



Specificity with a very powerful search engine!

Pharmacy Abstracts

User's manual



www.pharmacyabstracts.org

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About Pharmacy Abstracts

Pharmacy Abstracts is an international secondary source abstracting articles in the Pharmacy field.

Pharmacy Abstracts presents a powerful search engine, with Field Descriptors and Boolean Operators that allow users to balance between sensitivity and specificity in their queries.

Pharmacy Abstracts provides a direct link to the full text article indexed, whether free or pay-per-view.

Every record in Pharmacy Abstracts can easily be linked from an external web page.

Journal and article selection

Pharmacy Abstracts includes all journals and articles broadly related to Pharmacy. This is not a new idea, as in 1894 The Royal Society of London published 'The Catalogue of Scientific Papers'.¹

A few objective criteria to be indexed are used to select journals and articles for Pharmacy Abstracts. These criteria are based only on the structure and layout of the articles.

Why not to be selective:

Some secondary sources have adopted a policy of subjectively selecting the journals to be indexed. Pharmacy Abstracts believes in readers' ability to identify good and relevant articles for their research or practice. In addition, journal selection alone does not guaranty the quality of all articles published. Even those journals considered best in their fields have sometimes published fraudulent research and low quality studies. Moreover, good and relevant pharmacy studies have been published in non-indexed journals, reducing their visibility.

¹ Bowditch HP. A card catalogue of scientific literature. Science 1895;1(7):182.

The effects of duplicate publication on meta-analysis have been widely reported.^{2,3} Authors of meta-analyses should carefully scrutinize all included studies and identify these duplicate articles. However, bias resulting from the lack of visibility of non-indexed articles cannot be easily solved.⁴

Since the very beginning, Pioneers has sought to be COMPREHENSIVE in abstracting knowledge: "18. That the catalogue shall comprise all published original contributions to the branches of science hereinafter mentioned, whether appearing in periodicals or in publications of societies or as independent pamphlets, memoirs, or books".⁵

Thus, the policy of Pharmacy Abstracts relies on the belief: "Let researchers and practitioners identify what is relevant for their research or practice, once they become experts in their area of knowledge. We should not restrict what they read"

Disclosure

Several Pharmacy researchers have invested time and money from their Departments in creating this project. Pharmacy Abstracts will never charge any fee to publishers for indexing their journals, nor will it charge researchers or practitioners for using the database.

Publishers are responsible for the accuracy of the contents they submit to Pharmacy Abstracts. No conflict of interest or selection bias exists, as any journal within the scope of Pharmacy Abstracts will always be indexed, regardless of language, country of origin, or publisher.

² Leizorovicz A, Haugh MC, Boissel JP. Meta-analysis and multiple publication of clinical trial reports. *Lancet* 1992;340(8827):1102-3.

³ Tramèr MR, Reynolds DJM, Moore RA, McQuay HJ. Impact of covert duplicate publication on meta-analysis: a case study. *BMJ* 1997;315(7109):635-40.

⁴ De Freitas AE, Herbert RD, Latimer J, Ferreira PH. Searching the LILACS database for Portuguese- and Spanish-language randomized trials in physiotherapy was difficult. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2005;58(3):233-7.

⁵ Adler C. The international catalogue of scientific literature. *Science* 1897;6(136):184-201.

