BIM341 - 2018

Literature for a Poster Presentation
- Biochemical Pharmacology

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Learning Outcomes

• Understand some principles of constructing a scientific poster
• Efficiently search the biomedical literature with PubMed
Recommended resources


Available online from USC Library here:


An excellent chapter covering all aspects of the scientific poster.

Some other good tips and examples:

http://guides.nyu.edu/posters
Search Strategies

• Choose appropriate databases (you may need more than one!)
• Carefully construct your search strategy
• Keep a Search History (databases will keep a history for each session)- login to more permanently keep search strategies and results
• Critically evaluate your results!
Choose a database - use the Library Guide
Searching

- All databases use the same syntax...

- **AND** = Combine different concepts
  - e.g. capsaicin and pharmacology

- **OR** = Add similar concepts e.g. rat or pig

- **NOT** = Exclude concepts e.g. bones not ulna
Example search in Scopus - a large scholarly database

Search

- capsaicin AND pharmacology

E.g., "heart attack" AND stress

Limit

Reset form Search
Results in date order - note refining tools & links to fulltext
Advanced Search Techniques – sometimes useful

• Truncation (*) and Wildcard (?)
• Useful for word variant searching
(Symbols may vary between resources)
E.g. wom?n; fluid* (for fluid, fluids, fluidics..)
Put phrases in quotes e.g. “fluid flow”

(For Google, use ~ e.g. ~fluid)
• (check out the help / search tips on the database you are using)
Advanced Search Techniques (continued)

- Thesaurus --directs you to correct subject terms (like PubMed’s MeSH system). Usually more accurate than keyword searching
- (Not available in every database)
- Use database features like “Limits” to target your search
- Specialized databases (PubMed, SportDiscus) may have special tools for health searching

Want to master PubMed searching using the MeSH controlled vocabulary?: Watch this wonderful short tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyF8uQY9wys
I really want the article but can’t get the full text!

Try a Google Search

• [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) (not Google Scholar)

• Search for the title of your ARTICLE
  in parentheses, e.g. “understanding your cat”

You will get links to others’ references, but you may also just get the article. (Persistence and Patience sometimes pays)
Evaluate !- Is it evidence-based?

- Who wrote it? (authority?)
- Date (outdated?)
- Subject coverage (relevant?)
- Bias (not impartial?)
- Format (research or popular?)
- Referenced (sources documented?)
- Where is the source --eg. Academic / peer reviewed journal, or is it a trade magazine?
- What is the source--Primary, Secondary, Tertiary ---evidence-based?

Much more information in our Evaluation Guide
http://libguides.usc.edu.au/help-evaluating