ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source

Advanced Search

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Advanced Search allows you to have more control of a search before you start. You can enter multiple search terms as well as control the fields that will be searched. In addition, you can limit searches to specific date ranges, source types, document types, language, age group, and gender. You can also limit results to full-text or peer-reviewed journals.
You can enter and combine search terms using **Boolean operators** (and, or, not) found in the drop down menu boxes. You can search all fields or specify which fields you want to search by changing the default in the drop down menu boxes.
Choosing search terms

If you’re not sure how to enter your search terms, you can look in ProQuest subject headings or MeSH subjects by clicking on the Thesaurus. There you can find what is the preferred database or medical subject heading. (See the following.)
By clicking on one of the Thesaurus links you can choose to look up preferred medical subject headings or ProQuest database subjects. Here, you can see if your search terms are indexed as subject headings and/or view the preferred subject headings for your terms in the respective thesaurus.

Searching a database using thesaurus or subject index terms will be much narrower than a keyword search because it will retrieve only articles coded for those specific terms in their subject fields. The narrower search should retrieve items of even higher relevance than you might find doing a keyword search.

Earlier we entered the phrase “computerized patient records.” We can check if that is indexed by searching for the phrase in one of the indexes. See the next slide for the result of a MeSH 2018 Thesaurus search for the phrase. (Afterwards, you may want to try looking up the same phrase in the ProQuest thesaurus to see the results.)
Subject headings

Below is the result of a search for “computerized patient records” in the MeSH 2018 Thesaurus.

A variation of the search phrase is found on the list – and if we click the phrase (highlighted on the left), we find that the preferred phrase for “computerized patient records” is **Medical Records Systems, Computerized**.

If we click on the notes icon we can read more about the term to see if it is really what we are looking for.
A search for our other phrase “electronic patient records” yielded no matches in the MeSH 2018 Thesaurus. However, searching only for the term “electronic” did return some possible choices we can try – including “electronic medical records.”

If we click that term highlighted on the left, we find that one of the phrases that might be substituted for it is “Electronic Health Records” – which is, if you’ll remember, a subcategory of “Medical Records Systems, Computerized” from our previous search. (Again, you can look at the notes about this narrower term by clicking on the notes icon.)
Another search in the MeSH headings for our term “privacy” found an entry for “Patient Data Privacy.” There it was suggested that the term “confidentiality” should be used. So let’s do the search again and compare the results. The first search is without looking up subject headings, specifying fields to search, or including limiters. The result is (93,505) citations. The second search using MeSH subjects and restricted to the MeSH headings field, results in a more controlled and relevant list of 79 citations.
Very Precise List of Results
Very Broad List of Results

Doing a broad Keyword (search field: Anywhere) search can have its benefits. Often a result list can help you develop other searches using other terms – particularly if you find a highly relevant item and open the record details.
Attention to Limiters

You can limit search results in a number of different ways. This is especially useful on the broad keyword searches that we just saw.

However, remember you can choose to limit before you do a search. Options include but are not limited to: full-text or peer reviewed articles; particular date ranges; source types; document types; and languages.

Experiment with searching using the tools available in ProQuest Advanced Search. While you are there, you might also want to personalize your search experience by using My Research.

(See more about it below.)
My Research account

Setting up a personal My Research account in ProQuest allows you to personalize your search interface and set preferences when you log in. You can also save searches and documents as well as set up alerts, RSS feeds, and more. Set up a My Research account by clicking on the link on the green toolbar and following directions.
This ends the ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source Advanced Search presentation.

If you have questions about ProQuest Advanced Searching and/or My Research, you might also visit the online help available at the ProQuest website. Simply click on the help icon located on the upper right of every page.

Additional help is available through MU Libraries’ Ask-a-Librarian at:
http://www.marshall.edu/library/services/ask.asp