Record structure

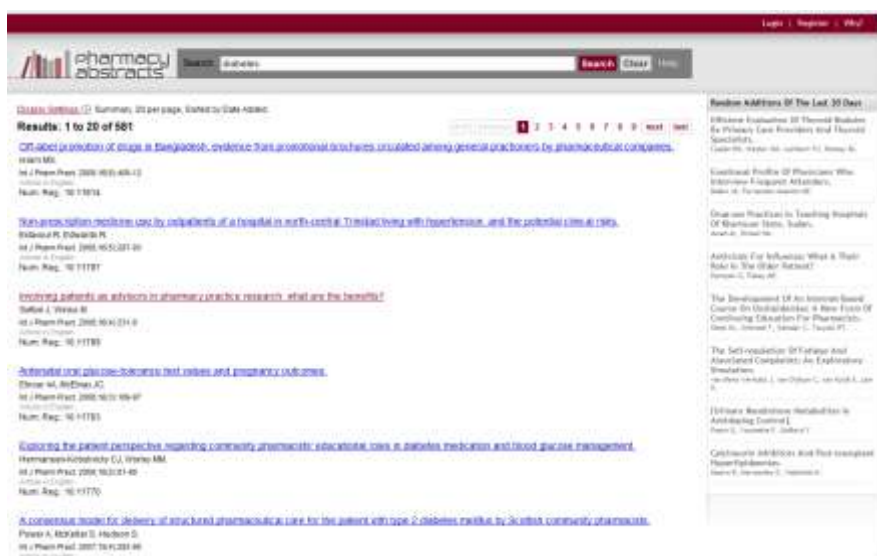
Pharmacy Abstracts has a very simple records structure, containing the following fields:

- Id: Internal record number. Identifies each article indexed and appears on the webpage as 'Num. Reg.'
- AU: Authors (all) separated by commas and cited as last name initials (e.g. Smith JD)
- TI: Title of the article
- TA: journal title (abbreviated using standard abbreviation)
- PY: Publication year
- VI: Volume in which the article was published
- IS: Issue in which the article was published
- PG: Initial page and last page (e.g. 1236-41)
- LA: Language (using languages names In English)
- AC: Free access to the article, where indicated
- LI: Link to the full text (if available)
- AB: Abstract, as presented in the article.

Searching at Pharmacy Abstracts

Simple Searches

A user can type a term in the Search Box and click on the Search button, and a list of articles containing that term will appear in the same tab (in blocks of 20 per page).



A user can navigate to the next/previous page to see the next/previous 20 articles in the list. A user can also navigate to a specific page number, or to the last/first page of that list.

Each article is presented as:

- Title
- Authors
- Reference
- Language
- Num. Reg.

[Provision of clinical pharmacy services in two safety net provider settings.](#)

Connor SE, Snyder ME, Snyder ZJ, Steinmetz Pater K.

Pharm Pract (Internet). 2009;7(2):94-9

Article in English. (Free Full Text)

Num. Reg.: 10.1457

By clicking on the title, a user will have Access to the full record of that article:



To keep the list of articles resulting from your query, the Full Record can be opened in a new tab (use the right button and click on Open Link in New Tab).

Once in the Full Record page, a user will see on the right upper frame up to 4 articles from the same authors. By clicking on See All, a user will see all the articles indexed in Pharmacy Abstracts from any of the authors in that article.

The right lower frame will show several randomly selected articles from the same journal as the present article.

When available, clicking on the title will open a new tab with access to the full text of the article. Pharmacy Abstracts does not grant access to articles, so users will be able to access free articles or articles in journals to which they have subscriptions..

Inverted commas (Quotation marks)

By typing two words in the search box separated by a space, Pharmacy Abstracts will interpret them as two different terms linked by the Boolean Operator 'AND' (See Boolean Operators).

Example:

Diabetes hypertension

Will retrieve articles containing diabetes and hypertension (wherever they appear in the record)

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes+hypertension>

Users who wish to search for a group of words as a search term should use Quotation Marks, thus retrieving only articles containing that exact term.

Example:

"Blood pressure"

Will retrieve articles containing blood pressure together.

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%22blood+pressure%22>

Truncation characters

Pharmacy Abstracts will not utilize Truncating terms.

The Pharmacy Abstracts search engine will retrieve all terms introduced into the search box, regardless of whether they are complete words or part of words.

Example: Introducing:

pharm

You will retrieve articles containing (not comprehensively):

Pharmacy

Pharmacist

Pharmacology

Pharmacogenomics

Poly-**pharmacy**

(etc.)

Boolean Operators

To refine a search, Boolean operators can be added to the query. Boolean operators admitted are: AND, OR, and NOT.

Boolean operators should always be CAPITALIZED.

