

PubMed Basics: Coverage of the program

Four principles of searching

- Keyword searches and their inadequacy
- Thesaurus based searching for maximum relevance (The most important part of the program)
- Qualifying search terms with fields
- Combining search terms with Boolean operators

Understanding the MeSH thesaurus

- MeSH Terms – their standardization and specificity
- Understanding the Subheadings
- Restricting a search to focused results
- Understanding the MeSH tree and explosion
- Searching using the Search builder

Features in PubMed

- Creating a MyNCBI account
- Saving searches and setting up email alerts
- Creating temporary collections of search results with Clipboard
- Creating permanent collections of search results
- Filtering searches to narrow results
- Finding a full reference if you have an incomplete one

What happens when you learn all this?

1. You retrieve references that are lots more meaningful and relevant.
2. You do NOT have to wade through a large number of result pages
3. You do not need to repeat your entire search activity for updates
4. You will not lose references you find
5. And more....

Reference Management – with Zotero - Coverage

Concepts:

1. Why use a Reference Manager
2. Importance of knowing the structure of references
3. Understanding Zotero (desktop and web versions) and the need to synchronize both

Using Zotero

1. Background – the Zotero Connector and Word Plugin
2. Creating folders and Groups
3. Importing references from PubMed / Google Scholar
4. Adding references manually
5. Adding an article to a bibliographic record
6. Adding an article directly to Zotero and checking the extracted bibliography
7. Inserting citations while writing an article
8. Creating the References section at the end of the article
9. Editing citations and references
10. Citation styles – changing with a single click
11. And... certain other in-depth features

What happens when you learn all this? You will:

1. Not lose references that you found when you searched
2. Organize references by assigning them to articles / sections of articles / topics to follow
3. Save hours of time when you write articles, by adding citations and references with a click, and editing them equally easily if needed