Literature Review Search Tips

Designing a Search Strategy
- Include a wide range of keywords/synonyms for each of the concepts selected.
- Related terms: brain OR head
- Variant spellings: tumour OR tumor
- Boolean operators (AND, OR and NOT)
- Truncation: random* (for random or randomised or randomized or randomly, etc)
- Group searches in parentheses: Search: (sports AND head injury) AND (children OR adolescents)
- Search more than one database

PubMed
- Enter Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) in uppercase characters to combine or exclude search terms.
- Use filters on left to narrow your search results. Filters will remain activated until you deselect them.
- Check out the search details area on the lower right side of the screen to see how PubMed translates your search. Did PubMed map your terms to MeSH headings?
- When you find one good citation, look at the similar articles for other relevant articles.
- Organize your citations by using the Clipboard.
- Medical Genetics filters are available under Clinical Queries on PubMed homepage.

PubMed comprises more than 22 million citations for biomedical literature in MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher websites.
It’s a small world: fusion of cultures in genetic counseling.

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PMID: 22278215 [PubMed - Indexed for MEDLINE] After finding one good article on your topic, look at the MeSH terms for ideas of other search terms to use.

PsycINFO
- Check Apply related words to search for variant spellings and synonyms.
- Use the Refine your results by subject suggestions on the left to narrow/focus your search results.
- Check out the Cited References to link to similar, older articles.
- Click the Times Cited in this Database link to see similar articles.

Other Resources
- Genetic Counseling LibGuide: http://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/geneticcounseling
- Center for Disability Resources Library: http://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/cdrlibrary
- InfoAble Portal: http://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/infoableportal
- Health and Psychosocial Instruments (available on Databases page)
- OMIM: Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (available on Databases page)

Thesis Databases
- Transnational Alliance for Genetic Counseling Thesis Abstracts: http://tagc.med.sc.edu/abstracts.asp
- Dissertations and Theses (available on Databases page)