Example:

Diabetes AND Hypertension

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=Diabetes+AND+Hypertension>

More than one Boolean operator can be used in a query, but parentheses will probably be needed to prioritize their importance.

Example:

Diabetes AND (hypertension OR asthma)

Will retrieve articles that always contain diabetes and either hypertension or asthma)

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=Diabetes+AND+%28hypertension+OR+asthma%29>

Example:

(Diabetes AND hypertension) OR asthma

Will retrieve articles containing either asthma or both diabetes and hypertension

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%28Diabetes+AND+hypertension%29+OR+asthma>

More complicated queries can be used if needed:

Example:

(Diabetes OR glucose) AND (hypertension OR (blood AND pressure))

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%28Diabetes+OR+glucose%29+AND+%28hypertension+OR+%28blood+AND+pressure%29%29>

Field Descriptors

Searches at Pharmacy Abstracts can be further refined by using field descriptor to limit the search of the term to a specific field. Field descriptors are field names (see Record structure), which must be used between square brackets and must be CAPITALIZED.

Example:

Diabetes[TI]

Will retrieve articles containing diabetes in their titles.

Check:

[http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes\[TI\]](http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes[TI])

Queries can be further refined using both Field Descriptors and Boolean operators.

Example:

((Diabetes[TI] OR glucose[AB]) AND (hypertension[TI] OR (blood[AB] AND pressure[AB]))) AND English[LA]

Check:

[http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%28%28Diabetes\[TI\]+OR+glucose\[AB\]%29+AND+%28hypertension\[TI\]+OR+%28blood\[AB\]+AND+pressure\[AB\]%29%29+AND+English\[LA\]](http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%28%28Diabetes[TI]+OR+glucose[AB]%29+AND+%28hypertension[TI]+OR+%28blood[AB]+AND+pressure[AB]%29%29+AND+English[LA])

Some useful Field descriptors may include:

- English[LA]: To choose languages an individual can read.
- Free[AC]: Only articles with free full access will be retrieved.
- 2007[PY]: To retrieve only articles published in 2007

Exclamation mark

An Exclamation mark can be used to search for specific content in a specific field (not including all the different forms in which that term can appear). This utility will help retrieve only articles that contain that specific text in that specific field.

Example:

Using:

“J Clin Pharmacol”[TA]

will retrieve articles published in:

- **J Clin Pharmacol**
- **Br J Clin Pharmacol**
- **Can J Clin Pharmacol**
- **Int J Clin Pharmacol**

Check:

[http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%22J+Clin+Pharmacol%22\[TA\]](http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%22J+Clin+Pharmacol%22[TA])

To solve this, use:

“!J Clin Pharmacol”[TA]

Check:

[http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%22!J+Clin+Pharmacol%22\[TA\]](http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=%22!J+Clin+Pharmacol%22[TA])

External links to Pharmacy Abstracts

Link to an article

A link to an article can be created and included in a webpage to produce a list of articles (CV, bibliography, etc).

Creating a link requires knowing the Record Number of the article. By using the *Num. Reg.* a URL can be created with the following structure:

`http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/details.pl?ID=XXXX`

where **XXXX** represents the *Num. Reg.* as it appears on the webpage (not using the two first figures).

Example: Creating a link to the article

Sutton J, Weiss M. Involving patients as advisors in pharmacy practice research: what are the benefits? *Int J Pharm Pract.* 2008;16(4):231-8

Num. Reg. for this article appears as: *Num. Reg.*: 10.11789

The link to this article should be:

`http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/details.pl?ID=11789`

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/details.pl?ID=11789>

Link to a search query

A link to a search query can be created and included in a webpage. Thus, a bibliographic list can be updated at the same time as Pharmacy Abstracts.

To create the link to a Search Query, the following structure should be used:

`http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=XXXXXX`

where **XXXXXX** represents the search query desired.

Example: To create a link for the query

Diabetes

`http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes`

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes>

Spaces in the Search box should be substituted by "+". No spaces are allowed in the resulting URL.

