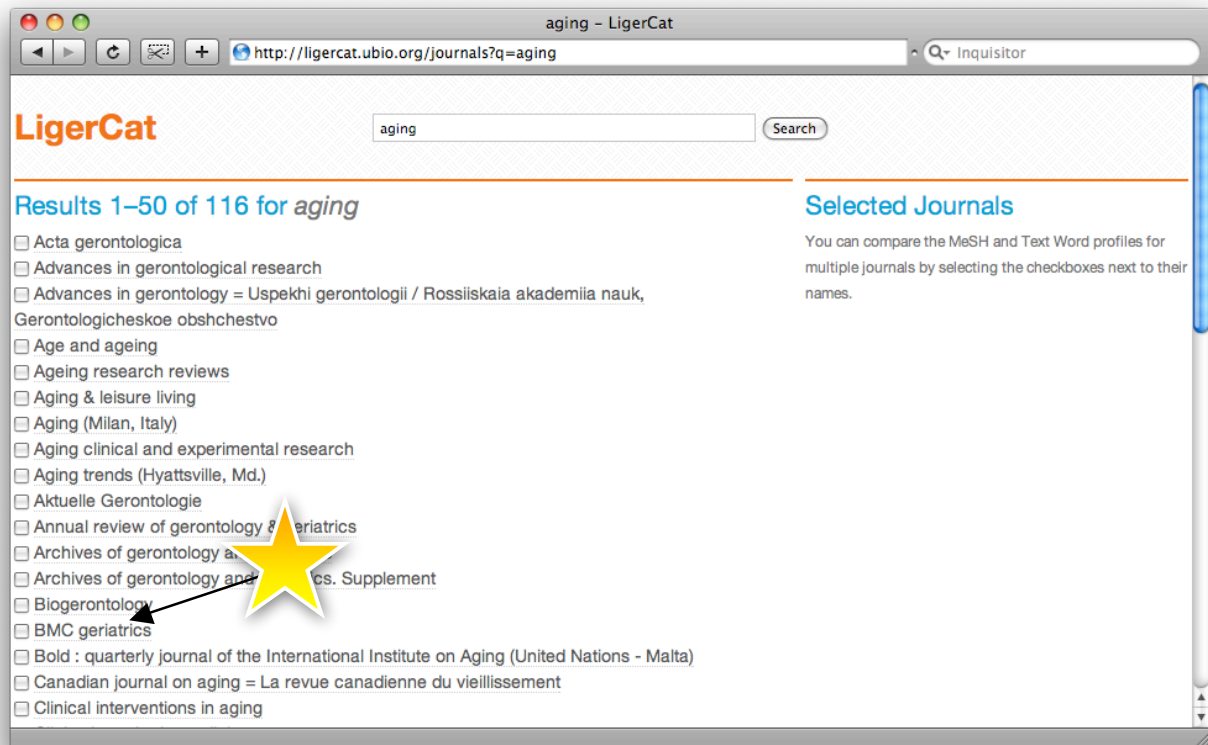


LigerCat is an online search tool for finding and examining journals. To begin, point your browser to <http://ligercat.ubio.org/> and enter a search term into the text field.★

LigerCat searches the National Library of Medicine's Journal database using a unique algorithm that iteratively expands your search query based on common traits exhibited across the results yielded. This algorithm has been shown to noticeably increase the volume of search results while maintaining their validity.

