Research Skills WS 2015 Master of Epidemiology

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Prof. Dr. Eva Grill

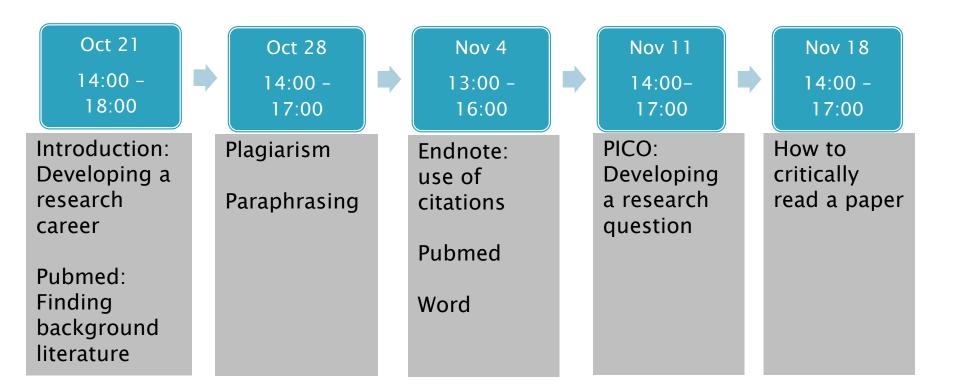
Purpose of this course

You will receive a wide range of training, support, and hands-on experience using productive, skill-based lessons providing the key competencies needed throughout this program. We invite you to explore and improve your research abilities through an interactive and competent course to help guide and develop your expertise throughout your whole experience in this master's program

Purpose of this course...cont

- Curriculum throughout entire master program (4 semesters)
- Help with flow of epidemiology program
- Prepare you for your internship, thesis and future work as a researcher

Schedule



Presentation Skills

Structure/Requirements

- Lecture
- Practical Exercises
- Group Presentations
 - Not graded, but expected to be ready at start of next class period
 - 75% attendance is mandatory (4 out of 5 classes)
- Research skills II (summer/autumn 2016):
 - Developing a study protocol
 - Variations of a theme: how to derive research objectives
 - Writing the methods section of a study protocol
 - Planning a study: time and resources
- Research skills III (summer 2016):
 - Writing a paper (thesis)

Groups

Group 1

Alzahmi Amal
Puerto Valencia Laura M.
Sujana Chaterina
Cadenovic Ranko
Babacic Haris
Schöning Verena M.

Group 2

Balakrishna Suraj Bedir Ahmed Buysse Laurence Vanajan Anushiya Piciu Ana Maria Arjinian Sebouh Ungethüm Kathrin

Group 3

Xiaoting Wang

Byng Danalyn Witzleb Anna Julia Cardenas Comejo Romulo El Kassem Bassam Cooney Claire Dreher Annegret

Groups

Group 4

Chak Choi Wai Matias Garcia Pamela R. Forster Felix Hoffmann Andreas Horn Sacha

Huang Dan

Group 5

Kearns Elizabeth
Krajewska Maja
Mancera Charry Julian
Marku Jonida
Mathew Stephen Mariet
Ellhadad Mohamed
Pastuhovic Vedran

Today's Schedule

2pm – 2:45pm : Intro/Eduroam

2:45pm - 3pm : Break if needed

3pm – 4pm : Scientific Presentations

4pm - 4:15pm : Break

4:15pm – ... Pubmed/Practices

What is a researcher in Epidemiology?

- Chooses the topics for his/her research
- Develops original research ideas and answers them
- Financially supports the time they and staff spend on research (grants usually)
- A bit more than just analyzing others' data
- More than just a hobby or side activity

What are the typical characteristics of a researcher in epidemiology?

You can be a researcher

- Normal life
- You don't have to be a workaholic
- You don't have to be brilliant/a genius/manic
- You have to be curious and enjoy research
- It has to be the main focus of your career

Why choose a career in epidemiological research?

- Does it fit into your skills? Do you want to spend your time with it?
- Flexible lifestyle
- Opportunity to contribute
- Constantly challenging
- Variety in day to day activities

What are the downsides?

- Research is a highly competitive field -lots of faculty members want to be researchers.
- Researchers tend to be judged on productivity
 - √ Grants
 - ✓ Publications
- Researchers have to be thick-skinned
- Less job security

Where do ideas come from?

