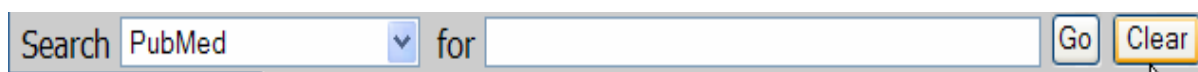


## HINARI Guide to Using PubMed

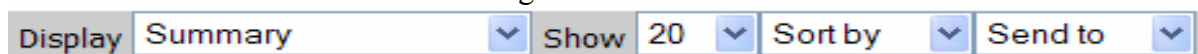
From the HINARI Homepage click on Scientific Publications. PubMed can be accessed from the “find articles” link. Click on [Search for articles through PubMed \(Medline\)](#) (Please note that for you to have access to full text articles you need to login to HINARI using your institutional username and password – you can get these from your librarian).

PubMed is searched by typing the query in the search dialogue box

A screenshot of the PubMed search interface. It features a search bar with the text 'PubMed' inside. To the right of the search bar is a 'Go' button and a 'Clear' button. The search bar has a small dropdown arrow on its right side.

and clicking the ‘Go’ button or pressing enter key.

Once a search has been done there are various display options to view results and actions that can be down with these results using the bar below:

A screenshot of the PubMed results display options bar. It contains four main sections: 'Display' with a dropdown menu showing 'Summary', 'Show' with a dropdown menu showing '20', 'Sort by' with a dropdown menu, and 'Send to' with a dropdown menu.

### Summary

By clicking on the Display drop-down menu a number of formats are available but PubMed uses either summary, brief, abstract, citation or Medline. Choosing the abstract means that search results will be shown with an abstract and other information. The abstract format shows a HINARI link where one can have access to full text at publishers website. Brief format shows the name of first author part of the article title and the PubMed ID, thus one can choose the display format that suits one’s needs

### Show

The “Show” next to the drop down menu with default value of “20” is the number of citations displayed on a single page. By clicking on dropdown menu one can choose the preferred number to be displayed up to 500 citations per page.

### Sort

The search results can also be sorted alphabetically by author, journal or publication date using the Sort drop down menu

### Send to

The “Send to” drop down menu is an instruction on what is to be done with the search results:

### Text

The “send to text” option gives the search result in a printer friendly text format ready to print.

## File

The “send to file” option allows results to be saved to a disk drive

## Clipboard

The “send to Clipboard” option allows one to send selected results to a clipboard where they can be viewed later. The record is kept for a limited time. Items on clipboard can be removed by going to Send To drop down menu and “Clip Remove” .

## E-mail

The “send to email” option allows one to email search results

## Using limits

If one searched for the term TUBERCULOSIS in PubMed, a lot of results will be retrieved which may be too many to go through or mostly not relevant.

One can use limits in PubMed to narrow down the search strategy and retrieve mostly relevant records.



By clicking on the “Limits” link found below the search dialogue menu one is taken to the limits page.

**Limited to:**

|                     |                                                                                                                                       |           |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| All Fields ▾        | <input type="checkbox"/> only items with abstracts                                                                                    |           |
| Publication Types ▾ | Languages ▾                                                                                                                           | Subsets ▾ |
| Ages ▾              | Humans or Animals ▾                                                                                                                   | Gender ▾  |
| Entrez Date ▾       |                                                                                                                                       |           |
| Publication Date ▾  | From <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> To <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> |           |

Use the format YYYY/MM/DD; month and day are optional.

## Field limit

The All Fields dropdown menu allows one to specify the field under which the search should be done and this ranges from author, article title, journal title, affiliation etc. for example one can type Blair Research Institute Zimbabwe in the Affiliation field. This should now limit the search to articles where the first author has Blair Research Institute Zimbabwe in the address.

## Publication type

This limits the search results to one of the following publication types – clinical trial, editorial, letter, meta analysis, practice guide randomized controlled trial or review. Thus if one wants only research articles that are based on clinical trials by choosing Clinical

Trial on Publication Type drop down menu the results will be limited to this type of publication

### **Age**

This limits a search to a certain age group. The age limits are determined by the indexing at the National library of Medicine (NLM). One cannot search across age groups. Pre-defined age groups are given in the age drop down menu. This helps to identify only articles with the target group one is interested in, thus retrieving more relevant documents.

### **Entrez Date**

The entrez Date, limits the articles to the date they were added to PubMed.

### **Publication Date –**

Not to be confused with entrez Date – this refers to the date the article was published.

### **Items with abstracts**

This limits the search results to only articles with abstracts.

