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## PUBMED CENTRAL<sup>1</sup> & ENTREZ PUBMED<sup>2</sup>

### AN ARCHIVE OF LIFE SCIENCE JOURNALS

**PubMed Central** (*PMC* hereinafter) is an open access database of life sciences papers and journals. It is a very popular way to access academic literature in all biomedical fields, but also nucleotide and protein sequences, genomes and various other taxonomies.

*PMC* grew from the online *Entrez* retrieval system, a global query search engine developed at the National Center for Biotechnologic Information (NCBI). Its primary aim is to maintain a digital index of the electronic literature available at the National Library of Medicine (NLM), itself a department of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Available as a core sub-component of *PMC*, **PubMed** is a comprehensive literature database designed to provide access to biomedical citations and abstracts. It also links to full-text articles available from journal websites, such as the online edition of the *British Medical Journal*<sup>3</sup> or *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*<sup>4</sup>. *PubMed* is not only a database of choice, it is also a huge timesaver since it features an option to save queries and to set up automatic email alerts accordingly.

Used jointly with other bibliographic collections, *PubMed* is a precious ally to librarians and researchers worldwide. My own current research project focuses on social inclusion and thus involves studying specific aspects of public health research. This body of knowledge being almost completely new to me, *PubMed* helps me to systematically review recent publications on social inclusion, to confront them with the existing literature and to build my own personal 'state of the art'.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pmc>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed>

<sup>3</sup> <http://bmj.bmjournals.com/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://jama.ama-assn.org/>