

Madigan Library

Physician Assistant Library Research Guide

Librarian: [Judy McConnell](#), MSLS, Associate Professor

The objectives of this Guide are to enable you to:

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[Use Subject Guides](#)

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This guide is available on the [Madigan Library Homepage](#) under “**Resources by Subject**”
-> “**Health Sciences**” -> “**Physician Assistant**” -> “**PHA Library Research Guide**”

Get Research Help

From the [Madigan Library Homepage](#):

[Ask a Librarian](#) (IM reply during [library hours](#))

AOL Messenger

- [PCTLibRef](#)
- [Text Us](#)

Madigan Library Reference Desk: 1-800-367-9222 (#9) or 570-320-2409

[Academic Support Services Tutoring Center](#)

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Request Articles & Books

[Locate journals, magazines, newspapers](#) (Journal Locator)

Check here to see if a title of a journal is in the Madigan Library or full text in a database.

[Interlibrary Loan](#) (ILLiad)

Request articles and books not found in the Madigan Library or Library Databases. Articles emailed in 2-3 days, books shipped in 2-3 weeks. Contact Connie Rice, crice@pct.edu if you have questions.

Register as a "First Time User" before your first request is submitted.

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Use Subject Guides

[Health Sciences Subject Guide](#)

Find links to health related sources, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, Medicine & Health Databases, and Citing Your Sources.

[Physician Assistant Subject Guide](#)

A comprehensive research guide for physician assistant assignments.

Cite your Sources

Use [Cite Your Sources](#) for links to APA and AMA style manuals. Pennsylvania College of Technology subscribes to the online [AMA Style Manual](#) where you can search or “Go directly to section:” of the AMA Style Manual.

NOTE: only 5 simultaneous users. Check back later, if you cannot get on.

From the list of [Medicine & Health](#) Click on “related info” beside the name of the Database for directions on automatically citing your sources.

For example: [ProQuest Medical Library | related info.](#)



As you find citations within a databases, look for “cite/citing” help

Don't forget to [Avoid Plagiarism](#)

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Create an EBM Research Strategy

PICO

Beginning with a good clear question, there is a better chance of finding matching results.

A "well-built" question should include four parts, referred to as PICO [patient problem or population \(P\)](#), [intervention \(I\)](#), [comparison \(C\)](#) and [outcome\(s\) \(O\)](#). [1](#)

The following from the [University of Southern California Health Sciences](#) will help you formulate questions to guide you in your research, and produce evidence based answers:

[Evidence Based Decision Making](#)

[Asking a Good Question](#)

[Asking a Good Question –Part 2](#)

[PICO Worksheet](#)

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Use Searching Hints

- Use AND to connect words and phrases. i.e., diabetes mellitus AND treatment
- Use *truncation symbols* to retrieve all variations of a root word. Use carefully.
Example: *diagnos** = *diagnose, diagnosing, diagnosis, diagnostic*

Databases may have different symbols: check their "HELP" screens

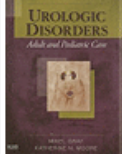
- Databases contain different journals, search several to find what you need
- Databases have controlled vocabularies, see thesauri, MeSH, topics, etc.

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Find Books on a Research Topic:

[In the Madigan Library](#)

If you do not find a book on your topic, broaden your search and check Table of Contents and indices for your topic. Click on "Details" to see the record:

#1	RC871 .G73 2009	2009	
Details	Urologic disorders : adult and pediatric care Gray, Mikel.		
Keep	1 copy available in Main Library - Circulating Collection - 2nd Fl.		
		Summary	

Click on the tabs below for more information on this book:

[Quick Information](#) | [A Look Inside](#) | [Full Information](#)

Urologic disorders : adult and pediatric care
Gray, Mikel.

This nursing guide for acute adult and pediatric health care professionals focuses on the assessment, diagnosis and pharmacology of urologic disorders. Gray (urology, U. of Virginia) and Moore (urology, U. of Alberta, Edmonton) include illustrations and photographs to discuss treatment protocols for such conditions as urinary incontinence and urological cancers,
[read more...](#)

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Electronic Books (E-Books)

Keyword **Browse** **Exact**

diabetes | words or phrase ▾ | **Search**

Search only Electronic Books

Previous Searches: -Choose a previous query- ▾

[Power Search](#)

Find books on diabetes and then search for a topic in the book.