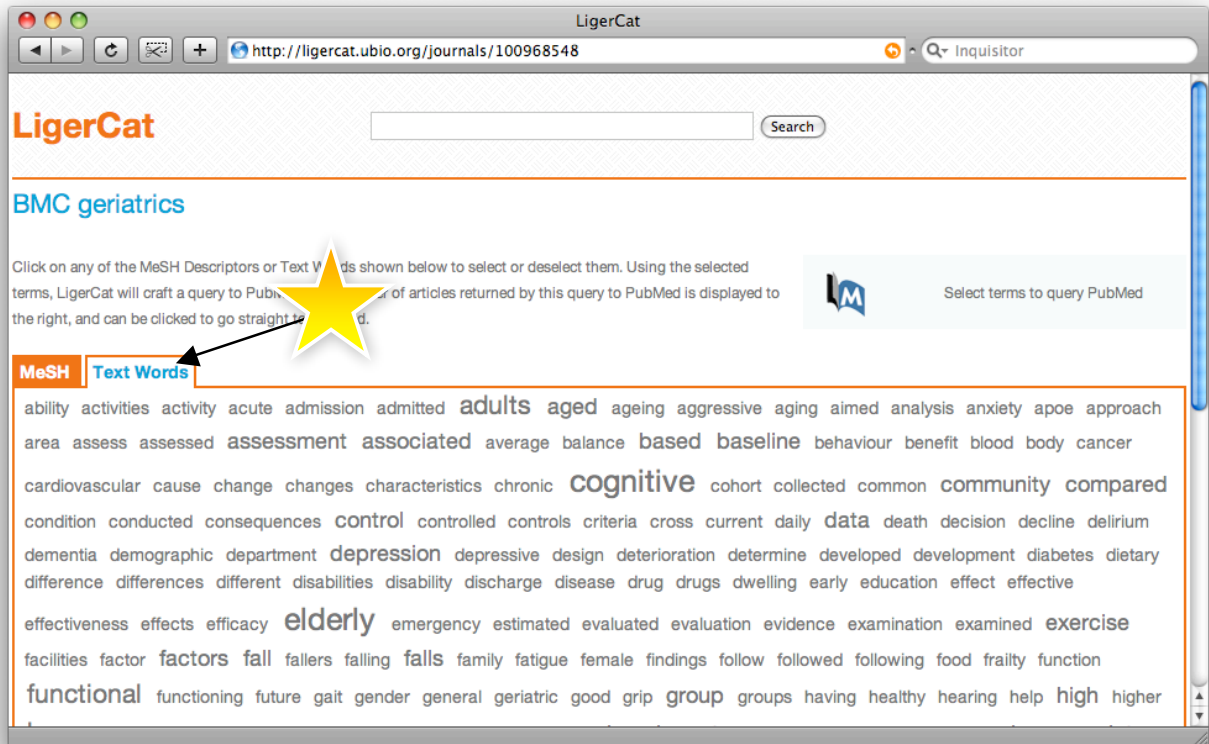
Due to the nature of LigerCat's unique journal search algorithm, it does take some time to run. To increase search speed, LigerCat saves every query and the resulting journals, delivering near-instantaneous access to search results on subsequent queries; the first time a search term is entered into LigerCat, however, it could take a minute or two to retrieve the results.



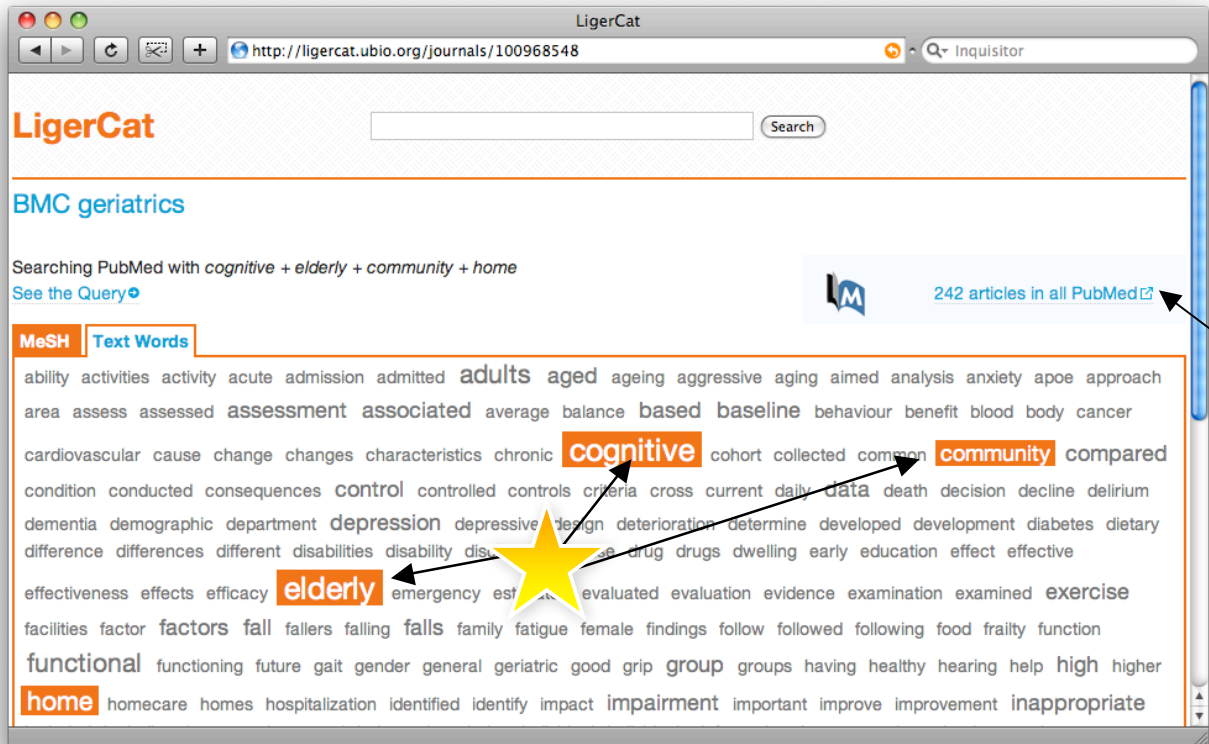
LigerCat will display search results 50 to a page. By clicking on a journal's name, you can examine it. ★



