PSYC 5131 - Getting started with your Research using UConn Library tools

Identify your RESEARCH QUESTION or statement

Example: What is the effect of meal size on obesity or weight?

What are the most important concepts or key concepts in your question?

BRAINSTORM Keywords

Keywords are the main ideas of your research question. Keywords are the exact words used by the author in the title or the abstract and may or may not be the focus of the article. Discover more terms by reading articles that you find!!

Example: meal size, meal sizes, lunch size, plate size, portion size, weight gain, weight increase, obese, obesity, overweight

BRAINSTORM Subject Headings

Most articles are indexed by subject experts who read the articles and assign a specific terminology to describe the content of the article.

In PubMed the subject headings are called Medical Subject Headings or MeSH. When you use MeSH terms you retrieve all records on a subject regardless of the terms used by the author.

To look at MeSH terms for a particular citation, click the title and scroll below the abstract and click .

To find MeSH terms for your search, change drop down menu next to search box from PubMed to MeSH.

Combine both keywords and subject headings in your search for comprehensiveness

- Not every article in PubMed has MeSH terms for various reasons (e.g. in process of being indexed, out of MEDLINE scope, or just released by the publisher) so you will need to use keywords. Keep a list of terms that you like and terms that you will not use in your search.

Select the BEST Search Tools

Databases

Click Research Databases from lib.uconn.edu and select one database at a time.

If PDF link is not available, click UCONN Full Text to link through to the item or to request item via Interlibrary Services.
Examples of pertinent databases for this project are on the EBSCO platform:

- Academic Search Premier
- CINAHL Plus with Full Text (Cumulative index to Nursing and Allied Health)
- ERIC (Education research)
- Medline via EBSCO
- PsycARTICLES
- Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
- PsycINFO
- SocINDEX with Full Text
- SPORTDiscus

Examples of other helpful databases that are not in EBSCO, but available through the library:

- PubMed (including Medline)
- Scopus
- ProQuest Theses and Dissertations
- Cochrane (Systematic reviews and clinical trials)

Full-text Databases

Is a searchable collection of research literature that includes the entire text of an article or book, reproduced as a webpage and/or in PDF format, and other related resources.

These databases may be multidisciplinary (covering a range of subjects) or subject-specific (for one subject only), and are limited in scope!

Example: PMC (PubMed Central), JSTOR

Search box on Library webpage https://lib.uconn.edu/

Searches multiple databases and the library’s catalog at once. The library catalog is an online tool used to find items housed physically in the library and electronic items such as articles, eBooks and streaming media. Remember to SIGN IN to renew what you have checked out, to create and save lists, or to request Items. WorldCat is another tool that searches our holdings and other research libraries.

You can find a lot of research on a topic quickly, but it may bring back too many results from many different fields of study on a topic.

Certain databases (e.g., CINAHL, PsycINFO, or Academic Search Premier) may not be included, so it is still important to check the other databases.
Advanced Search screen is more efficient and much easier to narrow results.

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**Browse journals for information (not always efficient)!**
- Click Find; then click E-Journal Search; enter name of journal
- Browse the **Table of Contents** for each issue OR search for your topic within a specific journal by clicking search box
- View Journal Contents via **BrowZine**

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**Web search engines**

Returns high quantity of results from the full range or sources available on the web. Results are determined by a formula involving popularity and relevancy. May not be the best place to start for scholarly research.

**Example:** Google, [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com)

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**Types of Literature**

Try to find peer reviewed **RESEARCH ARTICLES from academic journals**

**Journal** articles are written by a researcher or scholar for a specific field, some are reviewed by peer scholars before publication.

- You may want to find a *review of the literature* for **background information**
- You may want to include Clinical Trials, Randomized Controlled Trials, Multicenter Study, and Meta-Analysis
- You may want to exclude Letters, Editorials, Comments, Meeting Abstracts, Book Reviews, and Case Reports
**USE Boolean Operators** Insert AND, OR and NOT into your search to broaden or narrow it.

- **Example** obese *OR* obesity *OR* overweight will broaden your results
- **Example** "portion size" *AND* (obese *OR* obesity) will narrow your results
- **Example** Puerto Ricans *NOT* Mexican Americans will exclude irrelevant terms, but use with CAUTION!

**Other tips:**

Use an **Asterisk** * to truncate a root word for more terms (e.g. mimic* will find mimic, mimics, mimicking)

Use double **Quotes** to search an EXACT phrase, use with caution.