Available through the [Library Catalog](#)

NOTE: Harrison's titles are in the Electronic Books Collection



The screenshot shows a search interface with three radio buttons at the top: "Keyword" (selected), "Browse", and "Exact". Below these is a search input field containing "Harrison's", a dropdown menu set to "words or phrase", and a "Search" button. Underneath the input field is a checked checkbox labeled "Search only Electronic Books" and a blue link labeled "Power Search".

In other libraries

Search [WorldCat](#) to identify books owned by libraries around the world. Click on

- [Borrow from another library](#) to log into [Interlibrary Loan \(Illiad\)](#) and have the book sent to you. You need to create an account in Illiad the first time you make a request.

In [Google Books](#)

Search for a topic “inside” millions of books. You may have to request an [Interlibrary Loan](#) when complete access is not available.

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Find Journal Articles in Databases

[Peer Reviewed Journals](#)

What is a peer reviewed journal? Articles are reviewed by the author's peers (refereed) before the article is published. In the front of a print journal, it will indicate if the journal is peer reviewed.

If you have an online journal, find the journal title in *Ulrich's International Periodical Directory, V. 4*, located at the Reference Desk. Refereed? (look for the “black arrow”). Peer Reviewed and scholarly journals will always include “References” at the end of the article. Use these references to search for more information on your topic.

Two Kinds of Databases

There are two kinds of databases, those with abstracts or summaries only and those that include the full text. If your article is not full text, see "[Get Articles & Books](#)".

Databases vs. INTERNET

Using library databases as opposed to the INTERNET, helps to focus your research in publications that are "checked for accuracy and reliability by the publisher's editors" and updated on a regular basis; sometimes daily! Read [more...](#)

Search individual [Madigan Library Databases](#) by the subject of [Medicine & Health](#) or use [WebFeat](#) to search multiple databases simultaneously, remembering to limit your dates to get current information. Choose your databases carefully. All of the following except [UpToDate](#) are included in WebFeat:

[Cochrane Database Systematic Reviews](#) | [related info.](#)*

[Cochrane Controlled Trials Register](#) | [related info.](#)*

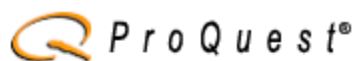
[ProQuest Medical Library](#) | [related info.](#)*

[PubMed](#)

[UpToDate](#)

***"related info" will not work from this guide. You need to go to the [Medicine & Health Databases](#) for these to activate.**

Following are some guidelines for searching a few of the databases. Remember to search other [Medicine & Health Databases](#) to insure the best research on your topic



Basic

Advanced

Topics

Publications

[Databases selected:](#) ProQuest Medical Library

[ProQuest Medical Library](#)

➤ **Abstracts, and full text articles**

- Truncation = * (asterisk)
- Under “More Search Options”, set other limits as needed.
Be careful not to limit too much or you may not get any results.

1. In the “Basic Search” box, type your words and phrases, using AND as a connector.

For example: *disease AND elderly*

2. Check the “Scholarly journals, including peer-reviewed” box


3. Click “Search” to get “Results”


4. From the “RESULTS”, Choose an article on your topic:

 [Abstract](#) |  [Full text](#) |  [Full Text - PDF](#) = article available full text

 [Abstract](#) |  [Find a copy](#) = Not Full Text - See “Find a copy” box:

Find a copy: Pennsylvania College of Technology



 [LinkSource](#) [Check for availability in other Penn College Resources](#)


 [ILLiad](#) [Click here to order Full Text from OCLC ILLiad Journal Locator](#)

Click “LinkSource” to see if it is in the library or in another database. If not, click “ILLiad” to request from another library.



Create Your Bibliography in PROQUEST:

- a. From the “Results” page
- b. Mark article(s) by clicking in box beside the citation(s)
- c. Scroll to top of screen, click on “Cite”

Mark all  1 marked item: [Email](#) / [Cite](#) / [Export](#)  [Show only full text](#)

1. [Evidence for beneficial effects of implications](#) Create a bibliography of your marked documents to email, print, or download. 

N Irwin, P R Flatt. Diabetologia. New York: Sep 2009. Vol. 52, Iss. 9; p. 1724 (8 pages)

 [Abstract](#) |  [Find a copy](#)

e. Choose AMA Style -> Click "Download"

Copy and paste the Bibliography into a file on your H: drive.

