

# Locating Journal Articles



*How do you know if one treatment will work better than another, or if it will do more harm than good?*

*Evidence-based health care*



# Learning Objectives

- Term definitions: citation, field, keywords, search strategy, open access
- Perform a search for journal articles in Pubmed and BioMed Central
- Navigate websites as additional sources of articles
- Understand differences between peer-reviewed articles and popular articles

# What is a peer reviewed article?

- Articles that have been evaluated by researchers or subject academic specialists prior to accepting it for publication. Also known as scholarly or refereed.

## Peer- reviewed or not peer-reviewed?

- <https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=251025&p=1672765>

# Search Strategy

- Search Strategy: particular path to limit or expand your search
- Keywords are specific words used to index an article

# Search Strategy

- Textword means any word found in the text or body of the abstract and is the most general way to search for articles
  - This will generally retrieve the largest number of articles
- Boolean operators can be used to refine your search
  - Words such as and (*narrow*), or (*broaden*), and not (*narrow*) can help restrict your findings in specific ways.

# Search Strategy

- You can search for an article by title, author, publication date, and the name of the journal in which it was published, including volume and issue or page numbers
  - These are called *Fields*
- Some searches may turn up hundreds of articles, so you can use fields to narrow the search relative to your purpose

# Search Strategy

- Filters (article type, availability, publication dates, species) can be used in the search for further refinement



# Medical Subject Headings

- MeSH – Medical Subject Headings – provides a database of specific terms used to identify articles
  - If you are having trouble retrieving articles on a topic, check MeSH for keywords that might better describe your topic
    - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh>

# Locating Journal Articles:

- “PubMed” is a publicly available website maintained by the National Library of Medicine:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/>

- “BioMed Central” is an independent electronic publishing house based on the principle of open access to peer-reviewed biomedical research

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

# PubMed

- PubMed has more than 26 million citations for
  - biomedical literature from MEDLINE
  - life science journals
  - online books
- Citations may include links to full-text content from PubMed Central and publisher web sites.

# Searching an article in PubMed

- Go to PubMed: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>
- Search for Achilles tendon
- Refine search (using Boolean operators)

# Author and Article Information

- Usually on first page
- Includes credentials, author institution
- Contact information
- Source of funds to support the study

# Citation

- It provides its title, authors, publication date, volume and issue, pages; abstract (short summary). Example:

Jay K, Sundstrup E, Søndergaard SD, Behm D, Brandt M, Særvoll CA, Andersen LL. Specific and cross over effects of massage for muscle soreness: randomized controlled trial. Int J Sports Phys Ther. 2014 Feb;9(1):82-91.

# Abstract

- Summary of article's content
- Core information on context, purpose, description of study design, methods, results, conclusions

# Abstract – questions:

- Is the summary complete and to the point?
- Enough detail to capture your interest?
- Who is the author, institutional affiliation?
- What organizations provided funding?



# Full Text Article

- Sections of a typical journal article
  - Abstract
  - Introduction
  - Methods
  - Results
  - Discussion
  - References

# BioMed Central (BMC) –open access

- “Open access”: free, immediate, permanent, full-text, online access to peer-reviewed journals
- Articles published quickly, more widely disseminated
- More likely to be read and cited by other scientists (“research impact”)
- <http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

# More resources

- [Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine](#)
- [Alternative Health News Online](#)
- [Cochrane Collaboration Database](#)

Other online resources are ...

- Canadian Massage Therapy Research Network <http://www.massage.ca/research.html>
- **ALIVE - Natural Health and Wellness**  
<http://www.alive.com/category/health/>
- The Massage Therapist Association of Manitoba  
<https://www.mtam.mb.ca/>
- The Registered Massage Therapist of Ontario (RMTAO) and their various publications will also be helpful  
[www.rmtao.com](http://www.rmtao.com)