Evidence-Based Medicine Skills

Step 2: Finding the Evidence

For further research assistance access the Wahlstrom Library website via the myUB Portal.

Ask a Librarian via Chat: Available when the Library is open through the Library website.

E-mail a Librarian: reference@bridgeport.edu

Call a Librarian: 203-576-4747

Walk-ins welcome, no appointment needed!

University of Bridgeport
Wahlstrom Library
126 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Precise Searching Techniques

In Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM), the goal is to search efficiently and precisely for evidence that helps answer the clinical foreground question, and to find fewer but more relevant sources.

The PICO form helps quickly gather crucial, relevant keywords that describe the clinical question.

Consider the following example of a PICO form:

P: 10 year-old male with mild persistent asthma
I: Cromolyn 4 times/day
C: Montelukast once/day
O: Reduce asthma attack frequency

The relevant keywords to search for research articles are:

**Male, child, mild asthma, cromolyn, montelukast**

Combining these into a search query using Boolean Operators:

\[(\text{male AND child}) \text{ AND (mild AND asthma}) \text{ AND cromolyn AND montelukast}\]

Running that search in PubMed yields the following results:

All 3 of the articles found above help answer the clinical question – this search has 100% precision! High precision searching is a major goal of Evidence-Based Medical research.

Handouts on the first 3 steps in the Evidence-Based Medicine process are available in the Library. All of the information is also available on the library website in the Evidence-Based section. We have blank PICO and Critical Appraisal Checklists available on our website.

If you have additional questions or require further assistance please contact a librarian using one of the methods on the front of this handout.