How to Build a Concept Table with Subject Headings

What you see	What you hear
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	<ul> <li>By the end of this video, you will be able to:</li> <li>Explain the usefulness of subject headings</li> <li>Locate appropriate Medical Subject Headings for your topic in PubMed</li> </ul>
recall sandwich imagery from last video	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.
	Though not a substitute for thorough searching, some databases have built systems so help combat this problem: controlled vocabularies
different names for sandwiches, select one	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.
	It works similarly to hashtags on social media.
	In PubMed, these are called Medical Subject Headings or MeSH terms and people at the National Library of Medicine go through

	every article by hand and assign appropriate terms.
add row to concept table	So let's revisit our concept table from the last video – subject headings get their own row like keywords currently have.
screencast of tasks	Let's go to PubMed!
	On the PubMed homepage change the database to MeSH – the collection of medical subject headings.
	Go through and type, one at a time, the key components of your research question into the line to explore the subject headings available to you.
	When I type Parkinson, I see a variety of options. You can read the quick overview or click into the page to make sure the term is a good fit for your topic. You can also scroll down to see where the term lives within the hierarchy of broader and more specific terms.
	In this case, I'll add Parkinson disease and Parkinsonian disorders to my concept table just to be thorough.
	For dance, I'll end up grabbing both Dancing and Dance Therapy. You'll see on the page for a MeSH term a list of 'entry terms', which are sometimes a good place to find additional keywords for that row of your concept table.
	Finally, when I type in balance, none of them seem like a great fit. That's fine! In the absence of a good subject heading, keywords should still get the job done.
	So what does this mean for our search strategy?

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!