

**Description**

MEDLINE® is a bibliographic database produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. It covers the whole field of medicine including dentistry, veterinary medicine, and medical psychology. Clinical and preclinical medicine, anatomy, pharmacology, toxicology, genetics, microbiology, pathology, environmental health, occupational medicine, psychology, biomedical technology, health planning and administration, space life science, and many other related subject areas are included.

Subjects are easily accessed by means of the NLM's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH®) and ProQuest Dialog™ offers a thesaurus to take full advantage of these.

The greater part of MEDLINE consists of fully indexed documents, but there are also several types of 'in process' documents, including those known as 'Publisher' documents, which are early-release, electronic versions posted to the Web before full bibliographic information is known.

Information for MEDLINE is taken from about 5,500 journals in more than 70 countries.

**Date Coverage**

1990 – present  
 1950 – present  
 1950–1989

**Geographic Coverage**

International

**Publisher**

MEDLINE is produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Questions concerning file content should be directed to:

National Library of Medicine

Customer Services Section  
 8600 Rockville Pike  
 Bethesda, MD 20894

**Telephone:**

301-594-5983

888-346-3656

**Fax:**

301-402-1384

**E-Mail:**

custserv@nlm.nih.gov

**Terms & Conditions**

MEDLINE is a registered trademark of the National Library of Medicine. The following terms and conditions also apply.

Some material in the NLM databases are from copyrighted publications of the respective copyright claimants. Users of the NLM databases are solely responsible for compliance with any copyright restrictions and are referred to the publication

**Subject Coverage**

**MEDLINE** covers virtually every area in the broad field of biomedicine, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Clinical Medicine
- Experimental Medicine
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Hospital Literature
- Paramedical Professions
- Communication Disorders
- Population and Reproductive Biology
- Pharmacology and Pharmaceuticals
- Psychiatry and Psychology
- Education of Health Professionals
- Health Services Administration
- Environment and Public Health
- Veterinary Medicine
- Behavioral and Mental Disorders
- Health Occupations
- Occupational Medicine
- Nutrition
- Pathology
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Toxicology
- Medical Specialties (e.g., Cardiology, Neurology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics, Surgery, etc.)

**Update Frequency**

Daily with annual refresh

**Document Types**

Journal articles

data appearing in the bibliographic citations, as well as to the copyright notices appearing in the original publications, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

NLM represents that the data provided under this Agreement were formulated with a reasonable standard of care. Except for this representation, and as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, NLM makes no representation or warranties, expressed or implied. This includes, but is not limited to, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, with respect to the NLM databases, and NLM specifically disclaims any such warranties and representations.

NLM grants permission for users who search NLM databases on Dialog to retrieve citations/records and store them in personal files for subsequent use or transmit them to other individuals for their subsequent use, as long as this use does not constitute a substitute for searching the databases. The Library would be concerned if searchers were retaining records and using them over the years, since this "file" would not benefit from the error correction, maintenance, and other quality control measures that the Library requires as part of its license agreement. NLM requires no payment for such use of its records. Users contemplating more extensive redistribution should be referred to the copyright clause in the license agreement. NLM does not require payment for this use of the records.

[Dialog Standard Terms & Conditions](#) apply.

Notes:

Field codes may be used in searches entered on the Basic Search, Advanced Search and Command Line Search pages. The tools available for searching are [Search fields](#), [Limit Options](#), [Command Line Common Concepts](#), [Browse Fields](#), [Thesaurus](#), ["Narrow Results By" Limiters](#) and [Look Up Citation](#). Each is listed separately below. Some data can be searched using more than one tool.

