Transcript-PubMed

Library

February 28th, 2019

In this video, I will demonstrate how to conduct a BASIC and an ADVANCED search using PubMed. Then, I will discuss what resources are available to you once you find the article.

# **Basic Search**

Once you are on our Support and Library site, open the “Databases” page from the HBF Online Library menu. Scroll down the database page until you find the link for the PubMed database. PubMed is a helpful resource particularly when you are researching addiction. Let discuss how to use this database.

Let’s say you need to write a paper on co-occurring disorders. First, type in this particular topic, and then, click the search button to the right of the textbox. Because this topic is so broad, the database pulls lot of articles. In order to get the most applicable and relevant articles, you’ll need to narrow your search. Let me explain how to do this.

To the left hand side, you have the ability to filter out certain types of articles to narrow the scope of your search. The first thing I would recommend is to check the “Free Full Text” option so that only full articles will be included in the search. Trust me. You don’t want to find the perfect article, only to find out you can’t retrieve the entire text. If you want to choose articles that are not freely available, feel free to contact our librarian for assistance.

In addition, let’s also pull articles that have been published in the last few years. To do so, let’s click the “5 Years” link under publication. The number of hits has been reduced significantly; however, there are still too many to search manually. Let’s continue to refine the search.

In the search box above, let’s add the word “opioids” to co-occurring disorders. PubMed will now find articles that include both co-occurring disorders AND opioids. Once updated, the search narrows significantly. This amount is much more manageable.

# **Advanced Search**

Now, let’s experience an ADAVANCED search. First, click “Advanced,” which is located right under the search box. All the search criteria from last time are still in play as noted by the “Filters activated” section right above the search box. You can eliminate those settings by clicking on the “Clear all” link, but for this case, let’s leave them, because we still want “free full-text” articles that have been published recently. However, let’s clear the history at the bottom of the page so our search has a fresh start.

Let’s continue to use co-occurring disorders as the primary topic. In an advanced search, we will use the dropdown menus and additional textboxes to create a more focused search. Let’s choose “AND” from the dropdown menu and type in “integrated recovery” in the textbox. In addition, let’s choose “NOT” from the dropdown menu and type in “opioids: in the textbox. In other words, this search pull articles that deal with both “co-occurring disorders” and “integrated recovery” but eliminate articles that also include opioids. By choosing “and,” “or,” and “not” the search will be more narrow and focused. When the “search” button is clicked, a smaller group of articles will be identified.

# **Document Resources**

Since you know how to do a basic and an advanced search, now let’s discuss what resources are available on the actual article.

At the top of the document, the authors and date are listed. Next is the abstract, which will give a synopsis of the contents and will help you determine if this article is what you need. If you feel like it is useful, then, you can click the link below the abstract that says, “Free PMC Article” or you can click on the “PMC Full Text Article” button in the top, right-hand corner. Now you can read the article here or click the PDF link to the right-hand side. Once you are in the PDF view, you can click the downward arrow and save the article to your computer.

Let’s go back to the free full article. On the right-hand side is a “Citation” link that allows us to retrieve the APA citation. You can copy and paste the citation directly into your paper, but be aware that these citations aren’t perfect. Make sure to double-check them against the APA Manual and make the correct changes.

Alright, and that is how you use the PubMed database. If you need more assistance, have questions, or need help researching be sure to talk to our librarian.