### **Languages**

Limits to the seven commonly used languages: However other languages not found on the dropdown menu can also be used by the field identifies (LA) for example Hungarian (LA) will find articles in Hungarian.

### **Human/Animal**

Medline articles are tagged as either human or animal or both. You can either limit to human studies or animal studies or both.

### **Subsets**

PubMed has journals also grouped according to a specific subject for e.g. journals on AIDS, Bioethics, Nursing journals, History of medicine etc. these are called subsets and you can limit your search to any of these

### **Gender**

The gender limit allows one to limit a search to either female or male. This limit automatically searches articles tagged as human.

## **Mesh (Medical Subject Headings)**

To access the Mesh Database, click on the link on the left hand-side of the PubMed Home page. Mesh is the controlled vocabulary used by the National library of Medicine (NLM) when indexing articles for MEDLINE. Use of MESH allows for consistency in indexing articles that may use different terminology to explain the same thing. Mesh terms are organized in a hierarchy from broad to narrower terms. In the example below, a term FACE was used and part of its hierarchy is shown

## [Body Regions](#)

### [Head](#)

#### **Face**

[Cheek](#)

[Chin](#)

[Eye](#)

[Eyebrows](#)

[Eyelids](#) +

[Forehead](#)

[Mouth](#)

[Lip](#)

### **Explode**

The default setting of PubMed is that it explodes the term, meaning that when searching it also searches using narrower terms eg. When one uses the term FACE in one's search any document with narrower terms like cheek, chin, eyebrows etc will also be retrieved. To instruct PubMed not to explode one needs to check the box below subheadings so that the term will not be exploded:

- ☐ Restrict Search to Major Topic headings only
- ☐ Do Not Explode this term (i.e., do not include MeSH terms found below this term in the MeSH tree).

### **Subheadings**

Subheadings probe you further to refine your search just like a Reference Librarian would do if you went with a query. For example, when you search for FACE – the next question would be what about the face? By ticking the subheadings shown below, the search is narrowed

- ☐ abnormalities ☐ analysis ☐ anatomy and histology ☐ blood supply ☐ cytology ☐ drug effects
- ☐ embryology ☐ enzymology ☐ immunology ☐ innervation ☐ metabolism ☐ microbiology ☐ parasitology
- ☐ pathology ☐ physiology ☐ physiopathology ☐ radiation effects ☐ radiography ☐ radionuclide imaging
- ☐ surgery ☐ ultrasonography ☐ ultrastructure ☐ virology

### **Preview/Index**

The preview/index link can be seen from the PubMed homepage. Preview will show the last three search terms and the results with set numbers indicated by the harsh (#) symbol. The index as the name suggest gives the number of occurrences of a given term and the associated number of records. One can use the Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT with the index term to do a search.

### **History**

The history link allows users to see previous searches. Each query carried out is given a sequential number prefixed by the harsh (#) symbol. The set numbers can be used to formulate new searches eg #2 AND #5 will combine query 2 and 5 to produce new results. The set number can also be combined with another term eg #1 AND Cancer. The History can be cleared by clicking the “Clear History” button.

## Retrieving full articles

Remember that access to full text articles not in the public domain is ONLY possible when logged in as a HINARI user by using your INSTITUTIONAL username and password.

After doing a search, change the display to “Abstract”. From the Abstract display, links to full text at publishers will be shown as indicated below:

1: Int J Oral Maxillofac Surg. 2005 Mar;34(2):149-51.



**Lip cancer in Zimbabwe. Report of 14 cases.**

**Chidzonga MM.**

The HINARI link in orange will take you to the article at the publisher’s website where one can then choose to view the full text article either in HTML or PDF format.

| This Document                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Abstract</b><br><a href="#">Full Text + Links</a><br><a href="#">PDF (79 K)</a> |
| Actions                                                                            |
| <a href="#">E-mail Article</a>                                                     |

PubMed has created a Subset of journals which provide full text under the HINARI portal. To access this subset enter “loprovhinari[sb]” in the query menu and click on the “Go” button. This action will retrieve ALL full text articles available through HINARI. Therefore combining your search with “loprovhinari[sb]” will limit your search to full text articles only. For example Malaria in Zimbabwe AND loprovhinari[sb] will retrieve all full text articles related to Malaria in Zimbabwe.

PubMed has also created a subset which gives free full articles to anyone with access to PubMed whether a HINARI user or not. This subset is accessed using “Free full text[sb]” Combining these two subsets gives the researcher access to over 2.5 million articles. The two subsets can be combined in a search as follows: Malaria in Zimbabwe AND loprovhinari[sb] OR free full text[sb] to get all available full text articles.