

How to Build a Concept Table with Subject Headings

| What you see | What you hear |
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| Library logo | In our last video, we talked about taking a well-built research question and turning it into a concept table and a search strategy with keywords. This time around we'll be building out the subject heading row of your concept table. |
| objectives slide | By the end of this video, you will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the usefulness of subject headings • Locate appropriate Medical Subject Headings for your topic in PubMed |
| <p>recall sandwich imagery from last video</p> <p>different names for sandwiches, select one</p> | <p>In the last video, we talked about how complicated and variable the English language is, meaning that we need to be thorough when searching to make sure we find all of the relevant articles on our topic.</p> <p>Though not a substitute for thorough searching, some databases have built systems so help combat this problem: controlled vocabularies</p> <p>Often manifesting as 'indexing terms' or 'subject headings' they all operate under the same principle: picking an official name for a concept and tagging all of the articles that are about that topic with the selected term. So even if an author mentions hoagies, researchers will be able to access that article by searching with the official term, Sandwich.</p> <p>It works similarly to hashtags on social media.</p> <p>In PubMed, these are called Medical Subject Headings or MeSH terms and people at the National Library of Medicine go through</p> |

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| modified strategy / concept table | It means we add in our subject headings to the list of terms OR'd together in each column. |
| | And that's it! Still have questions? Contact your personal or departmental librarian today! |