

Session – Designing Search Queries Worksheet

When attempting to complete the following exercises remember:

- 1) Sometimes the entry term and the resulting MeSH term will be one and the same term.
- 2) Sometimes an entry term can be matched to the subheading of a MeSH term that relates to one of your other entry terms.

Exercise 1 – Situation Statement: You want to locate articles that have statistical data about cigarette smoking by teenagers who live in Arab countries.

First, rephrase the information needs expressed in the situation statement as a question.

Here is an example of how you can reword the situation statement into question format: **What are the statistics on cigarette smoking by teenagers who live in Arab countries?**

Now, select the appropriate terms from the question to use as entry terms with which to search the MeSH database. (Hint: you should select 4 terms)

What is one of the four terms? _____

What is another of the four terms? _____

What is the third term? _____

What is the fourth term? _____

Continuing on with Exercise #1 –

What is the MeSH term for the entry term “teenagers”? _____

What is the MeSH term for the entry term “Arab countries?” _____

What is the MeSH term for the entry term “smoking” or the more precise entry term “cigarette smoking”? _____

What is the subheading available from the MeSH record for the term “smoking” that you would apply to answer the question? _____

Continuing with Exercise #1 –

After adding each of the MeSH terms (including the MeSH with the subheading relating to statistics) in the “PubMed search builder” box, click on “Search PubMed”. After the results page loads in the PubMed interface, limit the “Article Types” to “Systematic Reviews.” How many results do you receive? _____

Continuing with Exercise #1 –

What is the name of the country mentioned in the title of the 2nd search result?

Exercise 2 – Situation Statement: You want to find articles that discuss whether Vitamin A helps prevent macular dystrophy in the elderly.

First, rephrase the information needs expressed in the situation statement as a question.

Here is an example of how you can reword the situation statement into question format: **Does Vitamin A help prevent macular dystrophy in the elderly?**

Now, select the appropriate terms from the question to use as entry terms with which to search the MeSH database. (Hint: For one of your entry terms, select the MeSH term that limits the age range of the elderly to 65 through 79 years.)

- a) What is your first entry term? _____
- b) What is your second entry term? _____
- c) What is your third entry term? _____

Continuing with Exercise #2 –

As it relates to your search query, and after reviewing the scope notes for the various MeSH term options, what is the appropriate MeSH term for the entry term “Vitamin A”?

- a. Retinaldehyde
- b. Vitamin A
- c. Vitamin A deficiency
- d. Tretinoin

Continuing with Exercise # 2 –

As it relates to the question, and after reviewing the scope notes for the various MeSH term options, what is the MeSH term for the entry term “macular dystrophy”?

- a. Vitelliform Macular Dystrophy
- b. Bests Disease
- c. Macular Dystrophy
- d. Macular Degeneration

Continuing with Exercise #2 –

As it relates to the question, and after reviewing the scope notes for the various MeSH term options, what is the MeSH term for the entry term “elderly” for people 65 through 79 years old?

- a. Aged
- b. Frail Elderly
- c. Health Services for the Aged
- d. Aged, 80 and Over

Continuing with Exercise #2 –

After adding each of the MeSH terms in the “PubMed search builder” box, click on “Search PubMed”. After the results page loads in the PubMed interface, limit the results to articles in English. How many results do you receive? _____

Continuing with Exercise #2 –

From the results of citations to articles in English, what is the year of publication of the earliest listed result (the oldest article)?

Exercise 3 – Situation Statement: You want to find articles discussing the possibility that secondhand smoke causes breast cancer in young adults.

First, rephrase the information needs expressed in the situation statement as a question.

Suggested rewording of the situation statement into question format: **Does secondhand smoke cause breast cancer in young adults?**

Now, select the appropriate terms from the question to use as entry terms with which to search the MeSH database.

Select the appropriate terms from the question to use as entry terms with which to search the MeSH database. Then enter each entry term and its corresponding MeSH term here:

What is your first entry term? _____

What is your second entry term? _____

What is your third entry term? _____

Continuing with Exercise #3 –

What are the three MeSH terms that result from your search on the entry terms? (Hint – for the breast cancer entry term result, pick the most general MeSH term according to the various MeSH option scope notes.)

Continuing with Exercise #3 –

Using the PubMed Search Builder box in the MeSH interface, search on the MeSH terms that were returned for your three entry terms and limit the results to articles published in the year 2010. How many results do you receive? _____

Continuing with Exercise #3 –

After limiting the results of the search query to articles published in the year 2010, copy and paste below the title of the article shown in Result #2.

Exercise 4: Leaving one space only between each word, list only once and in alphabetical order all the PubMed Stopwords that appear in the following sentence:
We found some cases in which children who lived in houses located almost a mile from the polluted river were just as likely to develop asthma as were any children who lived right by the river bank.