- Greatest mystery/scariest part of research
- Clinical practice how often is your clinical work really evidence-based rather than tradition-based?
- Limitations of current research (at the end of every paper's discussion section)
- Taking a public health perspective (undertreated/over-treated, costs of therapy, potential lives saved)

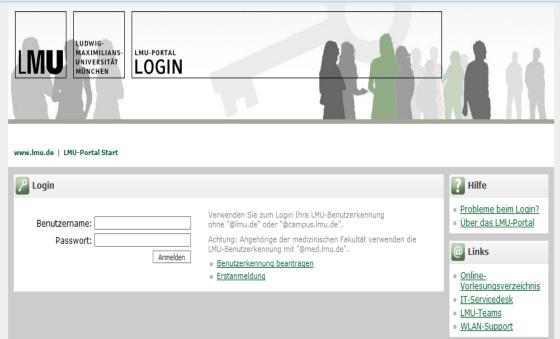
How do you know if research is right for you?

- Your favorite work activity?
- Your skills?
- Decide what activity/subject will inspire you the most long-term
- The MSc program is probably the best time to decide if you want to be one

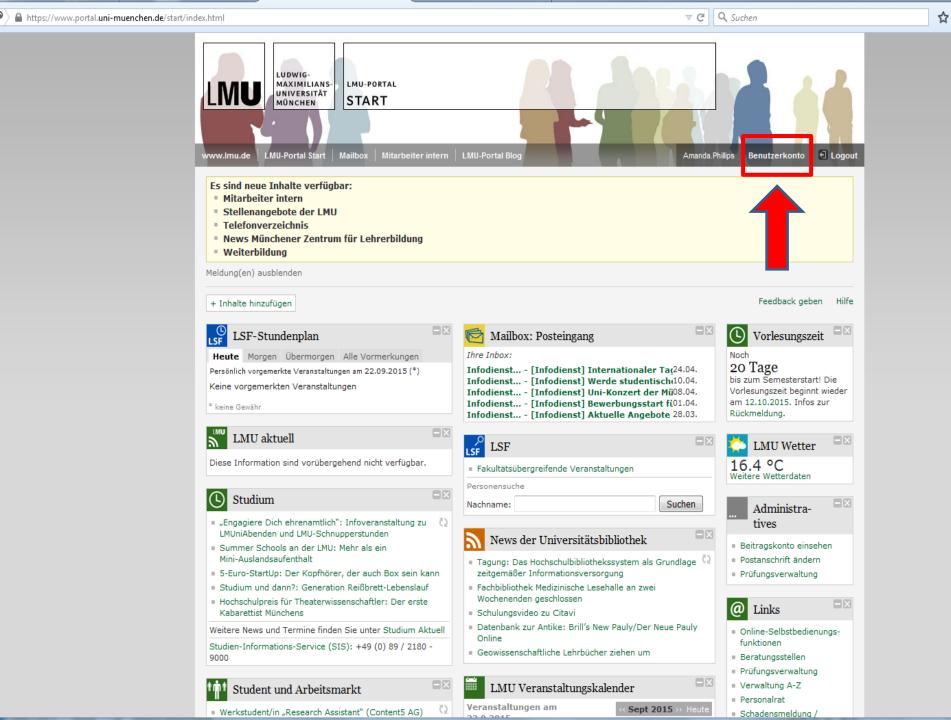
Eduroam

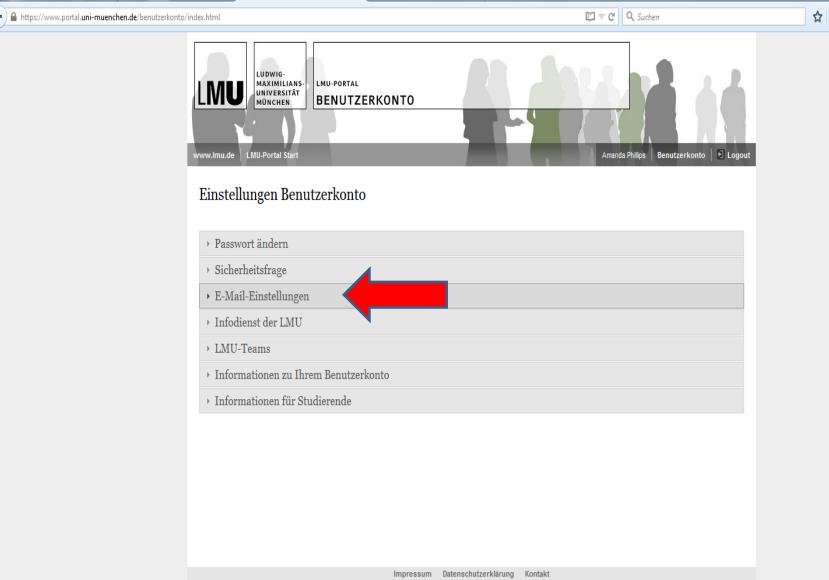
What you need...

