

PubMed versus Ovid MEDLINE: Which is best for you?

The National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE database is available through NLM's own PubMed interface as well as through commercial database vendors such as Ovid, which is available to members of the Jefferson community. While the content is essentially the same (see exceptions below), the mechanics and features of these interfaces differ. One may suit your needs better than the other depending on your research question, level of expertise, or current environment.

The table below summarizes the major differences and is designed to help you select the best MEDLINE interface for your needs.

	PubMed	Ovid MEDLINE
Access:	<p>Freely available from any Web browser. Link from JEFFLINE List of All Databases: http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/SML/databases/ Campus Key for off campus access for full text access Links to full text information about SML holdings</p>	<p>Requires Campus Key and password for access. Link from JEFFLINE List of All Databases: http://jeffline.jefferson.edu/SML/databases/</p>
Currency:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated daily PubMed includes access to "in-process" articles (i.e., new items not yet fully indexed in the database.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated weekly Ovid receives and loads data from NLM on its own schedule, so there's an occasional lag (especially at the end of the year). <i>This may only be noticeable if you run current awareness searches.</i> Search separate Ovid database (OVID MEDLINE In Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations) to access "in-process" items.
Coverage:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now includes OldMEDLINE citations (articles from 1953-1965) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ovid MEDLINE only includes a small percentage of pre-1966 citations (but there are plans to add OldMEDLINE in 2004).
Search Features:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can process natural language queries. If you enter the search as in a question format, PubMed can "translate" that into a search strategy. PubMed's Single Citation matcher is helpful for finding articles when you have an incomplete citation. Cubby feature allows you to save your search strategies permanently and to see what new citations have been added to the database since you last saved your search. Icons representing local holdings Clinical Queries Find Related Articles link Link to Loansome Doc ordering Search history retained for 8 hours Translate journal abbreviations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friendly, icon-driven interface Automatically maps search terms to suggested thesaurus terms Ability to limit searches to locally-held journals or to items with full-text access Can search for Subject Heading words (e.g., knee.hw will retrieve all MeSH terms which include the word "Knee") Search strategies may be saved for one month Links to Askalibrarian@jefferson.edu for searching assistance Messages about local holdings and links to online SML catalog ThomCat Offers adjacency searching (e.g., blood ADJ pressure) Offers frequency searching (e.g., science.ti/freq=3)
Full-Text Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access over 500 SML electronic subscriptions <u>by accessing PubMed via the link from JEFFLINE on and off campus</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes Journals@Ovid Full Text database Cochrane Review
Cross-Resource Searching:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides integrated access to the rich variety of resources (including basic science and patient info) offered by NLM through the NCBI Global search engine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ovid allows you to search MEDLINE and up to 4 other Ovid databases simultaneously. Links among MEDLINE, EBM databases, Medweaver and full text citations.

For Additional help with OVID or PubMed:

Email: Askalibrarian@jefferson.edu OR
 Call the Scott Memorial Reference Desk at: 215-503-8150

To schedule a workshop, Email: Dan.Kipnis@jefferson.edu

Scott Memorial Library
 Thomas Jefferson Univer
 1020 Walnut Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19107