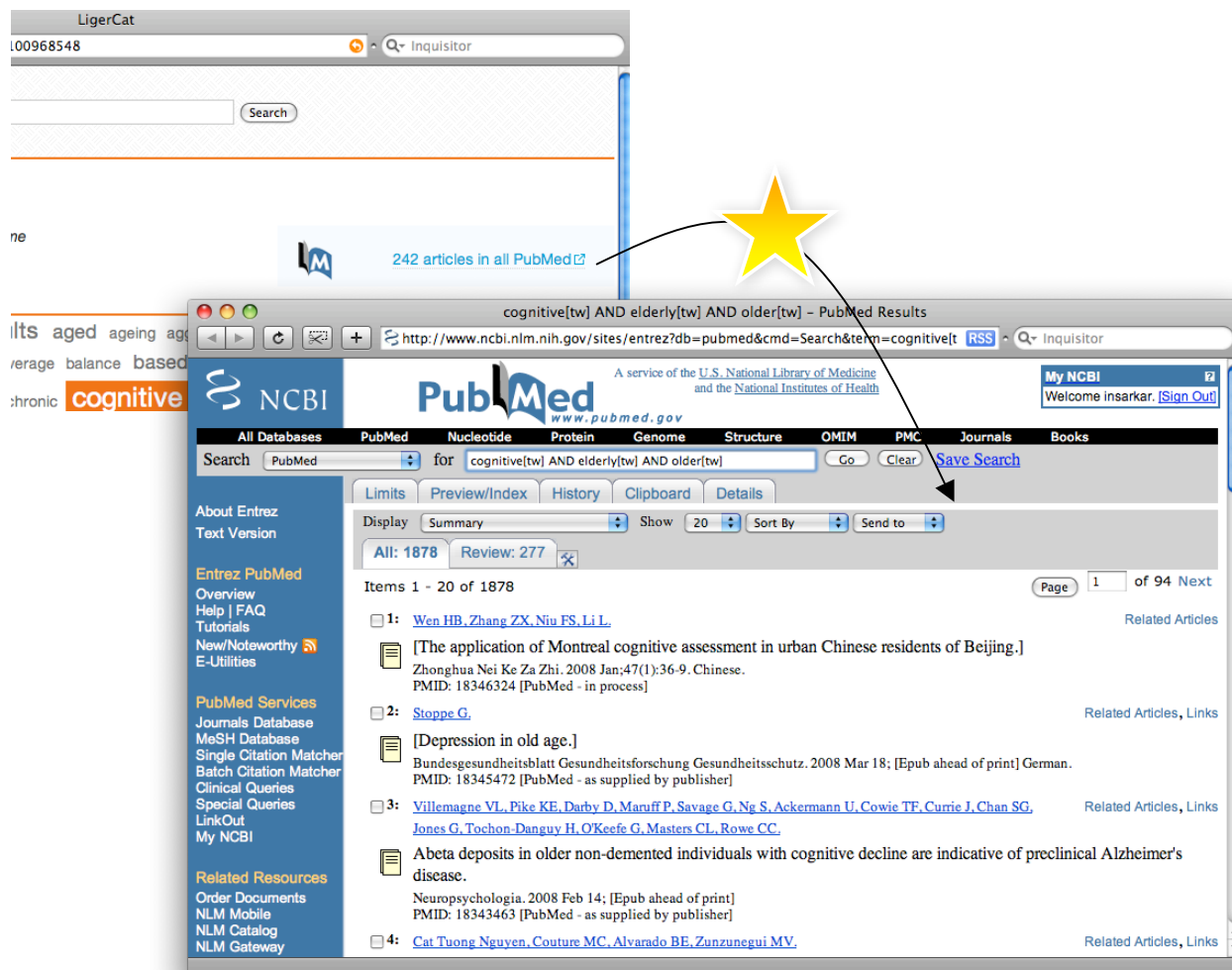
LigerCat has in its database, virtually every MeSH Descriptor applied to nearly every article published in a journal, along with how many times that MeSH Descriptor has been used. When examining a journal, these MeSH Descriptors are displayed as a “tag cloud,” an alphabetical list of the Descriptors, their respective size denoting the frequency of their usage – the larger the font size, the more frequently the articles are annotated with that Descriptor. In this example, we can see that “Aged” and “Aged, 80 and over” are the most common MeSH Descriptors applied to articles in the journal BMC Geriatrics.



