need to make an account. Follow the link to see the instructions.

Option 3. Check the UofC to see if they have access. Go to the UofC catalogue and do a search for the Journal Title to see if they carry the journal for the years when your article was published. You will then have to travel to the UofC to either photocopy the article (if it’s in print) or use one of their computers to access their electronic journals and databases. Note: To get free access to the computers at the Taylor Family Digital Library (main UofC library) you need to present ID and register for a username and password on the 2nd floor of the library.

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