



PubMed versus Ovid Medline

PubMed versus Ovid Medline – key points

| | PubMed | Ovid Medline |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freely available to the world Connect through library website for full-text features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library pays for access Connect through library website (requires X.500 login) |
| Currency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated daily Tuesday – Saturday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated weekly (lags behind PubMed) |
| Coverage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searches Old Medline (1950-1966), Medline, and Medline In-Process (newest citations that haven't yet been indexed) simultaneously | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains Old Medline, Medline, and Medline In-Process, but the files are separate |
| Search features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple search box does work behind the scenes, but have to dig deeper to search with more control Automatically searches with keywords and subject headings simultaneously | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User friendly, icon-driven interface keeps search strategy easily visible Automatically maps terms to suggested subject headings and lets you choose what to search with |
| Limits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced search limits can be hard to find Limits stay in effect unless you turn them off or change them | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search limits are upfront and easy to use Limits must be applied to each set individually |
| Clinical Queries (for EBM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In separate section | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In "more limits" section |
| Known item queries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Single Citation Matcher" link on sidebar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Find Citation" tab above search box |
| Find related articles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Powerful "Related articles" link | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionable "Find Similar" link |
| Saving searches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available (MyNCBI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available |
| Linking to Full Text | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Find It" enabled (button within abstract) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find It enabled (button on main page) |
| RefWorks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must save as text file in Medline format, then import to RefWorks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct export to RefWorks |
| Session time-out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 minutes |

More help

- Refer to the "MEDLINE Ovid" and "PubMed" instructional handouts on the Bio-Medical Library website:
 - <http://www.biomed.lib.umn.edu/inst/lcclasshandout.html>

Contact us

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