

Measuring medical student preference: a comparison of classroom versus online instruction for teaching PubMed

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APPENDIX A

Sample PubMed skills assessment questions

1. You need to find statistics on teenage pregnancy in the United States. Why is it useful to select Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms for this search?
 - a. Selecting a MeSH term means PubMed will search in the article's full-text, providing more comprehensive retrieval.
 - b. Selecting a MeSH term and subheading will help focus on the specific aspect (statistics) of the larger topic (teenage pregnancy).
2. You need to find a review article with a major focus on the complications of multiple sclerosis for your class. The article cannot be more than three years old, and it must be written in English so that everyone in the class can read it. Use the appropriate MeSH heading and subheading combination and restrict your search to a major topic heading. Then set appropriate Limits to focus your search further. Which number is closest to the total number of results?
 - a. 65
 - b. 331
 - c. 2, 304
3. Your search for *breast cancer AND etiology* retrieves a large set that includes many irrelevant articles. Which of the following strategies would help you find relevant articles?
 - a. Selecting the MeSH term for breast cancer with the subheading etiology.
 - b. Restricting the MeSH search to Major Topic Headings Only
 - c. Identifying a relevant reference in your results and then viewing the Related Articles for that record.
 - d. All of the above.
4. Your research advisor asks you to read the article(s) authored by KL Davis that were published in the journal *Neurology*. How many articles do you need to read?
 - a. 0
 - b. 1
 - c. 6
5. You hope to be able to read the article(s) for the above assignment online. Which of the following is true?
 - a. Every article in PubMed can be accessed in full-text format online, either through the Levy Library's e-journals or free web sources.
 - b. The blue MSSM button and yellow FIND IT buttons allow you to connect to full-text articles available through the Levy Library.
 - c. Unfortunately, it is still not possible to link from PubMed to full-text articles.