Literature Review Search Tips

### Designing a Search Strategy
- Include a wide range of keywords/synonyms for each of the concepts selected
- Use synonyms for concepts connected by “OR”
- 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.
- 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?
- Use **filters** on left to narrow your search results. Filters will remain activated until you deselect them.
- When you find an article you are interested in, use the **Similar articles** link (below the citation/abstract) to find related articles. You can also view the MeSH terms assigned to your article for ideas of other search terms to use.
- Email or save specific citations by selecting the **checkbox** for the citation, then select the "Send to" drop down menu on the upper right to see the available options.
- Medical Genetics filters are available under **Clinical Queries** on the PubMed homepage.
PsycINFO

- 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: [https://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/geneticcounseling](https://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/geneticcounseling)
- Center for Disability Resources Library: [https://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/cdrlibrary](https://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/cdrlibrary)
- InfoAble Portal: [https://uscmed.sc.libguides.com/infoableportal](https://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](http://tagc.med.sc.edu/abstracts.asp)
- Dissertations and Theses (available on Databases page)