

**OLDMEDLINE** represents journal article citations from two printed indexes: *Cumulated Index Medicus (CIM)* and the *Current List of Medical Literature (CLML)*. Created by the National Library of Medicine, these approximately 1,760,000 citations to articles from international biomedical journals cover the fields of medicine, preclinical sciences and allied health sciences from 1950 through 1965. OLDMEDLINE records, most of which are included in the MEDLINE database, can be searched via **PubMed** or **Ovid Medline**.

OLDMEDLINE citations reflect the contents of the original printed indexes that were produced under policy and procedures of the time. Citations lack the individual and accumulated changes and improvements that have been made to data in other NLM files during annual file maintenance. Certain fields may contain outdated or erroneous data and the data are not typographically consistent from year to year (e.g., the use of upper/lower case).

### Record Structure

OLDMEDLINE records differ slightly from those in current Medline. These differences may affect how searches are conducted in PubMed or Ovid to achieve good results.

- **Lack of Abstracts** – no abstracts are attached to any OLDMEDLINE records. This means that keyword or textword searches are only searching the title field of the reference.
- **Subject Headings** –to distinguish the original subject headings from the printed indexes from current MeSH, all original subjects have been placed in the Other Term [OT] field of OLDMEDLINE records in PubMed or the Keyword Heading [KW] in Ovid. Note the following characteristics of these subject headings:
  - **Few subject headings** – approximately 3-5 per citation.
  - **“Check tag” headings** – or limits like ANIMALS, CHILD, INFANT, HUMAN, etc. are applied inconsistently and *should not be used*.
  - **Original subject headings** have not been updated, and may not match current MeSH vocabulary.
  - **Subheading practice varied:**  
No subheadings on 1963 - 65 CIM citations and 1950 and 1951 CLML citations.  
**Avoid subheadings.** Various subheadings on 1960 - 62 CIM citations and 1952 - 59 CLML citations.
  - **All headings designated as major topic.**
  - Because these original subject headings are not current MeSH, the subject headings in the [OT] or [KW] field of OLDMEDLINE citations do not relate to current hierarchical MeSH Tree numbers, and the MeSH search capabilities (i.e., "explosions") that collect indented (more specific) terms are not functional for these data in the OT field.

### Search Tips for OLDMEDLINE:

- Keyword searching, rather than subject heading searching, is recommended in OLDMEDLINE since records are so brief and changes in the controlled vocabulary have not been incorporated into the records.
  - To be comprehensive, you will **need to think of and enter any appropriate synonyms or alternate terms to include in your search**. For example, to search for skin cancer, you would need to enter *skin cancer, skin neoplasms, melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, etc.*
  - Use truncation to search alternate word endings. (e.g. transplant, transplants transplantation, transplanting, etc.)
    - ♦ In Ovid use the \$ (e.g. transplant\$)
    - ♦ In PubMed use the \* (e.g. transplant\*)
  - In Ovid, uncheck the “map term to subject heading” to automatically conduct a keyword search.
  - In Ovid, you can force the keyword search to search **all fields** in the record by adding **.af.** after search terms. This will make retrieval more comprehensive. For example: skin neoplasm\$.af.
- If Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) are used, **avoid subheadings** as they are used inconsistently.
- Keep searches simple. Do not AND too many terms because of the brief records.

## Sample OLDMEDLINE Record

Unique Identifier / PubMed ID	UI (Ovid) PMID (PubMed)	14194094
Record Owner	RO	NLM
Authors	AU	<a href="#">MANDEL EE.</a>
Authors Full Name (2002+)	FA	MANDEL, E E.
Title	TI	EXPERIMENTAL CANCER-CELL IMPLANTS IN PATIENTS.
Source	SO	Science. 144:486, 1964 May 1.
Abbreviated Source	AS	Science. 144:486, 1964 May 1.
NLM Journal Name		Science (New York, N.Y.)
Publishing Model	PI	Journal available in: Print Citation processed from: Print
NLM Journal Code	JC	0404511, uj7
Journal Subset	SB	OM
Country of Publication	CP	UNITED STATES
MeSH Subject Headings	MH	<a href="#">*Biomedical Research</a> <a href="#">*Neoplasms, Experimental</a> <a href="#">*Research</a> <a href="#">*Transplantation Immunology</a>
Keyword Heading / Other Term	KW (Ovid) OT (PubMed)	*CLINICAL RESEARCH; *NEOPLASMS, EXPERIMENTAL; *RESEARCH; *TISSUE CULTURE; *TRANSPLANTATION IMMUNOLOGY.
ISSN Print	IS	0036-8075
Publication Type	PT	Journal Article.
Language	LG (Ovid) LA (PubMed)	English
Date of Publication	DP	1964 May 1
Entry Date	ED	19961201
Revision Date	RD	20070319
Update Date	UP	20070320