

Searching *Medline* and *Academic Search Premier*

Evidence-Based Public Health Practice Step 3: Use Research Literature

Medline and *Academic Search Complete* are two of the databases that are licensed to TexShare from Ebsco. *Medline* is almost the same as *PubMed*; *Medline* is a large subset of *PubMed*. The major differences are:

1. *PubMed* covers more years as it goes back to 1950;
2. *PubMed* is updated daily with incomplete citations.

Academic Search Complete is a full text database that covers health sciences journals as well as journals in the behavioral sciences, sociology, anthropology, religion, environment, statistics, and biological sciences. It indexes more than 9,500 titles with full text to over 5,500. Select titles include:

Annual Review: Nutrition, Public Health, etc.	Behavioral Interventions	Environmental Health Perspectives	Journal of Drug Issues
Adolescence	Behavioral Medicine	Family & Community Health	Journal of Environmental Health
Addiction Research & Theory	Biometrics	Health & Social Work	Journal of Healthcare Management
Aggressive Behavior	British Journal of Health Psychology	Health Psychology Review	Journal of Infectious Diseases
AIDS Education & Prevention	Cancer Investigation	Immigrants & Minorities	Journal of Nutrition Education & Behavior
AIDS Patient Care & STDs	Cardiology	International Journal of Environmental Health Research	Nutrition & Dietetics
American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Children's Health Care	Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing	Obesity Reviews
American Journal of Public Health	Drug & Alcohol Review	Journal of Community Health Nursing	Pediatric Diabetes

Note: Many of the above titles have an embargo on the most current 3, 6, 9, or 12 months.

One of the advantages of using *Medline* through your public library is that it will link you to the full text of articles that are available through *Academic Search Complete*! If the article is not available through the online databases, then you might be able to get it by contacting the Department of State Health Services Medical and Research Library: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/library/default.shtm>. They will provide document delivery for some agencies.

If they can't help you, you can also contact a cooperating health science library to order the document through *PubMed*: <http://www.pubmed.gov>. Find the article you need, check the box next to it, and click on the box marked "Send to". Change that to order which will take you to a page where you can find a nearby library to place the order. There may be a cost associated with this service.

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No NOI-LM-6-3505.

Developing a Search Strategy

Google has spoiled all of us. It has taught us to just jump on the Web, type in a search, and be happy with 25,000 hits. We may look through the first 20 or so, but usually stop after that.

This handout is going to demonstrate a more systematic approach to doing searches in the online databases. The goal is to reduce the number of non-relevant hits while increasing the number of relevant hits by following a simple strategy.

Topic: Recent statistics show that African American women and Hispanic women tend to present with advanced stages breast cancer more often than White women. As a result, mortality rates are higher. To reduce their mortality rates, they need to come in for mammographies more regularly and to come in at the first sign of a lump. How can they be encouraged to do so?

Search Strategy #1: Use at least three concepts when searching and search each concept separately.

Let's take the topic apart and come up with the 3 concepts:

Hispanics or African Americans

AND

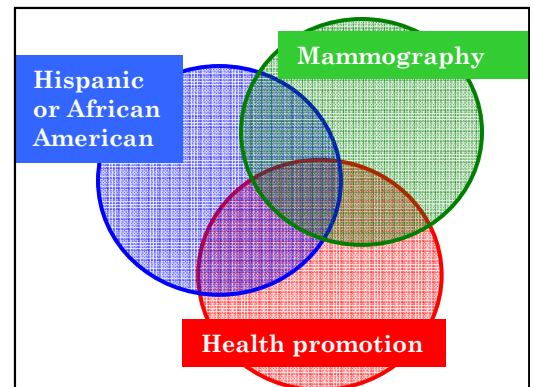
Mammography

AND

Health promotion

Notice that AND is used to combine the terms. That way, all articles found will have all 3 concepts in them.

To the right is how you might conceptualize the search.



But wait— are these all of the terms needed for the search?