## SEARCH FIELDS

Field Name	Field Code	Example	Selectable from Advanced Search form drop-down menu	Available as Limit Option	Available Look up / Browse	Displayed in Document View	Description and Notes
Abstract	AB	ab(hepatotoxicity and tuberculosis)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Accession number	AN	an(18836195)	Yes	No	No	Yes	A unique document identification number assigned by the information provider, NLM.
All fields	ALL	all("homeobox a" and "prostaglandin h synthase-2")	Yes	No	No	Yes	Searches all fields in bibliographic files. Use proximity and/or Boolean operators to narrow search results.
All fields	--	"homeobox a" and "prostaglandin h synthase-2"	Yes	No	No	Yes	Same as ALL field code. Searches all fields.
Alternate title	OTI	oti(accouchement des patientes enceintes infectées par le vih)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Includes alternate and original language of document title, if available.
Author affiliation	AF	af("institute of animal reproduction and food research") af(france)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Includes as much data as is available in the original document, such as department, organization, address, city, state, country, author email, etc.
Author	AU	au(ziecik, adam j) au(ziecik, adam)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Includes all Authors. NOTE: Author name is searched with an implied

Field Name	Field Code	Example	Selectable from Advanced Search form drop-down menu	Available as Limit Option	Available Look up / Browse	Displayed in Document View	Description and Notes
		au(ziecik, a) au(ziecik)					proximity operator of NEAR: peter smith-jones" is searched as "peter near/1 smith near/1 jones".
First author	FAU	fau(reiss, m)	No	No	No	Yes	First name listed in Author field.
CAS® Registry Number	RN	rn(541-50-4)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Also searchable using the Substance search field (SUBST).
Corporate author	CA	ca("residency review and redesign in pediatrics committee")	No	No	No	Yes	
Date completed	DCOM	dcom(2009-02-19) dcom(20090219) dcom(>20090219)	Yes	No	No	Yes	The date on which the NLM completed the record and added MeSH indexing. Date range searching is supported.
Date created	DCRE	dcre(2011-09-22) dcre(20110922) dcre(>20110922)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The date on which the NLM created the record; it may not have any MeSH indexing at this stage. Date range searching is supported.
Date revised	DREV	drev(2009-11-18) drev(20091118) drev(>20091118)	Yes	No	No	Yes	The date on which the NLM revised the document (it could be years after created/completed dates). Date range searching is supported
Document Title	TI	ti(hiv and women)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Includes Alternate Title (OTI), but not Publication Title (PUB).
Document type	DTYPE	dtype("clinical trial")	No	Yes	No	Yes	
DOI (Digital object identifier)	DOI	doi(10.1111/j.1365-2141.2010.08426.x)	No	No	No	Yes	
From database	FDB	fdb(medlineprof) fdb(10000136)	No	No	No	--	Useful in multi-file searches to isolate records from a single file.*
Genetic information	GEN	gen(hm744763)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Included in less than 1% of MEDLINE documents.
ISSN	ISSN	issn(0036-8075) issn(00368075)	No	No	No	Yes	Also searchable via the Look Up Citation tool.
Issue	ISS	iss(12) iss(supp)	No	No	No	Yes	Also searchable via the Look Up Citation tool.
Journal code	JC	jc(0231335)	No	No	No	Yes	A code assigned to each journal indexed in Medline by the NLM.
Journal title	JN	jn(cardiology) jn(american journal of cardiology)	No	No	No	Yes	Look up list available under Publication title.
Keywords/ Identifiers	IF	if(diabetes)	No	No	No	Yes	Included in about 10% of MEDLINE documents;

Field Name	Field Code	Example	Selectable from Advanced Search form drop-down menu	Available as Limit Option	Available Look up / Browse	Displayed in Document View	Description and Notes
							these are supplied by partners to the NLM, such as NASA and the Kennedy Institute of Ethics.
Language	LA	la(french)	No	Yes	No	Yes	The language in which the document was originally published.
Last update date	LUPD	lupd(20110415)	No	Yes	No	Yes	
MeSH subject	MESH	mesh(heart) mesh.exact(heart) mesh("heart diseases") mesh.explode("heart diseases") mesh("heart diseases" Ink su) mesh("heart diseases" Ink surgery) mesh.explode("heart diseases" Ink su) mesh.explode("heart diseases" Ink (su or dh)) mesh.explode("antipsychotic agents" Ink qx)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	These are thesaurus terms. mesh(heart) = 'heart' as a single term and as part of a longer phrase (e.g. 'heart diseases') .  mesh.exact(heart) = 'heart' as a single term only.
MeSH qualifier	QU	qu(adverse effects) qu(ae)	No	No	No	Yes	MeSH subheadings. List available from the Help page (top right-hand corner of Advanced Page; then 'Resources', then 'MeSH and EMBASE Quick Codes').
Major MeSH	MJMESH	mjmesh(peptide) mjmesh("peptide initiation factors") mjmesh.explode("peptide initiation factors")	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	These are thesaurus terms.
Major subject	MJSUB	mjsub("initiation factor 1")	No	No	No	No	Alternative to MJMESH for crossfile searching.
MEDLINE document status	DSTAT	dstat("in process") dstat("in process" or "in data review" or "publisher")	No	No	Yes	Yes	Indicates the status of the record.
Note	NT	nt(electronic)	No	No	No	Yes	Notes on the publication model.
Original title	OTI	oti("interpretation von laboruntersuchungen bei allergien beim hund")	Yes	No	No	Yes	Original-language document title.
Pagination	PG	pg(5-9)	No	No	No	Yes	The start page is searchable on the Look Up Citation page.

