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Literature Search Strategy Week: Lisa Palmer on Using My NCBI to Save PubMed Searches and Citations and Customize Your Display

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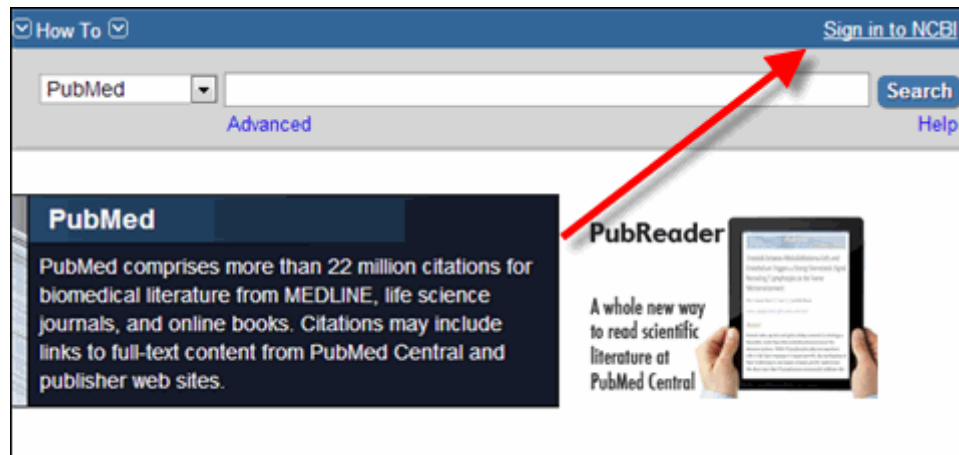
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Lisa Palmer on Using My NCBI to Save PubMed Searches and Citations and Customize Your Display

Hello! My name is **Lisa Palmer**. I'm a librarian in the [Lamar Soutter Library](#) at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

As my colleague Molly Higgins pointed out in her [Top Ten Databases blog post](#) earlier this week, [PubMed](#) is a key database to search for biomedical literature. The goal of this post is to alert you to **My NCBI**, a tool available for PubMed that allows you to save citations and searches and customize your results display. It's easy to use and will help you stay organized and up-to-date with journal articles relevant to your research, especially for those longitudinal projects!



Hot Tip: Register for a My NCBI account

- Go to <http://pubmed.gov>
- Click **Sign in to NCBI** in the upper right corner
- Click **Register for an NCBI account**
- Click "Keep me signed in" to automatically activate My NCBI each time you use PubMed
- Access and manage your saved searches, collections, and customizations from the **My NCBI** link in the upper right corner of the PubMed home page

Hot Tip: Save search strategies and receive email updates

You can permanently save PubMed search strategies to be retrieved as needed or to be run periodically with search results emailed to you.

- Run a search and click **Save search** under the Search box
- Follow the prompts to name the search and set up email updates

Hot Tip: Save citations to permanent collections

You can save citations from search results to be retrieved as needed. Use **Favorites** or **Collections** to create an unlimited number of individual collections of citations that can continue to be built over time.

Use **My Bibliography** to create a collection of your own publications (both PubMed citations and items not in PubMed).

- Run a search
- Select desired citations
- Use the **Send To** drop-down menu to send to **Collections** or **My Bibliography**

Hot Tip: Customize the PubMed display

Use **NCBI Site Preferences** to customize your PubMed display. Common preferences include:

- Highlighting search terms in color in search results
- Customizing the search results display to set default values for display format, number of items displayed per page, and sorting order

Cool Trick: Sharing Collections

My NCBI collections are set as Private by default. You can share a collection by changing this setting in Collections from Private to **Public**. A URL and HTML code are provided – use the URL to share with others and the HTML code to post onto a web page.

Rad Resources

[My NCBI Help](#)

[PubMed Tutorial – My NCBI](#)

[My NCBI handout](#) from the [U.S. National Network of Libraries of Medicine](#)

[PubMed Brief Animated Tutorials](#)

See My NCBI Sections on Saving Searches, Collections and Bibliographies, Preferences and Filters