



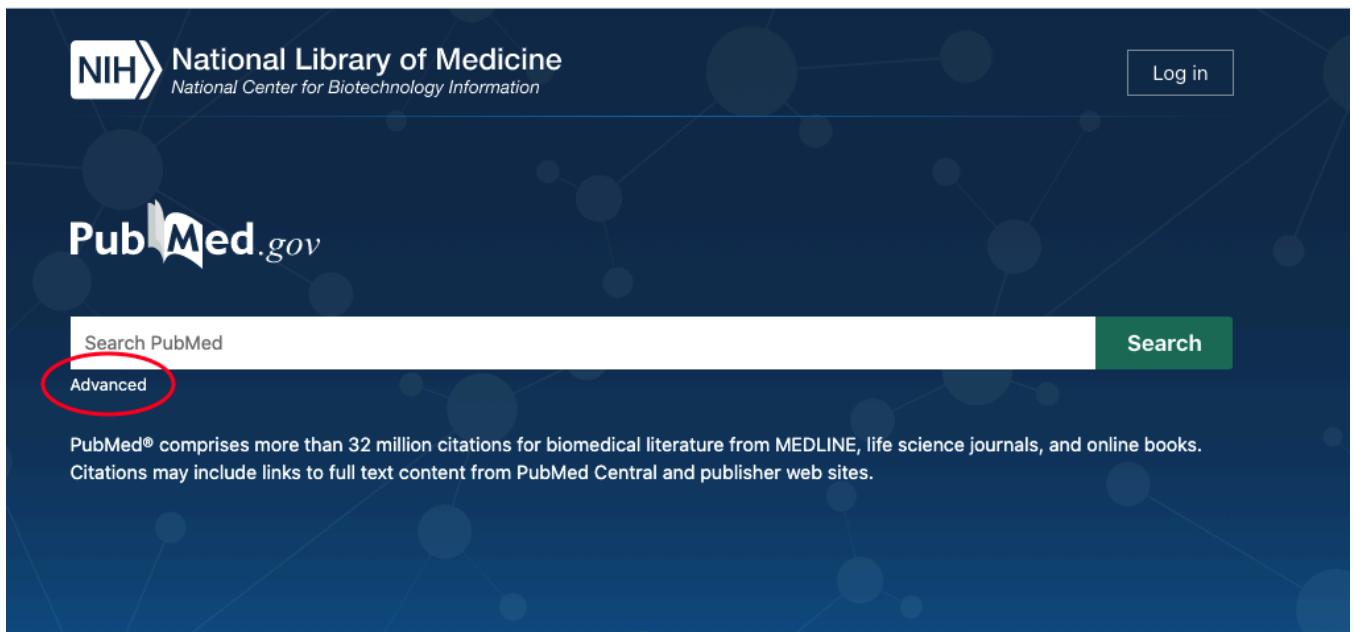
Activity #2: Build a Search

You will use Boolean Operators to build a search with the Advanced Search Builder in PubMed.

Access the PubMed Advanced Search:

Note: It is helpful to do this in a new tab/window, so you have simultaneous access to both the MeSH Database and PubMed.

1. a. Visit [UVic Libraries Database](#) homepage.
b. Click **PubMed** from the list of **Frequently used databases** - OR - search all databases by name and type "PubMed".
c. Click the **Sign in to UVic** button to login via ez-prozy
2. From the PubMed homepage, click **Advanced** under the primary search bar.



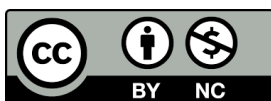
NIH National Library of Medicine
National Center for Biotechnology Information

PubMed.gov

Search PubMed Search

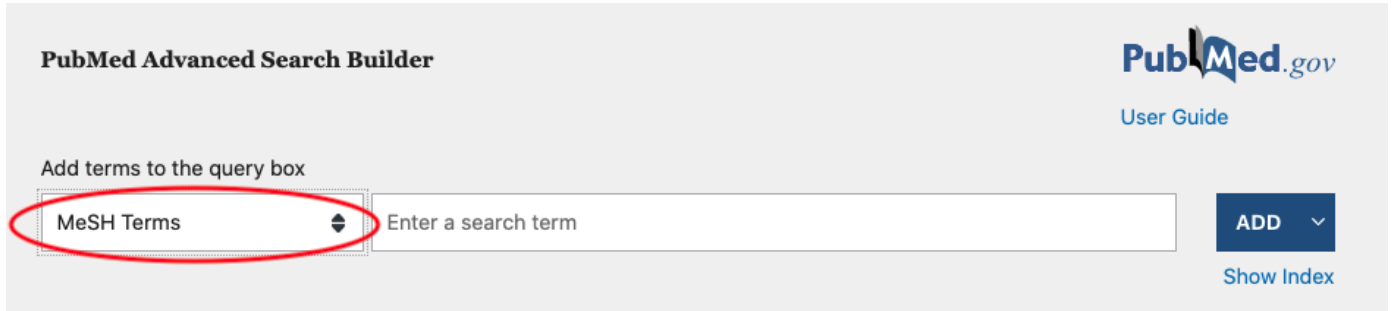
Advanced

PubMed® comprises more than 32 million citations for biomedical literature from MEDLINE, life science journals, and online books. Citations may include links to full text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.





3. a. Select **MeSH Terms** from the drop down menu **Add terms to the query box**.

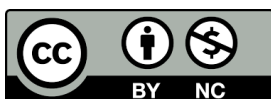


- b. Type in a pertinent MeSH you identified for your research question and/or recorded in the [PubMed Search Builder](#) and click **ADD**. The MeSH term will appear in the Query box.

4. a. To broaden your search, also conduct a keyword search. Select **All Fields** from the drop down menu. Type in a keyword for the MeSH you recently searched.

