PubMed, PubMed Central, MedlinePlus: What's the Difference?

Lea Leininger

Health Sciences Librarian

UNC Greensboro

12/9/2011

Outline

1. Comparison: PubMed, PubMed Central, MedlinePlus

2. PubMed Overview

3. PubMed Searching

4. MedlinePlus Overview

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6. Additional Resources and Help

Comparison

PubMed

- Index/db for medical & related literature
- > 20 million citations: Medline database and more
- Scholarly & trade journals, a few pop
- Good for high level audiences (upper level undergrads and above)

PubMed Central

- Repository of free full text articles from peer reviewed medical & life science journals
- Cover-to-cover content of back issues of some journals; other journals only provide selected articles
- I only visit this site when following links from PubMed searches

MedlinePlus

- Consumer health web portal
- Original content + links to librarian-reviewed sites
- Written at 8th grade reading level
- Good for general public + students needing basic info

☺ These are all free sites from NCBI, the National Library of Medicine, and the NIH ☺

PubMed Overview

http://pubmed.gov

PubMed (1946-present) = Medline + OLDMEDLINE + citations from publishers[1]

Medline (largest part of PubMed) is also available by subscription from commercial vendors

- 5,400 current biomedical and health journals[2]
- Medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, health care systems, some life sciences
- MeSH (**Me**dical **S**ubject **H**eadings) indexing
- Useful search limits but no peer reviewed limit
- Links to free full text and article purchases

1. PubMed Fact Sheet: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/pubmed.html
2. Medline Fact Sheet: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/medline.html

PubMed Searching

Typically give a huge pile of results.

Keyword searching launches *Automatic Term Mapping (ATM)* to MeSH terms; if no match found, then to journal names, then author names[1]

Easy starting keyword searches
- Follow *Limits* link then enter your keywords in the search box at the top
- Or *Clinical Query* at PubMed home (for patient treatment questions) = your keywords. Subject strings and publication type limits run in the background.

Search tips[2]:
- Use search limits
- "Force a phrase search"
- Accepts AND, OR, NOT
- Truncat* accepted but turns off Automatic Term Mapping

1. Automatic Term Mapping. Glossary. PubMed Tutorial:
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmedtutorial/glosswin.htm
2. PubMed help: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827

MedlinePlus Overview
http://medlineplus.gov

Consumer health questions[1]

- Tell the patron clearly that you can't provide medical advice.
- Online health information is not specific to one person's situation.
- Advise patron to discuss concerns and questions with a doctor.

MedlinePlus = consumer health Web portal

- Health Topics – Introductions + links to news, encyclopedia articles, videos, tutorials, clinical trials, directories, PubMed citations
- Drugs, Supplements, and Herbal Information - from American Society of Health System Pharmacists
- Videos, tutorials, interactive quizzes – Diseases, procedures, etc.
- Directories-Links for finding health care professionals and facilities, checking licensing, etc.
- Links reviewed for authority, bias, accuracy[2]

1. Ennis, L. (2010). It's all about the people. In: *The accidental health sciences librarian*. Medford N.J. Information Today Inc.

2.MedlinePlus Quality Guidelines: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/criteria.html

MedlinePlus Searching

Includes health topic overviews, external links, drugs, medical encyclopedia, videos, news, etc.

Search Tips[1]

- Automatic expansion to MeSH terms
- "Force a phrase"
- AND not needed, but accepts OR, NOT, -, +, *

1. Search Tips: MedlinePlus: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/searchtips.html

Additional Resources and Help

PubMed Online Training (tutorials and recorded webinars):
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/disted/pubmed.html

Gallery of Online Apps and Sites (NLM): http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mobile

Evaluating Health Information (MedlinePlus page):
http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/evaluatinghealthinformation.html

National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) http://nnlm.gov/services or 1-800-338-7657

NN/LM Southeast Atlantic Region: http://nnlm.gov/sea

- Webinars: http://nnlm.gov/sea/services/webconf/index.html
- Consumer health classes (some online): http://nnlm.gov/sea/training/chis
- SEA Currents Newsletter lists events open for general registration
- Other workshops can be offered: http://nnlm.gov/sea/training/classes.html

Other organizations:
- ANCHASL (Association of North Carolina Health and Life Science Libraries)
- MAC-MLA (Medical Library Association, Mid-Atlantic Chapter)
- MLA (Medical Library Association)

Exercises

- **Participant Exercises:**
http://tinyurl.com/grsmedical

- **Presenter Answers for Exercises:**
http://tinyurl.com/grsmedicalpresenter

Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

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Contact Lea Leininger if you have questions:

laleinin@uncg.edu

Evaluation: http://tinyurl.com/grs-eval11

Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- January 5: Creative Commons with Rosalind Tedford, Wake Forest University

- March 8: International government information with Jim Church, University of California, Berkeley

- Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section. Join us! http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources