

Some PubMed Search Syntax Examples

The information below is derived from this web page that explains advanced PubMed search syntax: <http://tinyurl.com/rtrhr>

Some common search field indicators are:

[la] for language

[ta] for journal title

[vi] for volume number

[ip] for issue number

[pg] for first page number

[dp] for date of publication

[pt] for publication type

An important form to note is that Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) must be in all-caps or they will be treated as part of a phrase and return no results.

Examples:

stem cells AND english [la]
finds articles in English about stem cells.

To search this citation:

Nature 444(7118):481-485, 2006.

Enter:

nature [ta] AND 444 [vi] AND 7118 [ip] AND 481 [pg] AND 2006 [dp]

This would also work:

nature [ta] AND 444 [vi] AND 481 [pg]

(differentiat* OR plasticity) AND adult stem cells AND 2003:2007 [dp] NOT review [pt]

finds articles on adult stem cells and either plasticity or differentiation (or other forms of that word) that are not review articles and were published from 2003 through 2007.

The reason for those dates is that a lot of the citations and abstracts in PubMed for 2008 seem to be pre-pub, and these articles might not yet actually be available via interlibrary loan or any other means.