*Note: Keyword searches help to broaden searches, so use terms that are related to one of your search concepts. Your keyword can be the same exact word as the MeSH, but be sure to use the **All Fields** drop down.*

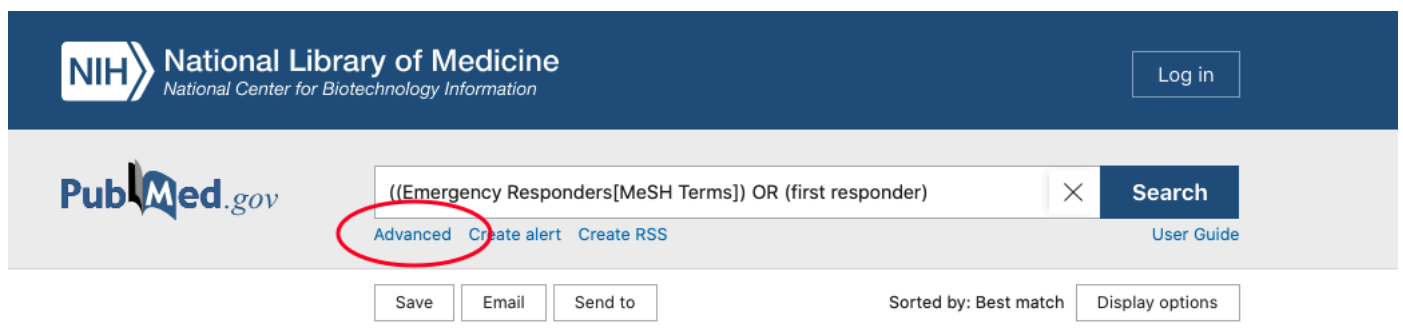
- b. Then, use the drop down menu to change **AND** to **OR**.



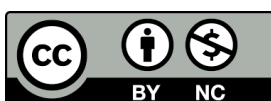



*Note: The PubMed Search Builder reminds you to combine your Keyword and MeSH search with **OR** only if they are in the same Concept row. To combine different Concept rows, use **AND**.*

- c. Repeat this process for as many keywords/MeSH **within the same concept** as you wish. Then, press **Search**.
- d. This is the results page. To return to PubMed's Advanced Search Builder, click the **Advanced** button.



- 5. After searching for *one* search concept's MeSH and keywords, repeat the above steps for *every* concept in your research question.





Your **History and Search Details** should contain several rows of different searches.

6. Then use Boolean Operators **AND** or **OR** to combine your searches. Pay attention to the numbers on the left-hand side of the **History and Search Details** window.

History and Search Details Download Delete

Search	Actions	Details	Query	Results	Time
#3	...	>	Search: "COVID-19"[Mesh]	61,467	16:54:28
#2	...	>	Search: "Stress Disorders, Post-Traumatic"[Mesh]	34,045	16:54:09
#1	...	>	Search: ("Emergency Responders"[Mesh] OR "Nurses"[Mesh]) OR (first responders)	114,477	16:53:43

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

- a. Type the numbers of the search queries (example #1, #2, #3 etc) into the Query box separated by the **appropriate Boolean operator***, **AND** or **OR**. Then press **Search**.

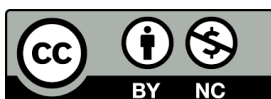
Query box

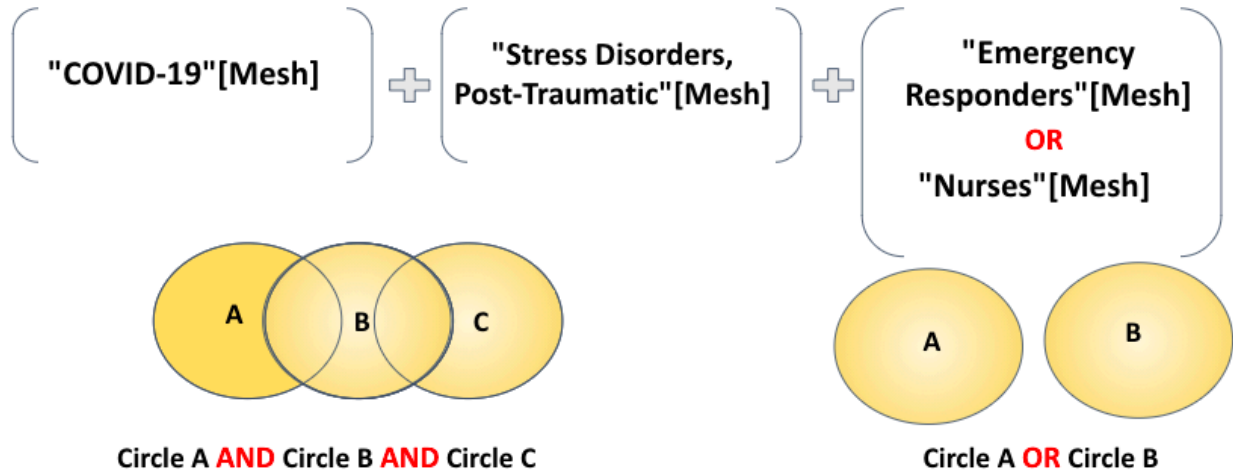
#1 AND #2 AND #3|
X

Search

*Note: The PubMed Search Builder reminds you to combine your Keywords and MeSH found within the same Concept row with **OR**. To combine different Concept rows use **AND**.*

****Boolean Operator example:***





>> [Proceed to Activity #3](#)

Helpful resources:

- [USC's Libraries PubMed Advanced Search](#) / video
- [PubMed User Guide](#) / National Library of Medicine guide

