PubMed in progress: further changes in the redesigned interface

Elena Giglia,
Università degli Studi di Torino, elena.giglia@unito.it

Prof. Osvaldo Spinelli,
Facultad de Ciencias Medicas – Universitad Nacional de La Plata – Argentina,
ospineli@med.unlp.edu.ar

Abstract:
Aim of this contribution is to present further features of the redesigned version of PubMed interface. We shall focus on some modified aspects of the Advanced Search and on the updated Clipboard tool.

On October, 27th 2009 PubMed transitioned completely to the redesigned interface. We have already seen the main differences between the old and the new version in our last contribution [1]. Since October, new changes have been already implemented.

"Limits" relocated

To run an effective search, one of the most useful tools is the "Limits" page. We were used to find a label in the old version of PubMed, and then in the new release we got used to activating them from the Advanced Search. Since the beginning of February, 2010, "Limits" has moved again and displays now as a link just above the Search box on all PubMed pages, including the homepage (Fig. 1) and the search results page.

The "Limits" page includes all the selections previously available on the Advanced search page:
- Type of article (Clinical trial, Practice guideline, Randomized controlled trial…)
- Text Options (Full text, Free full text, Abstract)
- Languages
- Subsets in PubMed (Core clinical, Dental, Nursing journals respectively) and Topics (Cancer, AIDS, Systematic reviews…)
- Ages
- Gender
- Species

Additional limits for dates (only for publications) have been added, as well as a new "Search field tags" section (fig. 2).

The functionality of "Limits" will not change. Please remind that subsequent searches will include "Limits" until they are removed. You can clear them within the "Limits" page clicking the "Reset" button, or the "Remove" link from the "Limits activated" message bar.

The yellow "Limits activated" message bar has replaced the small icon which appeared in the right side of the search results. It displays now above the results summary line on search results page (fig. 3); when active, it displays also both under the search box on the homepage and the Advanced search page.

PubMed Advanced Search

PubMed Advanced search has been streamlined.

The new "Search Builder" replaces the "Search by Author, Journal, Publication Date", and the "Index of Fields and Field Values" sections (fig. 4). It is a very powerful tool which allows users to build their own search, even complex, by using the Boolean logic operators AND (conjunction), OR (disjunction), NOT (complement or negation). Please remind that AND narrows your query, while OR widens it.

From the pull down menu you can choose among more than 30 fields to run your search into (author, affiliation, journal, publication date…) and combine them with the right Boolean operator. You can repeat steps so many times as necessary. If you need to display the search field list and the corresponding number of items, you can click the "Index" button. If you want to know the results count of your query, click the red "Preview" button near the Search box.

The "Search History" has not changed. Remind that you can save your search in MyNCBI also from here (fig. 5).

From the Advanced Search page you can directly access also resources like the MeSH database, Single Citation Matcher, Clinical Queries, Journal database, and Topic-Specific queries.

Saving items in Clipboard

If you need to temporarily save some item of interest, you can flag them, open the "Send to" pull down menu (right side of the Search box) and choose "Clipboard". To remind you that the Clipboard is active – it expires after eight hours of inactivity – the system generates:

- a new link in homepage, with the numbers of added items (fig. 6);
- a green message bar which displays above the results summary line on search results page;
- a green link which displays below each single item once added.

If you need to save your items definitively, send them to a Collection in MyNCBI: after flagging them, open the "Send to" pull down menu and choose "Collection". If you are not logged in yet, the system opens a pop up window to let you sign in (o freely register the first time). Then you can choose either to create a new collection or add items to an existing one. These items will be available once and for all.

A last notation: MyNCBI has been updated in the My Bibliography section, to manage compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy (http://publicaccess.nih.gov/) for authors granted by NIH.

[1] Giglia, E. – Spinelli, O. PubMed reloaded: new interface, enhanced discovery, Eur J Phys Rehabil Med. 2009 Dec;45(4):631-6.