How to Use the PubMed Filters Sidebar

By Anna Do, May 2019

PubMed filters replace the “Limits” page, bringing the same functionality as “Limits” directly to your search results page. Using the filters will narrow down your search results to help you find articles related to your research question.

1. Once you make a search in PubMed, you see a default set of filter categories in the sidebar for article types, text availability, publication dates, and species.
2. To change this list, click “Show additional filters,” select the desired categories, and then click “Show.” Note that “Article types” and “Publication dates” cannot be removed.

3. You can narrow search results by article types, publication dates, or any of the other listed filters. After you pick your filters, a “Filters activated” message will appear.
4. Once a filter is active, it remains in effect for subsequent searches until it is cleared. You can clear active filters in several ways. Use the “Clear all” links, the “clear” link for all filters within a category, or click an active filter to un-select it.

Within a category, applying additional filters actually expands your search rather than narrows it. This is because the additional filter is included as an “OR” term. Also, note that only valid filter options for your particular result set are available. For a step-by-step tutorial on how to use the PubMed filters sidebar, check out this video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/696R9GbOyvA

For more help visit https://library.mghihp.edu