PubMed Search

• Always access PubMed from the library homepage
• Sample research topic: Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA)
• PubMed will try to automatically match terms to subject headings and also search terms in All Fields
• Always check Search details box to see how PubMed interprets your search
• Acronyms, abbreviations and drug names are problematic in PubMed
  Spell out concepts fully and use generic drug names when possible
Keyword vs. MeSH Searching

Keyword search
Tries to automatically map to MeSH as well as searching terms in All Fields
More comprehensive, will include more recent citations that haven’t been indexed yet
Necessary for new and emerging topics

MeSH search
Using MeSH subject headings is more focused and precise
Can limit to major topic and use subheadings to focus on a specific aspect of a topic
Use when automatic term mapping is not effective
Will not find newest article citations that have yet to be indexed
Advanced Search in Pubmed

Select Advanced below the search bar to view your search history and to combine searches

Combine searches with “AND, OR, NOT”
Combining Terms

GEICO commercials emphasize this...
BED AND BREAKFAST

Articles could be about nuts only OR bolts only.

Nut OR Bolt

Articles will include both nuts AND bolts.

Nut AND Bolt

The alternative is one OR the other.
PubMed Filters: Limit your search results

• You can narrow your results with filters for:
  - Article Types: Review, Randomized Controlled Trial, Practice Guideline, etc.
  - Publication Dates
  - Ages, etc.

• A few filters are available to the left of your search results

• To access more filter options click customize under Article Types or show additional filters

• Then click on desired filters to activate them (will turn blue and have a checkmark)

• Filters remain active until you clear them!