1. Here we are at the familiar home page for the Grunigen Medical Library. We’re here to find articles on PubMed so let’s go there straight away.
2. A new window for PubMed has opened. Notice the lengthy web address at the top of the page. That’s because we arrived here directly from the UCI libraries’ website. Now that we’re here, let’s click on Clinical Queries, which is where we need to enter our search terms.
3. A few things to point out here. Notice that therapy is the default category, which we’ll keep, and the scope default is “narrow, specific,” which we’ll also keep. If you’d like to know the difference between these two types of scopes, click filter table.
4. So, since we used the defaults in our search, what do they mean? What **is** a specific and narrow search for a therapy question? When we chose “specific / narrow,” the search algorithm added the words “randomized,” “controlled,” and “trial” to our search terms. On the other hand, if we had chosen “sensitive / broad” it would have broadened our search results to articles that may not be randomized, controlled trials -- cohort studies, for example. Let’s go back to the search page.
5. Remember PICO? The PICO components are shown in the table here. The purpose of creating the PICO was to clarify the clinical concepts in your question and identify search terms to make it easier to locate relevant studies in a database search. So let’s recall our case study of Shiri and her ear infection. “Acute Otitis Media” is the problem, and “antibiotics” is the proposed intervention. We’ll exclude the treatment comparison terms because the terminology (“no treatment,” “watchful waiting,” “observation”) is not consistent in the medical literature. We’ll also exclude the desired outcome (pain and fever reduction) because it may restrict our results too much.
6. Okay, now that we’ve defined our search terms, let’s give it a try.
7. Our search gave us 290 results; that’s an awful lot to wade through. So let’s further limit our results by clicking on the limits tab.
8. There are many ways to limit a search from this page, but let’s just select a handful. First let’s select articles published in the last 5 years; we want articles on humans, in English, and limited to infants, since that pertains to our case study patient. Remember a few screens ago when “specific narrow” was our default scope? Do not select anything under Type of Article, since PubMed automatically limits our search to the relevant type of article.
9. A-ha! That did the trick. Now we have a manageable 27 items. Let’s choose an article that seems the most relevant. Let’s select the one by Spiro and others.
10. Here we’re getting an abstract of the article and it does seem relevant. Notice on the right side, that the full text of this article is available via the UC-eLinks button. Let’s click on it.
11. So here we have the entire article in our browser. We can also select PDF on the right hand side to download, save, or print the article in PDF. That’s it. We’re done.