Example: To create a link for the query

Diabetes hypertension

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes+hypertension>

Check:

<http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=diabetes+hypertension>

Inverted commas, parentheses and square brackets can be used directly in the URL. Boolean Operators and Field Descriptors should be CAPITALIZED in the URL.

Example: To create a link for the query

(Diabetes[TI] AND "blood pressure") OR asthma

[http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=\(Diabetes\[TI\]+AND+"blood+pressure"\)+OR+asthma](http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=(Diabetes[TI]+AND+)

Check:

[http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=\(Diabetes\[TI\]+AND+"blood+pressure"\)+OR+asthma](http://www.pharmacyabstracts.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?qstr=(Diabetes[TI]+AND+)

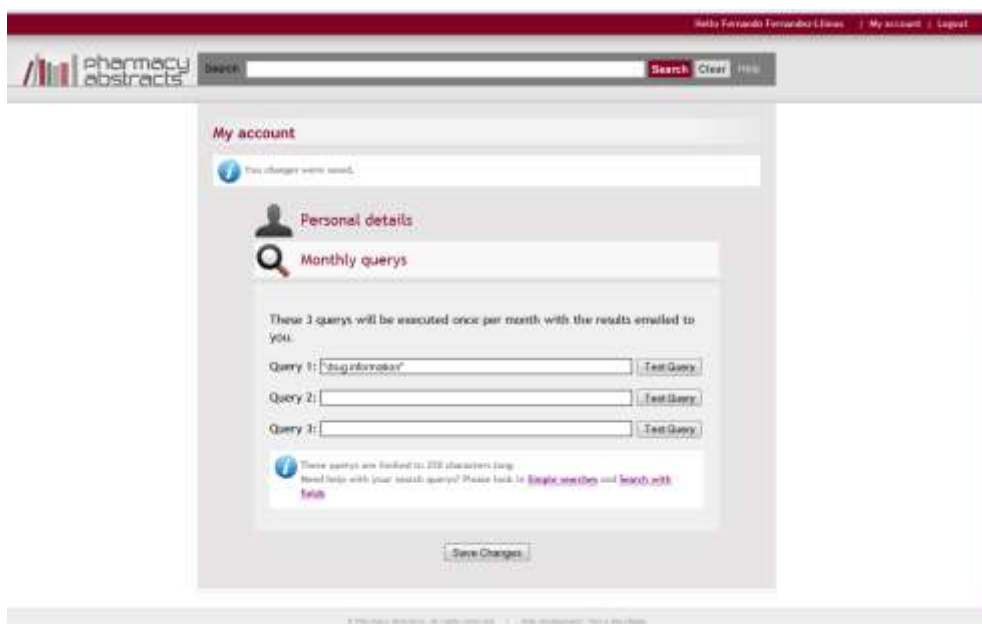
Registered Users

Registration at Pharmacy Abstracts is completely free!!!

Registered users can have up to three queries running automatically every month and get the results by email.

To register, a user should click on Register on the top bar, enter Name and email address and choose a Username. The system will produce a random password, which can be changed at My Account, Personal Details.

In the Monthly Queries section, each user will be able to register up to three search queries, which every month will send all matching articles indexed during that month retrieved using each of those search queries. We recommend testing the query (by clicking on the Test Button) to see if it is working properly. Each query must not have more than 250 characters.



The screenshot shows the 'My account' page on the Pharmacy Abstracts website. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Search' and buttons for 'Search', 'Clear', and 'Help'. Below the search bar, the 'My account' section is displayed. It includes a notification that 'Your changes were saved.' and two main sections: 'Personal details' and 'Monthly queries'. The 'Monthly queries' section contains a message: 'These 3 queries will be executed once per month with the results emailed to you.' Below this message are three input fields for 'Query 1', 'Query 2', and 'Query 3'. The first field contains the text 'bug infrobor'. Each input field has a 'Test Query' button to its right. At the bottom of the 'Monthly queries' section, there is a note: 'These queries are limited to 250 characters long. Need help with your search query? Please look in [Simple queries](#) and [Search with fish](#).' A 'Save Changes' button is located at the bottom of the 'Monthly queries' section.