- LMU email or
- LRZ username and password
 - Given when you registered
 - https://login.portal.unimuenchen.de/login/loginapp/login.html
 - if you do not know it
 - Look under Benutzerkonto

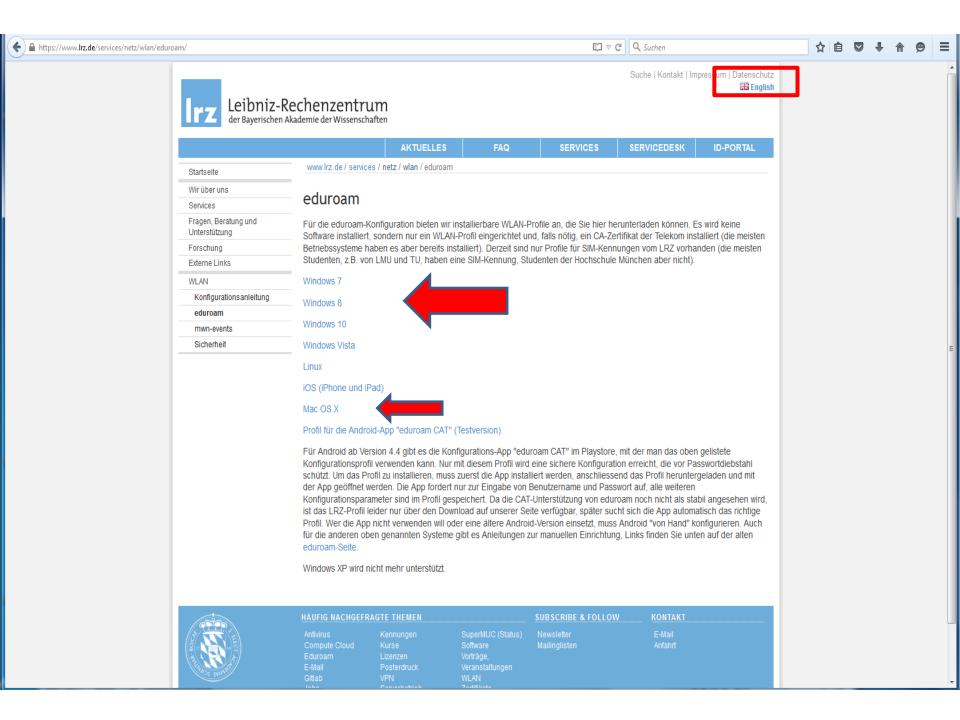


Impressum - Datenschutz - Kontakt

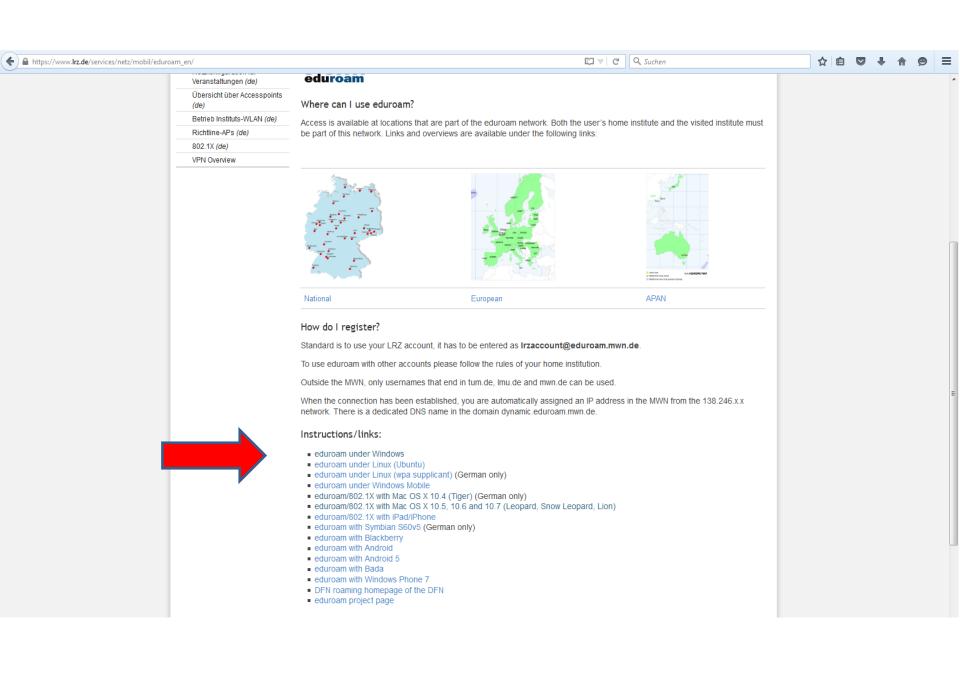




- https://www.lrz.de/services/netz/wlan/eduroam/
 - Download the appropriate configuration file from this website and run it on your computer



