**Learn how to find articles on Chinese herbal medicine treatment of eczema via PubMed**

Video 4:43 mins

**Transcript**

[opening title]

How to find scholarly journal articles in a database

RMIT University

[female narrator]

This video will help you find journal articles in a library database for your assignment.

Let's look for articles about ’The role of herbal medicine in the management of skin conditions.’  
  
Skin conditions is too broad. We need to use something more specific. For example; eczema or acne or psoriasis.

Let’s do a search using the term eczema  
  
Before searching, think of some keywords and alternatives that best describe the topic.  
  
Here are some suggestions.

[Alternative terms appear on the screen beneath search topic:

“herbal medicine” / “Chinese herbal drugs” / “Chinese herbal medicine”

“eczema” / “Atopic dermatitis”.]

If you don’t get the best results from your first search, try another search with different words.

Let's try PubMed - the top database.  
  
All articles you find in PubMed are from ‘scholarly / academic journals’ - and are all peer reviewed.

Type your first search term into the search box.

As you enter your search terms, the database will show some other similar search terms.   
  
You may want to try these suggested terms in another search.

Hit enter to show the search results.

Now we have our results, but there are quite a few.  
  
Fortunately there are options to reduce the results number.  
  
Here are some suggestions to narrow your results.

[Highlight of options menu on left]

For recently published material use Publication Date and select 5 years.  
  
Click on ‘Additional filters’ for more options, such as choosing English only articles.  
  
‘Article types’ is a great way to reduce your results number.   
  
Choose Customize and see options such as ‘review’ or ‘systematic review’ or ‘randomized controlled trial’ or ‘case reports’ and many more.

We have not yet included Chinese herbal medicine in the search. We should include this search term to make the results more relevant. It will also help to narrow the number of search results.

Type ‘Chinese herbal medicine’ into the search box and hit enter.  
  
Click on the Advanced option to see the Search History.

We can select ‘add’ to combine ‘eczema’ and ‘Chinese herbal medicine’ in the search builder.

Note that our two queries are combined using the boolean operator AND - this way our results should have BOTH concepts in the same journal article.

Our search results are brief. They contain the title for the paper, authors’ names, journal name, year, month, volume, and page numbers. Elements you will need to record to reference the paper in your assignment.  
  
To help you decide which articles to use in your assignment see if there is an abstract or summary of the article.  
  
You can read the abstracts of articles by selecting the individual title link.

Or, to see abstracts for ALL of your search results select Summary link at the top of the search results page, and then Abstract.  
  
The abstract of the article will help you determine if the results are relevant, or if you need to re-do your search.

When you are happy with your results you can now read the articles.

Click on an article title then look for the full text links at the top of the page.

If you see a “Publishers” link -- that’s great, you can click on the link to access the article.

Once you are at the publisher’s site, look for the PDF link to download the article.

Here is the option to download the PDF of the article.

Otherwise, in the PubMed record click on Find-It to see if the Library has access to the article.

LibrarySearch will show you which other database holds the journal article. Select the database title link.

Do you need some more help? Then go see a librarian at any RMIT library site, or contact us online via Ask A Librarian.

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