

Combining Searches in an EBSCO Database

In this example, directions are given on how to review a Search History and combine searches in the EBSCO Medline database. The librarian first completes the search using the terms the student provided, or suggests alternative terms as needed; the final results should provide a reasonable number of results for the student to peruse. Describe briefly how to perform the search, being sure to name buttons, drop-down menus, tabs, bars, and radio buttons EXACTLY as seen on the screen. Provide the approximate number of results for each search to help the student be sure she has conducted her own search properly. Additional information such as how to save, print, evaluate, cited, etc. can be included when appropriate.

Go into Medline in the Ebsco Database.

Click on the MeSH button near the top of the screen.

In the Browse bar, type:
AIDS

Click the Browse button.

For more effective searching, Ebsco suggests that you use the term Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, rather than AIDS.

Click on the term Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, which brings you to the official subject listing of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

Click on the box just to the left of the term. A green check mark will appear. Click on the Search button towards the top of the page. Approximately 63,777 results should appear.

Click on the MeSH button near the top of the screen again

This time, in the Browse bar, type:
history

Click the Browse button.

Click on the box just to the left of the term History. A green check mark will appear. Click on the Search button towards the top of the page. Approximately 1,230 results should appear.

You have just completed two searches of the Medline Database: one for articles about AIDS, and one for articles about history. Now you can combine those searches to locate articles that are about both History and AIDS.

Just above the number of results retrieved is a tab called Search History/Alerts. Click on this tab. You should see the two searches you just completed. The first search, S1, provided results about AIDS. Search 2 (S2) provided information about history.

Towards the top of the screen, in the Find bar, type:

s1 AND s2

And click the Search button.