- https://www.lrz.de/services/netz/mobil/eduroamen/
 - Instructions for mac and windows





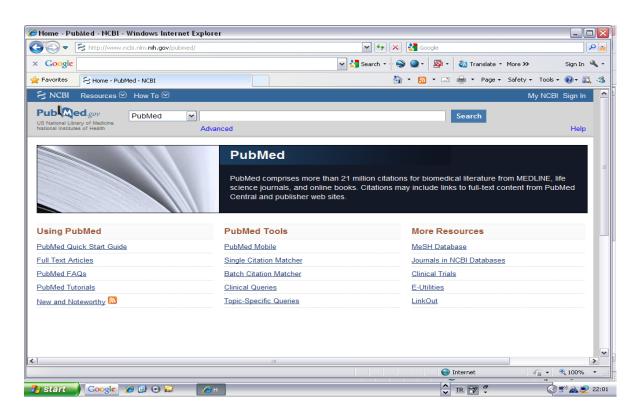
Research Skills: PubMed

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PubMed

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov





What is PubMed

- ➤ Produced by NCBI
- ➤ PubMed includes MEDLINE, a premier NLM biomedical database of worldwide journal literature in medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, public health and the preclinical sciences
- ➤ PubMed is an excellent database for finding some articles on most health/medicine topics.
- ➤ PubMed is free to anyone with internet access.
- PubMed includes links to full text at publisher or library websites



What is PubMed?

- ➤ PubMed citations come from more than 5,000 biomedical journals.
- ➤ PubMed has more than 21 million citations from the 1940's to the present.
- ➤ PubMed includes very recent articles and updated each week.
- ➤ Coverage is current as participating publishers submit electronic citations daily



What Can You Do in PubMed?

- ➤ Search for articles (usually abstracts)
 - By keyword
 - By author
 - By Journal, etc
- ➤ Combine searches
- >Link to related articles
- >Link to outside sources
 - To purchase the full article
 - Look at related books (including pages in the books)
- ➤ Clinical queries



Research Question

- etc.
- ntervention/Issue- i.e., chemicals, nutrition, drug therapy...etc. (exposure)
- omparison i.e., exposed vs. non-exposed, new drug vs. current drug...etc. but there may not always be a comparison
- utcome i.e., disease, no disease, death, survival, tumor growth...etc.



Basic PubMed Search

- ➤ Keyword Searching
 - Example: type 2 diabetes
 - Too many to read through
 - lots of false hits
 - not specific to your actual question/search topic

Simple Searches ≠ Best Searches



Search limits

Consider search refinements to limit specific aspects of a topic, such as:

- ➤ Meta-Analysis
- ➤ Systematic Review
- ➤ human or animal studies
- ➤ male or female subjects
- > age groups, for example adolescents, infants
- >time periods
- **≻**languages



Basic PubMed Search

- ➤ Keyword searches can lead to "unwanted" results because they:
 - 1. Ignore negating expression (but, except, never...)
 - 2. Treat all words as equally important
 - 3. Dont include synonyms and varieties of search term (infant, infants, infantile, infancy, neonate, newborn, baby...)
 - 4. Don't recognize homonyms
 - Example: dressing could mean
 - » Bandages on wounds
 - Putting on clothes



What is the solution?

- > Medical
- > Subject
- ► Headings





What is MeSH?

- ➤ MeSH = Medical Subject Headings
- ➤ MeSH is a vocabulary of subject headings and subheadings
- ➤ Subject terms are selected and approved for use by NLM
- > Each year subject headings are revised with additions and deletions
- >Scope note indicate what is meant by the term
- ➤ Used to describe the subject content of all publication types in PubMed and in the library catalogs
- ➤ Hierarchy of terms with broad and narrow terms
- ➤ Items are indexed with the most specific MeSH term available



What is MeSH?

➤ MeSH Vocabulary includes four types of terms:

- Headings
- Subheadings
- Supplementary Concept Records
- Publication Characteristics (or Types)



MeSH Headings

- ➤ Over 26,000 MeSH headings
- ➤ Examples:
 - Body Weight
 - Kidney
 - Dental Cavity Preparation
 - Self Medication
 - Radioactive Waste
 - Brain Edema



Sub headings

- ➤ Sub Headings- (also called qualifiers) are attached to MeSH headings to describe a specific aspect of a concept
- ➤ Examples:
 - adverse effects
 - diagnosis
 - metabolism
 - therapy



Supplementary Concept Records

➤ Supplementary Concept Records are over 200,000 terms in a separate thesaurus from the Medical Subject Headings. These are primarily substance terms, but also include some protocols and rare disease terms. These terms are updated weekly.

