Searching PubMed
http://www.emich.edu/library

1) Online Tutorials
   - Videos – 2-3 minutes -

2) Accessing the PubMed Database
   - Click on the Databases tab located on the top of the screen
   - Using the alphabetic hyperlinks across the top, click on the letter P, scroll down to the PubMed database, and click on the PubMed link

3) Hints for Working in PubMed
   - Make sure the image of the light blue open book is on the top left side of the screen if you want to search for journal articles in the PubMed database
   - Make sure the photograph of the birch trees is on the top left side of the screen if you

4) Searching
   a) Keyword Searching
      - In the long Search box on the top of the PubMed page, type in migraine headache and click on the Search button
      - Because the set retrieved is large, add the idea of botox to the search so it looks like this: migraine headache AND botox
      - By adding another concept into the search, you have narrowed the search
   b) To View an Article Citation
      - Click on the title of the article to view the record
      - Also note the Related Citations link on the right side of the screen which may lead you to similar articles
c) Obtaining the Item

- Click the green FindText+ button located at the top right side of each record citation.
- It is necessary that your pop-up blocker be turned off in order for this function to work.
- See this video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsAKL7C4kqo, and this handout http://www.emich.edu/library/help/findtext.php for further help.

d) Basic Subject Heading

- Click on the link for the MeSH Database located on the right side of the screen, under the heading for More Resources.
- Notice that the picture on the top of the screen changes to a grove of birch trees. You are no longer searching for articles in the PubMed database, but are now in the electronic version of the controlled language for PubMed, called MeSH.
- Type in one search term, e.g. migraine.
- Click on the Search button.
- Select the subject heading that most closely matches your topic, e.g., Migraine Disorders, then click on the blue hyperlink for that subject heading.
- Click on the gray tile box called Add to search builder located on the far right of the screen.
- Now, click on the gray tile box located just beneath it called Search PubMed.
- The search will now be run in the PubMed database and you will see the results.

e) Major Concept Subject Heading

- Return to the MeSH database.
- Select the subject heading that most closely matches your topic, e.g., Migraine Disorders.
Click on the hyperlink of that subject heading

When you click on that subject heading, notice the area called Related Information on the right side of the screen.

Underneath Related Information notice the phrase PubMed – Major Topic. Click on this. If this link is selected, PubMed will retrieve citations where Migraine Disorders is the focus of the articles retrieved. If PubMed – Major Topic is not selected, Migraine Disorders may be the focus of the article, or may only be discussed a little bit.

f) Exploding a Subject Heading

Return to the MeSH database

Type in the word migraine in the search box in the MeSH database

Click on the blue Migraine Disorders link

Scroll down the page and see what looks like an outline of words

Notice there are three terms indented under the phrase Migraine Disorders

The term Migraine Disorders can be exploded which means that there are more specific terms listed under the larger heading. If we explode the phrase Migraine Disorders when we search, the results of the search will include articles which also discuss the terms indented under the heading above. This is way to broaden your search.

For example, if we explode the phrase Migraine Disorders, the search will also retrieve articles which discuss Migraine with Aura, Migraine without Aura, and Ophthalmoplegic migraine

PubMed is set to automatically explode a MeSH term unless the box entitled Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy is checked. This box is located halfway down the MeSH page on the left.

If this box is checked, the subject heading will not be exploded.

To run a search where the term is not exploded, check the box in front of the phrase Do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH hierarchy.
Next, click on the Add to search builder tile, then Search PubMed tile.

g) Subheadings

Using the example, Migraine Disorders, above...

- Return to the MeSH database
- Under the subject heading, notice a list of words with boxes in front of them. These are subheadings which allow you to search for your topic in a more specific way. For example, by checking the box in front of the word blood, the search will retrieve articles from PubMed that discuss the blood in Migraine Disorders. This is a way to narrow your search.

5) Applying Limits

- Return to the main PubMed search page:
- Type in your search in the long search box on the main page, e.g., migraine headache and hit the Search button
- Once you see the results, you will be able to apply limits using the filters on the left side of the screen, i.e., types of articles, languages, subsets, ages, genders
- Each time an item on the filter is checked, the limit is applied to the search
- Additional filter options are available by clicking on the more... link located under most limits
- The limits remain applied until you remove them by clicking on the Clear All link located at the top of the screen

6) Combining Sets and Topics

- See your search history on the Advanced hyperlink located below the long search box at the top of the page
- Decide which sets or topics you want to combine
- Under the History section, see the column in the table labeled Search
Select the search set you wish to combine, and click on the word Add located in the column next to the set number, e.g., #12; notice that the set is sent directly to the search boxes above, and AND-ed together.

Repeat this process with the next set you wish to select.

Click on the Search button.