How to find Articles for EBP in PubMed

Use these instructions to find articles in PubMed to use for Evidence Based Practice.

Getting to PubMed

1. Go to the Portal. Click on Library under “Student Resources.”

2. Click on the Articles & Databases button on the Library Portal website.
3. Click on “Medical/Allied Health” heading, and on that dropdown menu, click on “PubMed and the National Library of Medicine.”
Searching in PubMed

4. Enter your topic in the top search bar, and click Search. Alternatively, click the word “Advanced” under the search bar to see a set of search boxes. If using Advanced Search, enter one idea or topic in each box.

Top search bar

OR

Advanced search

5. Before looking at results, use the left side menu to narrow your results.

a. Under “Article types,” click customize. In the pop-up box, add a check next to “Meta-Analysis” and a check next to “Systematic Reviews.” This step will narrow your results to those two types of evidence. If there is no meta-analysis or systematic review for your topic, you can remove those checks. You can check other types of evidence, like “Clinical Trial” and “Randomized Control Trial.” (See next page for screenshot.)
b. Under “Text availability,” click “Free Full Text” so that it has a checkmark next to it. This means that the articles you find will be readily available.
c. Under “Publication dates,” pick the dates that you want. For example, you can limit to recent articles from the last 5 or 10 years.

d. Under “Species,” click “Humans” so that it has a checkmark next to it.
e. Click “Show Additional Filters” (at the bottom of the filters), check “Language,” and click “Show.” Then, under the “Languages” filter, click English so that it has a checkmark next to it.

f. Your final set of left side filters should look like this screenshot:
6. To get to the text of an article, click the title in the results list. On the next web page for the article, click “PMC Full Text” (right menu) or “Full text links.” You can read the article, and you may be able to download the PDF for some articles.

7. To get the APA citation of an article, click on “Cite” or “Citation” (right menu) on the next web page for the article. Copy and paste it.

***Tip: Check the citation for correctness. Database citations are auto generated and might not be right.