LigerCat provides similar functionality for Text Words, meaningful words that occur in an article's title and abstract. By clicking on the Text Words tab★, we can see that the words “cognitive,” “elderly,” and “older” are prevalent in the titles and abstracts of many of the articles published in BMC Geriatrics.

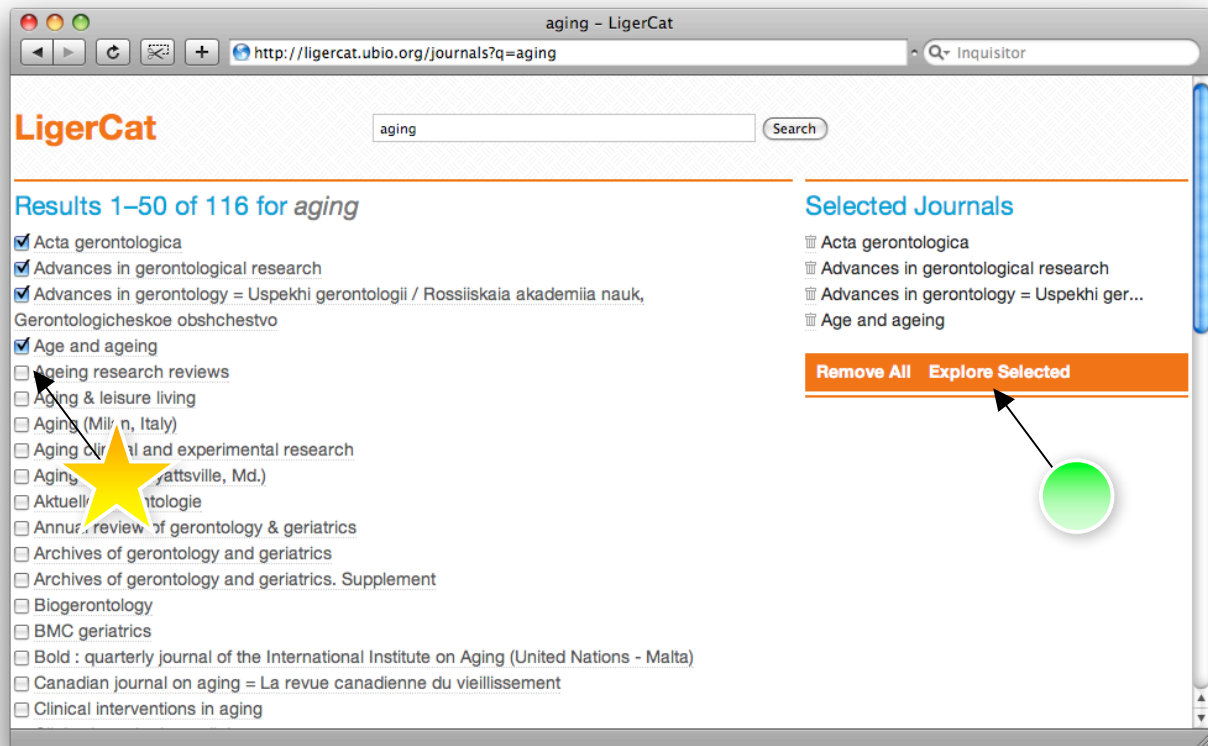


When viewing the Text Words *or* MeSH Descriptors, you can click on one or more ★ terms. This will “select” a term; using the selected terms – both MeSH Descriptors *and* Text Words – LigerCat will craft a query to PubMed. The number of articles returned by this query to PubMed is displayed in the upper-right corner of the MeSH Descriptor- ● Text Word selection panel.



Clicking on the number of articles in PubMed will take you directly to that PubMed search in a new window, for further refinement and exploration.★

While these features alone are quite powerful, the potency of **LigerCat** lies in its ability to perform these functions across *groups* of journals from your searches. Let's return to the search page to explore.



LigerCat has the ability to compare the MeSH and Text Word profiles of a group of journals. Journals can be grouped by checking the box next to the name of a journal. ★ Selected journals are listed on the right-hand side of the screen, and will persist across multiple searches, or multiple pages within a search. After building a satisfactory selection of journals, click the Explore Selected button. ●



With multiple journals selected, **LigerCat** now displays the MeSH Descriptor profile of all the selected journals, descriptors ranked accordingly. As one might expect, the descriptor “Aged” is common throughout the articles contained in these four journals. The MeSH Descriptor and Text Word descriptor selection and PubMed querying works as described earlier in this document.