Field Name	Field Code	Example	Selectable from Advanced Search form drop-down menu	Available as Limit Option	Available Look up / Browse	Displayed in Document View	Description and Notes
Person (as subject)	PER	per(alexander fleming)	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Place of publication	CP	cp(england)	Yes	No	No	Yes	
Publication date	PD	pd(201110415) pd(>20110415) pd(>=20110415) pd(<20050630) pd(2010101 - 20110201) pd(2010-10-18)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Date range searching is supported.
Publication title	PUB	pub("journal of pain research") pub("j pain res")	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Journal title. Full title is displayed and searchable; abbreviated form is searchable only.
Publication type	PSTYPE	pstype(journal)	No	No	No	Yes	All records in MEDLINE are from journals.
Publication type	PT	pt(scholarly journals)	No	No	No	No	Alternative to PSTYPE for cross-file searching.
Publication year	YR	yr(2007) yr(>2011)	No	No	No	Yes	
Subject	SU	su("diabetes mellitus")	No	No	No	Yes	Includes MeSH terms (MESH) and Identifiers (IF).
Substance	SUBST	subst(flouxetine) subst(54910-89-3)	No	No	No	Yes	Also searchable using the Registry Number search field (RN).
Volume	VO	vo(5)	No	No	No	Yes	Also searchable via the Look Up Citation tool.

\*Go to Field Codes Help in Advanced Search. Click 'Search' (bottom left nav.) and enter: "fdb" then click: Search. Click: "Targeting databases when you search." This retrieves the list of database names and codes that can be searched with FDB.

## LIMIT OPTIONS

Limit options are quick and easy ways of searching certain common concepts. On the Advanced search page check boxes are available for:

**Humans, Animals, Males, Females, Reviews, Clinical Trials, Abstract included**

Short lists of choices are available for:

**Document type, Language, Age group, Document status, Journal classification**

**Date limiters** are available in which you can select single dates or ranges for date of **publication** and date **created** (by the NLM).

## COMMAND LINE COMMON CONCEPTS

On the Command Line search page you can add common concepts to your search as follows:

AND HUMAN(YES), AND ANIMAL(YES), AND FEMALE(YES), AND MALE(YES)

Find review articles with the strategy:

DTYPE(REVIEW OR "META ANALYSIS" OR "CONSENSUS DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE" OR GUIDELINE)

Find clinical trials with the strategy:

DTYPE("CLINICAL TRIAL\*" OR "CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL" OR "MULTICENTER STUDY" OR "RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIAL") OR MESH.EXACT.EXPLODE("CLINICAL TRIALS AS TOPIC")

Find priority journals with the strategy:

JCLASS(ABRIDGED INDEX MEDICUS)

Find complete, indexed documents with the strategy:

DSTAT(MEDLINE)

and in-process documents with:

DSTAT(PUBLISHER OR "IN DATA REVIEW" OR "IN PROCESS")

Find articles with abstracts with the search term:

ABANY(YES)

## ***BROWSE FIELDS***

You can browse the contents of certain fields by using Look Up lists. These are particularly useful to validate spellings or the presence of specific data. Terms found in the course of browsing may be selected and automatically added to the Advanced search form. Look Up lists are available on the Advanced search page in the fields drop-down and in the search options for:

**Author, Author affiliation, CAS® Registry Number, Major MeSH, MeSH**

and in the fields drop-down only for:

**Publication title**

## ***THESAURUS***

The MeSH Thesaurus is available by clicking on the "Thesaurus" hyperlink on the right side of the Advanced Search and the Command Line Search pages. Thesaurus terms may be searched within the thesaurus, then selected to be added automatically to the search form.

