



A MEDLINE Comparison: OhioLINK, PubMed, EBSCOhost, and MD Consult

There are many versions of MEDLINE (OhioLINK, PubMed, MD Consult, EBSCOhost, Ovid, etc.). Most of them contain the same information; they only differ in their search interfaces. The four versions available at MUOT are OhioLINK, PubMed, EBSCOhost, and MD Consult. This guide lists the pros and cons of each to aid in selecting the best database for individual research needs. **OhioLINK MEDLINE is recommended for most types of searching.**

Features	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Access <i>Remote access information is available on the Library's Web page: http://www.meduohio.edu/lib/remote.html</i>	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on MEDLINE link	Free access to anyone with Internet access; from Library's web page, click on MEDLINE link	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on MEDLINE link	On and off campus to registered Mulford Library users; from Library's web page, click on Full-Text Resources link
Available Help http://www.meduohio.edu/lib/education/index.html	Library help sheets and online help	Library help sheets and online help	Library help sheets and online help	Library help sheets and online help

Resources	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Links to selected full-text articles (no version of MEDLINE has the full-text of all articles)	To all online journals available to MUOT; click Find It!	To all online journals available to MUOT if accessed through the Library's web page; click OLinks	To all online journals available to MUOT; click OLinks or Find a Copy	To only to full-text articles in MD Consult; does not link to all of the full-text articles available at MUOT
Links to information about whether the Mulford Library owns the journal	Click Find It!	Click OLinks	Click OLinks or Find a Copy	No

Content	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Years Included	Most recent five-year period 1966-present 1950-1965 (OLDMEDLINE)	1950- present (MEDLINE and OLDMEDLINE together)	1966-present	1966-present (or can select a subset on search form)
PREMEDLINE (citations in process, but not yet indexed)	No	Yes	No	Only those few articles available full text from MDC are available before they are indexed
Out of scope citations, primarily life sciences articles from general science and chemistry	No	Yes	No	No
Citations that precede the date a journal was selected for MEDLINE indexing	No	Yes	No	No

Search Features	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Field Searching (such as Author, Subject, Title, etc.)	Yes, use drop-down menu or search with field labels (click Tips, Help then About this Database)	Click Preview/Index tab; fields in drop-down menu. Preview runs the search; Index results in an alphabetic list for browsing	Extensive drop-down menu in Keyword (in advanced search mode)	Limited to author and journal title; use search fields
Related article searching	Click Top 10 or All Related Records	Click Related Articles link	No	Use Find Similar Articles (for selected articles only)
Thesaurus search option	Default search option; checkbox above the search box	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms or click the green MeSH button at the top of the page	Select Thesaurus On ; however, not able to control thesaurus searching as with other versions of MEDLINE
Medical subject headings (MeSH) look up	Use Search for field (recommended) or Browse > Subject	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms or click the green MeSH button at the top of the page	No
Limit to major subject heading (main point of the article)	In thesaurus, click Focus or Expand/Focus	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms or click MeSH	No
Expand/explode (includes narrower MeSH terms in search)	In thesaurus, click Expand or Expand/Focus	Default explode; use MeSH Database to turn off	Select Suggest Subject Terms or click MeSH	No

MeSH terms subheadings option	In thesaurus	Click MeSH Database link on left side of the page	Select Suggest Subject Terms then click on subject heading; or click MeSH	No
Combine results of two or more searches	Search History or search within results	Click History tab; operators must be in capital letters: AND, OR, NOT	Click Search History/Alerts tab	No; must combine on a single line

More Search Features	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Search one or more subsets of MEDLINE (i.e. cancer, bioethics)	After search, click Limit Search	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab	No
Single citation matcher	No	Click Single Citation Matcher link on left side of page	No	No

Limiting Methods	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Narrow results before search, using available limits	Show Search Limits ; <i>not</i> a complete set of limits	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab	On search form
Narrow results after search, using available limits	All Limit Options	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab	No, must re-run entire search
Language	All Limit Options	Click Limits tab	Click Refine Search tab; full list of languages past English checkbox	No
Human or Animal	After search, Human limit or All Limit Options ; can also limit to specific animal types; also animal classifications (i.e., genus, species) are MeSH terms	Click Limits tab; also animal classifications (i.e., genus, species) are MeSH terms	Click Refine Search tab; can also limit to specific animal types; also animal classifications (i.e. genus, species) are MeSH terms	Drop-down menu on search form
Age (limiting a MEDLINE search by age can be tricky; see help materials for details)	9 options; after search, All Limit Options ; can select multiple age groups at once	11 options; click Limits tab	12 options; click Refine Search tab; can select multiple age groups at once; also all infants, all children, all adults	8 options; on search form
Publication Type	53 types; after search, All Limit Options ; can select multiple types at once	7 types; click Limits tab; use field searching to search for the 46 other types	53 types; click Refine Search tab; can select multiple types at once	4 evidence-based practice types; in Article Type drop-down menu

Review Articles	After search, All Limit Options	Click Limits tab; review is a publication type	Click Refine Search tab	In Article Type drop-down menu
Evidence-based practice resources	No	Click Clinical Queries link on left side of page	Click Refind Search tab; select EBM Reviews	Limit to Cochrane in Article Type drop-down menu; also options in Focus drop-down
Date limits	After search, All Limit Options ; year of publication only	Click Limits tab; date of publication and date of inclusion in PubMed (Entrez)	Click Refine Search tab; date of publication	Search form; date of publication

Citation Management	OhioLINK	PubMed	EBSCOhost	MD Consult
Store/save citations	Click on Store icon	Mark records and select Clipboard from Send to menu	Click on Add icon (looks like a folder)	No
Email citations	Store records, then click Stored Records at the top of the page	Click on Clipboard tab, then select Email from Send to menu	Store records, then click on Folder has items , then email	No
Export citations to bibliographic management software	Store records, then click Stored Records at the top of the page	Click on Clipboard tab, select MEDLINE from Display menu, then select File from Send to menu	Store records, then click on Folder has items , Save to Disk , then Bib Manager tab	No
Store/save searches	Temporary (3 hours) save or permanent download to hard drive	Temporary (8 hours) or a permanent save using My NCBI	Temporary (24 hours) or permanent save on Search History/Alerts tab	No
Current awareness	Manually run a saved search	Use My NCBI	Click Search History/Alerts tab	Weekly summaries of selected journals; News tab, In this Week's Journals