Hispanics or African Americans or Latinas

AND

Mammography or breast cancer screening or mammograms

AND

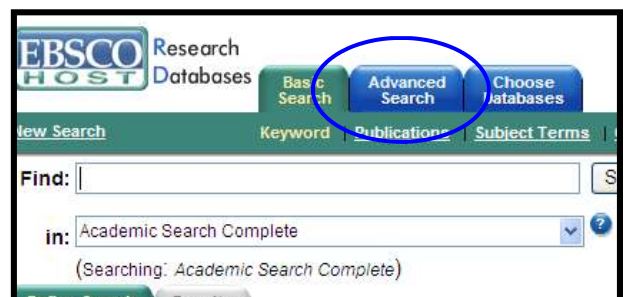
Health promotion or health education or health attitudes or health knowledge or health behavior

This is a far cry from what you do on Google but your results will be much better.

Testing Your Search Strategy

Let's see how this search looks in *Academic Search Complete*. You'll need to go to your public library and select the database to search it. If you are off-site, you'll also need to log in using the information they gave you for remote access.

If the search screen looks like this, click on **Advanced Search** tab so you'll view the 3 lines.

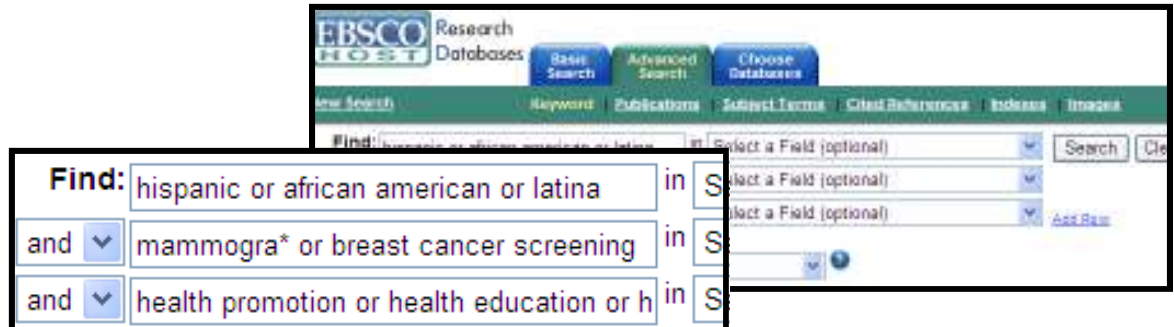


Enter the concepts, once concept per line.

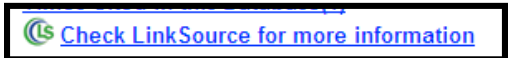
hispanic or african american or latina
and mammogra* or breast cancer screening
and health promotion or health education or health attitudes or health knowledge or health behavior

Did you notice **mammogra*?** The asterisk (*) is a truncator. By using it, the search engine will look for any word beginning with those letters including mammography, mammographies, mammogram, and mammo-graphies.