➤ **REMEMBER** to follow the Instructions & make necessary corrections.

See [AMA Style Manual](#) for more help on citing properly.

Remember only 5 simultaneous users can access this manual. If you cannot get in, please try later.

[PubMed](#) is an index to thousands of articles in the National Library of Medicine.
Many have links to full text articles.

Define your topic:

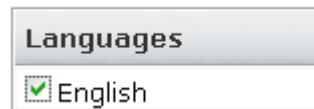
[MeSH](#) is the U.S. National Library of Medicine's controlled vocabulary used for indexing articles for MEDLINE/PubMed. MeSH terminology provides a consistent way to retrieve information that may use different terminology for the same concepts.

View [PubMed Tutorials](#) for help in searching this database.

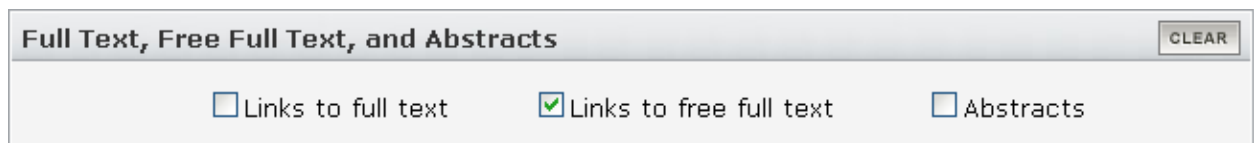
Search PubMed



Set the "Limits" for Language to "English"



Set the "Limits" to "Links to free full text" but remember you will not get all the articles written on your topic:



Truncation = * (asterisk)

Article NOT FULL TEXT?

First, check the [Journal Locator](#) to see if the journal is in the Madigan Library or full text in a database. If not, Ask for [Interlibrary Loan](#) (ILLiad).

NOTE: Click on the article title in your search list and run the cursor over the abbreviated journal title to see the complete title. **DO NOT GUESS:**





Enter search term

Enter a search term in the field above. You can enter most common medical terms including the name of a disease (e.g., heart failure), symptom or sign (e.g., headache), laboratory abnormality (e.g., hematuria), procedure (e.g., coronary artery bypass graft or hysterectomy), or drug or class of drugs (e.g., beta blockers). Common synonyms and abbreviations will often be recognized (e.g., GERD for gastroesophageal reflux disease). For best results, be as specific as possible.

Click on for more searching tips.

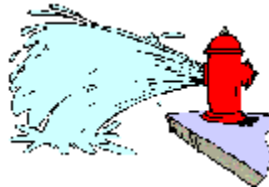
Cochrane Databases:

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Research Databases search interface. At the top left is the EBSCO HOST logo. To its right, the text 'Research Databases' is displayed. Further right are four blue buttons: 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Visual Search', and 'Choose Databases'. In the top right corner, there is a 'Sign In' link. Below these elements is a green navigation bar with 'New Search' on the left and 'Keyword | Indexes' in the center. The main search area features a 'Find:' label followed by a text input field. To the right of the input field are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons, along with a help icon. Below the input field is a dropdown menu currently set to 'Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews', with a help icon to its right.

Choose the “boxes” for “Cochrane Database of Systemic Reviews” and “Cochrane Controlled Trials Register” in [WebFeat](#) to search both simultaneously

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**“Getting information off the Internet is
like taking a drink from a fire hydrant”**



Mitch Kapor

[Google Scholar](#)

Google Scholar focuses on a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies and universities that produce scholarly and peer-reviewed articles across the web.

[Evaluating Information on the Web](#)

A short and concise guide produced by the [Arizona University Libraries](#).

Tips to remember:

- **How do you know if you have QUALITY web sites?**
 1. **Is the URL extension from a reliable source?**
 - .edu (educational research)**
 - .gov (government sites, i.e. Center for Disease Control (CDC),
National Institute of Health (NIH), World Health Organization
(WHO), etc.)**
 - .org (organizations and associations)**
 2. **Is it clear who is responsible for the page’s content?**
 3. **Is the information on the page free from advertising?**
 4. **Is the information current, is there a date given?**
 5. **Is the site complete or under construction?**

Searching on the Internet: use quotes around phrases

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