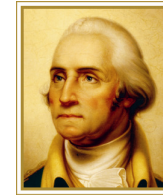# Focus on Your Users: Using PubMed Filters to Support Your Users and Promote Evidence-Based Medicine

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Problem

- Users know how to limit PubMed searches to English language and by publication type but frequently do not.
- Users spend a lot of time examining large search result sets.
- Users may miss clinically relevant articles and use instead the first relevant article found.

Solution

- Establish PubMed's 'My NCBI' search filters which reflect local EBM instruction.
- Search filters focus on types of articles of high relevance for clinical searches and which are accessible to users.
- Search filters are automatically displayed in all searches.
- Search filters reduce search time and remind users' of levels of evidence.

Himmelfarb Library's PubMed Filters

Select standard filters from PubMed's 'My NCBI' or create your own filters. Himmelfarb Library uses these custom filters:

EBM/Clinical Reviews
- Practice guidelines, meta analyses, systematic reviews, etc.
- English language
- Similar to prebuilt 'Systematic Reviews' filter

EBM/Clinical Trials
- Controlled clinical trials, multicenter studies, and randomized controlled trials
- English language

Reviews
- Review articles
- English language

Create PubMed Filters for your Library

1. Create 'My NCBI' account for your Library.
2. Select 'Share Filter Settings' in Share Setting area.
3. Select or create the filters that you want to display to users.
4. Update your hyperlink to PubMed by including the username for your Library's 'My NCBI' account.

Template:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?**myncbishare=username**
Example:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?**myncbishare=dcgwulib**

What about…?

- Users' personal 'My NCBI' accounts will override shared filters.
- Users may still apply limits to searches.
- Users may search by keyword, MeSH, etc.; filters always display.

Himmelfarb Library's EBM/Clinical Search Filters

Results display

- Unfiltered results display by default
- Search filters applied automatically to every search
- Filtered results accessible via links in upper right of results display
- Filters provide users immediate feedback on the quantity of articles available in each area

User Feedback

- Filters immediately viewable and accessible. Filters do not require user setup.
- Filters' focus on publication types of articles that meet needs in terms of levels of evidence.
- Save users' steps (and time) in search while allowing them full range of PubMed search features and limits.