Use a **search tag** to indicate term should be found in a specific place: beverage*[ti] AND "Portion Size"[Mesh]

Use **Parentheses** if you are using more than one Boolean

Most databases ignore stop words (e.g. the, if, in, all, any, an, are)

**Let's take our keywords (natural language) and search in CINAHL**

EBSCO platform provides multiple search boxes. Put one topic on each line and click Search

- Narrow topic by adding (AND) another concept (e.g. journal name or author name)
- Use the **pull-downs** in **Select a Field** if you want to look for words in a specific part of the citation (e.g. title, author, or abstract fields) – remember this may drop important articles!
- Click **Search History** located below search box to manipulate search sets, if desired
Click **Show More** under **Refine Results** on left to filter results (select Peer Reviewed, English, Publication Date)

**Note:** If you choose “Limit to Full Text” you will not get the UCONN Links!

Run same search in different EBSCO databases without changing your strategy!

**Step 1.** Click **Choose Databases** to navigate to other EBSCO Databases

**Step 2.** **Deselect the database you were in** (e.g. CINAHL Plus with Full Text) - just remove check mark in box

**Step 3.** **Select the box next to a new database** (e.g. Academic Search Premier) – one database at a time

**Step 4.** Click **OK** button
Now you are running the same search in **Academic Search Premier**

- Click **Search button** to run the search in the new database
- Click **Refresh Search Results** button

**EXPAND your keywords**

- Click **article title** to view the **subject headings** and add those terms as applicable.
  - Open the full text document to:
    - Read article to build search term list
    - Look at the **bibliography** in each article to make sure you have the titles.
    - If you discover an article title that you should have found, find out how that article is indexed

  - Copy/paste an article title of interest in **Scopus** to find other articles that have **cited this article**.

**Let's run the same search in PubMed.**

- Before leaving EBSCO, click **Search History** and copy a set of the best search terms and paste in PubMed search box, click **Search**
  - Use parentheses to delineate each topic or group synonyms
    (meal size OR meal sizes OR plate size) AND (overweight OR obese OR obesity)
Search Details on the results page will show where the terms are found.

Search terms in specific fields such as title [ti], abstract [ab] or both [tiab] to narrow results.

Click article titles to view the MeSH and add to search: "portion size"[mesh] AND ("weight gain"[mesh] OR obesity[mesh])

PubMed Tips:

- PubMed has a special filter that allows you to limit a search to systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Add AND systematic [sb] to your Search set.
- To find meta-analyses, combine the search term, meta-analysis, with your search results using AND.
- Use NOT to exclude items.
- Sort your results by Most Recent. Caution is advised with Best Match, which is available in the Sort menu. Best Match is not a comprehensive search and uses an algorithm which counts the number of times that your search terms appear in a record.
- Add Yale MeSH Analyzer to your browser’s bookmarks/favorites to retrieve the article metadata.

http://mesh.med.yale.edu/help#bookmarklet
Use our Research Guides for more help

Examples: Health Subject Guide or Psychology Subject Guide or Citation Guides

ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH -

- Set up a MY EBSCOhost account to save your work in EBSCO databases:
  - Select located on the top tool bar to create a new account
  - Click blue icon located next to article title you want, once article is saved it turns yellow
  - Once you save articles, click open folder to view you saved citations
  - If you close your browser without saving your work to your my EBSCOhost account you will lose your temporary folder and the contents!

- Set up a My NCBI account to save your work in PubMed
  - Select click and create account
  - Click the box next to the article title you want and send to Clipboard. When finished save to Collections or export to RefWorks.
  - Save your search, save your references, set up search alerts, turn on highlighting for ease of searching

Use a Citation Manager/Reference Manager

An online tool or desktop software used to organize and store citations and full-text articles or other documents, create bibliographies, insert in-text citations into a paper, and share references with research partners.

Example: RefWorks, Mendeley, Zotero

Get full text articles:

- To find all UConn full text articles when searching our databases, NEVER limit your retrieval to full text!

- Look for:
  - PDF symbol which will automatically give you the PDF article
  - HTML symbol which will give you the article in HTML format
UCONN Links if PDF symbol is not given, click UCONN Full Text

- UCONN Full Text may provide:
  - a link to the article
  - a link to the journal website and from there you can search for the article
  - a message saying No full text available

  ➢ click Request this article through Interlibrary Services to order the article from Interlibrary Loan
  ➢ the scanned article will be sent to you via your UCONN email

Evidence-based portion sizes for children aged 1-4 years.
Judy More
ISSN: 1462-2815, 1462-2815

View Online

Sign in to request

No full text available

Additional services

Request this article through Interlibrary Services (Approximately a 1-3 business day turnaround).

Report a Problem For This Resource

Click located on the library website if you have a question.

Valori Ann Banfi
valori.banfi@uconn.edu or at 860-486-2824

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Some of the ideas used in this handout came from Kathy Kavanagh Webb, Research & Instructional Services Librarian kavanaghk@ecu.edu & Elsevier’s Library Connect