➤ Examples:

- cordycepin
- valspodar
- tacrolimus binding protein 4
- MOPP protocol
- Snyder Robinson syndrome



Publication Characteristics

- ➤ Publication Characteristics or (Publication Types) describe the type of publication being indexed; i.e., what the citation is, not what the article is about.
- >Examples:
 - Letter
 - Review
 - Randomized Controlled Trial



Advantages of MeSH

- Consistency in meaning of terms is maintained over time
- ➤ Synonyms are organized under one MeSH term
- > Allows for both specific and comprehensive results
- >Cuts down on irrelevant retrieval



Try it in PubMed

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed

≻<u>Video</u>



Combining similar terms

Use Boolean operators to combine different terms

- >OR use to combine different terms for the same concept
- >AND to combine different concepts
- NOT excludes concepts but must be used with caution to avoid excluding relevant items
- >," quotations specify as phrase as one term and not individual words. Using quotes turns off PubMed's Automatic Term Mapping. You are only searching for the phrase "heart attack", and not the MeSH term "Myocardial Infarction" or synonyms.

BOOLEAN TERMS MUST BE IN UPPER CASE LETTERS!



Logic of Boolean

> OR will search for articles containing any of the terms we chose.

Use OR to combine synonyms, alterative spellings or related items

- > <u>AND</u> will search for articles which contain all of the terms we have chosen.
- ➤ PubMed processes all Boolean operators in a left-to-right sequence unless closed off by parenthesis, for example: *vertigo AND* (quality of life OR well-being)





- ▶parentheses () used to create Boolean nesting. Much like in mathematics, using parentheses lets PubMed know which words you want to be affected by the Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) you use—otherwise it just reads from left to right.
- ➤If you want to search for articles on pain in the eyes or head, for example, entering (eye OR head) AND pain would get you results on pain in either the eye or head;
- representation eye OR (head AND pain) would get you results relating to the eye, regardless of whether pain is involved, and results that mention both pain and the head.



- >square brackets [] used immediately after a term (no space), it tells PubMed which field to search.
 - Grill[au] will search for Grill only in the author field
 - Vertigo[MesH] will search for Vertigo only in MesH terms field
- ➤colon: use between two dates followed by a date tag to search for all articles within that date range
 - 2000:2014[DP] will search for articles only published between the dates 2000-2014



- >double quotes " used to force a phrase search, "quality of life"
- ➤asterisk * wildcard symbol for search term truncation, e.g., toxic* will search for toxic, toxicology, toxicity, and anything else that starts with toxic



- forward slash / MeSH/Subheading combinations,
- ➤ e.g. Paranasal sinuses/radiography[MeSH]. Note: PubMed will translate to the correct MeSH terms, but if the heading/subheading combination you use doesn't exist, you won't get any results.
- For example, if you enter *Paranasal sinus/x-ray[MeSH]*, PubMed will search for *Paranasal sinuses/radiography[MeSH]*,
- ▶but if you enter Paranasal sinus/pain[MeSH], you will get no results, because pain is not used as a subheading in MeSH. If you're not sure if your combination works, look it up in MeSH first.



List of all search field tags:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK3827/#pubmedhe lp.Search_Field_Descriptions_and



Clinical Queries

- Clinical Queries- specialized PubMed searches that filter citation retrieval by clinical study categories, systematic reviews, and medical genetics topic.
- Searches can be either broad (sensitive) or narrow (specific)



Filters in Clinical Queries

- Clinical Study Category
 - Etiology
 - Diagnosis
 - Therapy
 - Prognosis
 - Clinical prediction guidelines



Fliters in Clinical Queries

- Systematic Reviews
 - Systematic Reviews
 - Meta-analysis
 - Reviews of Clinical Trials
 - Consensus Development Conferences
 - Guidelines
- Medical Genetics Topic
 - displays citations pertaining to topics in medical genetics



Clinical Queries Practice

<u>Video</u>



Before starting search consider:

- ➤ The keywords
- ➤ Other ways to spell the keywords
- ➤ Important MesH terms
- ➤ Boolean Terms (AND, OR, NOT)
- ➤Other words which mean the same thing (synonyms)
- ➤ Related keywords need to be included
- ➤ Limits to apply: date, language, age group, publication type...
- ➤ Search Field Tags []