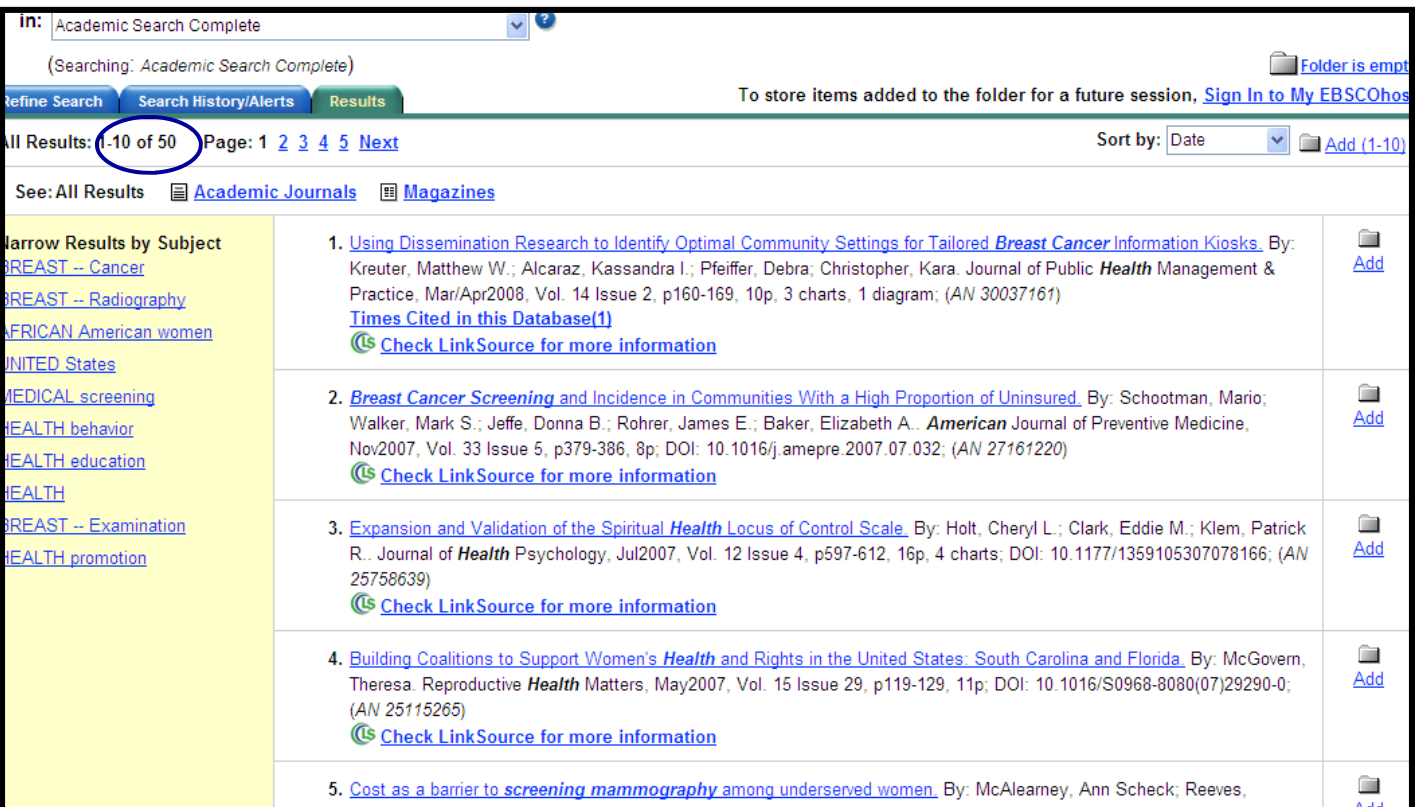
One the terms are entered, click on **Search**.



Fifty articles were returned from this search. The first few articles are not available full text from this database. Some libraries have a service that will let you check for full text availability through other sources. This will vary by library.



Scroll down the list to see what else might be found.



Many of these articles are full text in this database.

If you click on a title, you will be taken to the abstract to the title. You can retrieve the full text (if it's available) from either the citation screen or while viewing the abstract.

6. Financial Barriers to Mammography: Who Pays Out-of-Pocket? By: Makuc, Diane M.; Breen, Nancy; Meissner, Helen I.; Vernon, Sally W.; Cohen, Alan. <i>Journal of Women's Health</i> (15409996), Apr2007, Vol. 16 Issue 3, p349-360, 12p, 4 charts; DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2006.0072; (AN 24721863) PDF Full Text (84K)	Add
7. HEALTH BEHAVIOR PATTERNS AND DISPARITIES OF MAMMOGRAPHY USE IN THE MULTI ETHNIC COHORT. By: Edwards, Quannetta; Li, Arthur; Pike, Malcom; Kolonel, Laurence N.; Henderson, Brian E.; McKean-Cowdin, Roberta. <i>Oncology Nursing Forum</i> , Mar2007, Vol. 34 Issue 2, p548-548, 1/3p; (AN 28835414) PDF Full Text (41K)	Add
8. Adequacy of Communicating Results From Screening Mammograms to African American and White Women. By: Jones, Beth A.; Reams, Kam; Calvocoressi, Lisa; Dailey, Amy; Kasl, Stanislav V.; Liston, Nancy M.. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> , Mar2007, Vol. 97 Issue 3, p531-538, 8p, 4 charts; DOI: 10.2105/AJPH.2005.076349; (AN 24347130) Times Cited in this Database(2) HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (788K)	Add
9. Differences in health and cultural beliefs by stage of mammography screening adoption in African American women Presented at Exploring Models to Eliminate Cancer Disparities Among African American and Latino Populations: Research and	Add

Expanding Your Search

In this next example, *Medline* is added to the search.

