What is MEDLINE?

MEDLINE is the largest biomedical information database in the world. It is maintained by the National Library of Medicine, and contains citations dating back to 1946.

How do I access Ovid Medline?

Users on campus can access Ovid Medline from the Library’s homepage. If you will be using Ovid Medline from a non-Rush computer, you will also need to use a proxy account login and password. This can be either your Rush Network ID, Epic ID, or a specific proxy login and password. The link to Ovid Medline is in the Quick Links column on the Library’s home page.

http://rushu.libguides.com/

Questions?
(312) 942-5950
Lib_Ref@rush.edu
The Ovid Search Screen

The search box below is the starting point for all Ovid Medline database searches. Ovid Medline works most effectively when one subject is searched at a time. To begin a search for journal articles about pain in prostatectomy patients, the search can be separated into two specific components: pain and prostatectomy. Type pain into the search box.

Click the Search button located to the right of the box. Ovid Medline uses a system called mapping to suggest the most relevant subject headings to the words typed into the box. The suggested subject headings for the word pain are shown in the left-hand image below. For this search, we are interested in the checkmarked subject heading. To view other terms included in the subject heading, click the underlined heading, Pain. The terms in the right-hand image below fall beneath pain in the MeSH tree.
MeSH and the MeSH Tree

The National Library of Medicine has created a system called MeSH, which stands for Medical Subject Headings. Subject headings can be used to decrease the number of results. Each article is categorized and has MeSH terms assigned to it. Articles about similar subjects receive similar subject terms. MeSH terms are set in an arrangement called a MeSH tree.

Above is the MeSH tree for the search term pain. For example, back pain is a more specific type of pain. To retrieve results about back pain, check the box to the left of the term back pain and retrieve 5987 articles. However, in this particular search, we are interested in articles about all different types of pain experienced by men undergoing prostatectomy. To select all the different articles about pain, check the Explode box located to the right of the term pain. The results generated will include every article that includes pain as an assigned subject heading.

The Focus box works differently. Selecting Focus generates a search in which the subject heading is one of the main points of the article. Once we have determined whether or not to Explode and/or Focus our search, we can click Continue.

SubHeadings

Subheadings help focus your search. The Subheadings list changes according to the subject heading selected. Select one or more subheadings by clicking the box in front of the desired SubHeading. If you do not wish to choose individual subheadings, place a check in the Include All Subheadings box, near the top of the screen.
Combining Search Terms

Using the same steps used for the term “pain”, create a search set for prostatectomy. Next, let’s combine the searches about pain and prostatectomy together into one set. First, select both sets of results by checking the boxes to the left of each set. Click And.

The third row in the adjacent image represents the articles about both of the subjects: pain and prostatectomy. Automatically, Ovid Medline displays the first 10 search results. To display all the articles contained in the third set, click Display at the right.

Limits

Limits help to narrow your search. A limit assigns a specific parameter to your search, such as patient gender or age, publication year, and type of article (review, clinical trial, etc.). To use the Limit feature, at least one set must be in your search history. The blue box below shows the most frequently used Limits available in the Ovid Medline databases.
Results

A typical citation looks like this:

To access the full text of an article, click the link that says Get It @ RUSH. If the Library has an active subscription to the journal, there will be a full text link near the top of the browser window that appears. Additionally, more information about the article can be found by clicking Complete Reference. Useful areas of the Complete Reference are shown below.
Creating a List

When reviewing a set of results, each citation has a small box located to the left. To create a list of results from your search, check the box next to each citation. Click *Keep Selected* to add the items to your search history. Once created, the list can be printed, emailed, or exported. This list can also be used with a bibliographic management product, such as RefWorks.

![Image of a list creation process]

The selected articles appear as a separate set in the search history

<table>
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<th>#</th>
<th>Searches</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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</thead>
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<td>350907</td>
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<td>Display Results More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>exp Prostatectomy/</td>
<td>28210</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display Results More</td>
</tr>
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<td>1 and 2</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display Results More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>from 3 keep 5-7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display Results More</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using your Results

Once you have gathered your citations in Ovid Medline, you can print, email, and export citations. Users also have the option to add their results to My Projects. My Projects is useful to store groups of citations, searches, full text, and some graphics. 50 MB of storage is provided for each account.

![Image of My Projects feature]

The reference librarians are available to answer any additional questions you may have about the Ovid Medline database. Please contact the Library at (312) 942-5950 or lib_ref@rush.edu.