Come Visit Us!

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!
MeSH = Medical Subject Headings

MeSH subject headings / indexing terms are used by the National Library of Medicine, including the PubMed citation database, to organize and make retrieval of citations easier. Using MeSH can enhance searching by making it easier to attain consistent results when searching for articles in a topic area.

To ‘translate’ your search words to their MeSH equivalents, do the following:

In PubMed, select the MeSH database by choosing it from the drop-down menu.

Type your search word in the search box, then click search.

You will be taken to a new page with search results that are MeSH terms:

- **Asthma**
  - A form of bronchial disorder with airway INFLAMMATION, and interm muscle, VIHEEZING, and dyspnea
- **Asthma_Occupational**
  - Asthma attacks caused, triggered Year introduced: 2012
- **Asthma_Aspirin-induced**

Click the result most applicable to your topic to go to a page that shows relevant MeSH terms, including the main subject heading and related subheadings.

To the right you will see a search box, the PubMed Search Builder:

Choose a MeSH term or subheading, then click on the Add to Search Builder button to start creating a search query in that box.

When you are done adding all your search MeSH terms to the Search builder, click the Search PubMed button to run your search. You will end up on the regular PubMed search results page.

Why You Shouldn’t ONLY Use MeSH:

New articles, including ‘pre-prints’, are often available to view on PubMed months before MeSH terms are given to them. If you are searching for very recent articles, or are doing a thorough literature review, you should combine both MeSH and regular ‘keyword’ search terms together in your search query. Keep in mind, you can add regular keywords to the Search Builder after choosing MeSH terms but before running the search.