Click on the down arrow by **Academic Search Complete** in the search area.

EBSCO Research Databases

Basic Search Advanced Search Choose Databases

New Search Keyword | Publications | Subject Terms

Find: hispanic or african american or latina in Select a Field (op
and mammogra* or breast cancer screening in Select a Field (op
and health promotion or health education or h in Select a Field (op
Academic Search Complete

Scroll down until you see **MEDLINE**, check the box next to it, and click on **Submit**.

At the next screen, click Search. You don't need to enter any more terms or do anything else. The exact same search will be run in both **Medline** and **Academic Search Complete**.

health promotion or health education or health attitudes or health knowledge or health

Academic Search Complete

MasterFILE Premier
 MEDLINE
 Middle Search Plus
 Military & Government Collection
 Primary Search
 Professional Development Collection

Submit Cancel

This time, 285 articles were found.

Of to the left are terms that you can click on to narrow your results if you want.

Notice that several options include the term “**breast neoplasms**”. That’s because in Medline, there is no cancer. There are tumors, neoplasms, leukemia, etc. but not cancer.



Search Strategy #2: Revise vocabulary to be as comprehensive as possible

Also, let’s see if there’s a difference if an asterisk is added to the end of the first set of terms— Hispanic*, etc.

hispanic* or african American* or latina*
and mammogra* or breast cancer screening **or (breast neoplasms and screening)**
and health promotion or health education or health attitudes or health knowledge or health behavior

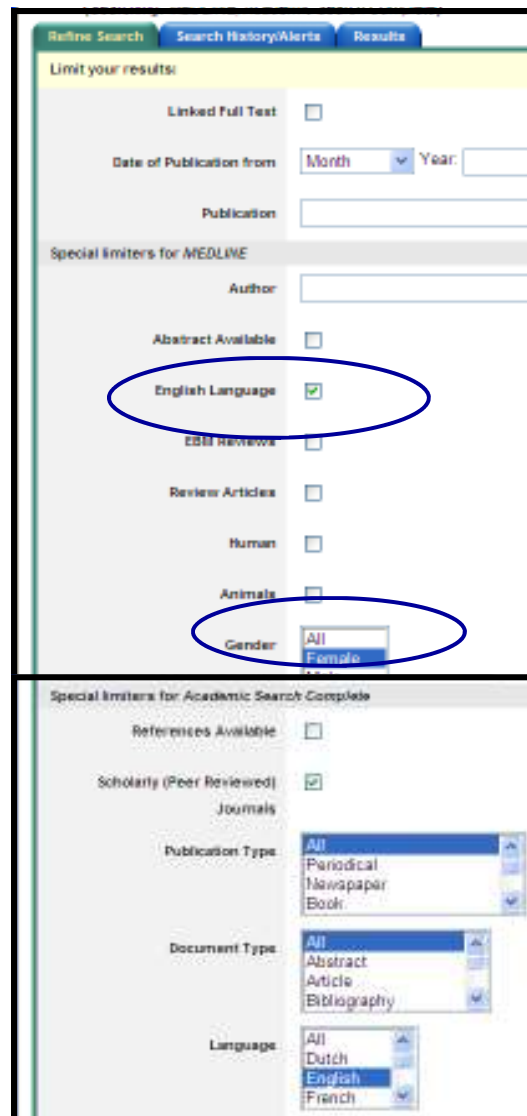
In the new search strategy, (breast neoplasms and screening) are in parentheses to keep the terms groups. You don’t want any kind of screening, only screening for breast neoplasms. Over 400 results were returned.



Search Strategy #3: Refine your search.

Since there are so many results returned, you might want to refine your search. Since this search is being done in two databases, you have to indicate in both the language you want to refine the search to get rid of non-English language articles and non-scholarly publications.

The first set of limiters is for *Medline*. Specify **English language** and **Gender** (if you want).



Scroll down to limiters for **Academic Search Complete** and check the box next to **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals**.

Scroll down to **Language** and click on **English**.

There are still over 370 results even with the changes.

If you wanted to reduce the number of results, search (Hispanic* or Latina*) separately from African American*. After reviewing the results, rerun your search using African American* instead of (Hispanic* or Latina*).

Regardless, searching this search yields far fewer results than Google.