MeSH subheadings are available both in the Thesaurus and from the Help page (top right-hand corner of any page; then 'Resources').

## ***"NARROW RESULTS BY" LIMITERS***

When results of a search are presented, the results display is accompanied by a list of "Narrow results by" options shown on the right-hand panel. Click on any of these options and you will see a ranked list showing the most frequently occurring terms in your results. Click on term(s) you wish to include or exclude and apply them to ("narrow") your search results. "Narrow results by" limiters in MEDLINE include

**Document type, Author, CAS® Registry Number, Language, MeSH, Major MeSH, Publication title, Journals classification, Publication date**

## ***LOOK UP CITATION***

If you need to trace a particular bibliographic reference, use the Look Up Citation feature. Find a link to this toward the top left-hand corner of the Advanced Search page, or in the drop list under Advanced on any search form; click this and you will go to a page where you can enter any known details of the citation, including document title, author, journal name, volume, issue, page, publication date, ISSN.

## **MEDLINE: document status, annual reload, revisions**

### **DOCUMENT STATUS**

The status of the document is indicated by one of six phrases:

PUBLISHER, IN-DATA-REVIEW, IN-PROCESS, MEDLINE, OLDMEDLINE and PUBMED-NOT-MEDLINE.

A document can be in any one of these states, but the vast majority of them are 'MEDLINE', i.e., fully indexed with MeSH headings and verified. 'Publisher', 'In-Process' and 'In-Data-Review' records are those which are put into MEDLINE quickly to ensure currency of the information, and they do not have any indexing.

In-Process are the NLM's own documents; In-Data-Review and Publisher are those supplied by other information providers to the NLM. In addition, Publisher articles are those appearing on the Web before they have been assigned to a specific journal issue so they do not yet have full bibliographic details.

All of these 'in-processing' types are reviewed subsequently by the NLM and most are indexed and moved into complete MEDLINE status, at which time they are sent to ProQuest's MEDLINE again when they overwrite the earlier in-process record.

A few documents remain out of MEDLINE's usual scope and are not subsequently indexed with MeSH, though they stay in the database and have full bibliographic information; these are the 'PubMed-not-MEDLINE' records.

Records created in the period 1950-1965 were formerly known as 'OLDMEDLINE' records, but most of these have now been re-named simply as 'MEDLINE' records as they have current MeSH terminology. A few remain as 'OLDMEDLINE'.

You can see these status indicators in the 'MEDLINE document status' field, and search them using the field code DSTAT or choose an option from the short 'Document status' check-box list.

Publisher, In-Process and In-Data-Review records are added daily to MEDLINE.

### **MEDLINE'S ANNUAL RELOAD**

Every December the NLM provides a complete reload of MEDLINE to incorporate the annual changes to the MeSH headings and any other changes they may have made. The NLM ceases to update MEDLINE toward the end of November, and they start again after they have supplied the reload in December.

### **REVISED DOCUMENTS**

The NLM carries out a continuous program of editing and revising documents as new information about older records becomes available. Three fields toward the end of the document display the dates on which the record was created, revised and completed.

Occasionally the period between the date on which the record was created and the date on which it was revised or completed is long – sometimes many years. It can therefore happen that a document created in 1965 is revised or completed in 2011. When revised or completed, the document enters the database again (as described above, as part of the review/completion process). Such documents will appear in the results of your searches; if you wish to exclude them from your results, you should add a publication year to your strategy (e.g. AND PY(>=2011)).

The revisions might consist of corrections to misspellings in author names, words in the title or abstract, incorrect pagination; changes to journal abbreviations or ISSNs; the addition of registry numbers, etc. The NLM does not indicate the nature of the revision when they supply these documents.

### **Contact the Dialog Knowledge Center**

Within North America 1 800 3 DIALOG (1 800 334 2564)

Outside North America 00 800 33 DIALOG (00 800 33 34 2564)

Email: [Customer@dialog.com](mailto:Customer@dialog.com)