

# Searching EuropePMC

This doc describes how to use Boolean search to retrieve records from EuropePMC via [Application Program Interface](#) (API).

## Databases Covered

EuropePMC combines results from the following databases:

- [PubMed and PMC](#),
- The [Agricola](#) agricultural library,
- [Preprints](#) from 24 different life-sciences-related preprint databases.

## Entering a Boolean Query

Boolean Operators can be used to specify the structure of your search.

### Basic Boolean Operators

When entering your search terms of interest, use:

- AND/OR/NOT to separate terms,
- quotation marks to search for an exact term (which also turns off Automatic Term Mapping), and
- parenthesis to dictate groupings and priority order

to narrow in on publications of interest. For example,

`stroke AND (trevo OR solitaire) AND "modified Rankin Scale"`

will retrieve all EuropePMC-indexed publications that contain **all of the following** in their title, abstract, or keywords:

- The word stroke
- The word trevo or the word solitaire
- The exact phrase "modified Rankin Scale."

### Using Search Fields and Filters

If you want to specify how a term will be interpreted by EuropePMC, specify the field in the following manner: (FIELD:term), using one of EuropePMC's pre-specified fields (or filters), which will narrow how that specific term is interpreted. See the full set of fields/filters enabled on EuropePMC on pages 57-64 [here](#).



Note that this structure is different from that used by PubMed, meaning that a query must be altered before being copied over from one database to the other!

## MeSH Fields

Use of MeSH terms in EuropePMC is not automatic but you can limit your search to MeSH or other attached keywords:

- Search for (KW:term)

## Searching Fields such as Author, Journal, etc.

EuropePMC enables you to specify whether one of your terms is:

- Author, by searching for (AUTH:name),
- Journal, by searching for (JOUR:name),
- Volume, by searching for (VOLUME:number)
- Issue, by searching for (ISSUE:number)

## Filter by Study Traits

EuropePMC enables searches to be narrowed by the following [study characteristics](#):

- Publication type, by searching for one of EuropePMC's supported [publication types](#) using, for example, (PUB\_TYPE:review);
- Abstract available, by appending (HAS\_ABSTRACT);
- PDF Full Text available, by appending (HAS\_PDF);
- Publication date, by searching for FIRST\_PDATE: [YYYY-MM-DD TO YYYY-MM-DD] (only the Year is required for the filter to function), and for a specific year, you can also search PUB\_YEAR:YYYY;
- Language, by searching for the (LANG:language);
- Open-access-only, by searching for (OPEN\_ACCESS)

## Filter by Study Contents

You can also narrow the section of the publication in question that your term will be searched within by specifying:

- Title only, (TITLE:text)
- Abstract only, (ABSTRACT:text)
- Body of the text only, (BODY:text)

## Guidance on Search Creation

See also our guidance on the following search creation tips, which match across PubMed and EuropePMC:

- [PICO](#)
- [Expanding or Narrowing?](#)
- [How many records is "enough," and When to stop?](#)

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