

WHAT ARE REVIEW ARTICLES AND HOW DO I FIND THEM?



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What are "Review Articles"?

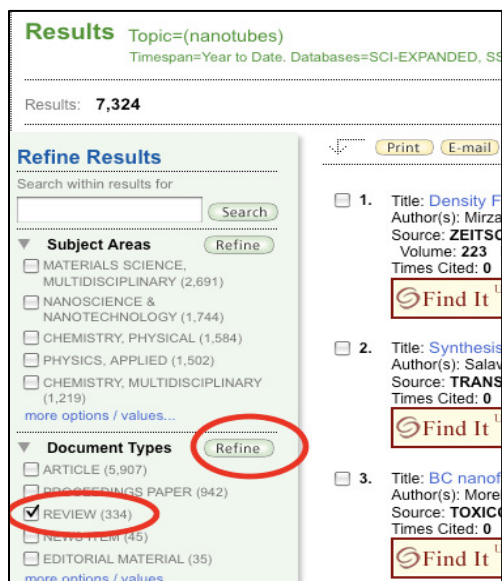
Review articles are summaries of research done on a particular topic. They are very thorough literature reviews that identify historical and current trends in the research, important scholars in the field, foundational articles, major discoveries, gaps in the research (areas for further exploration), and current debates or controversies. Review articles are a good resource when you are beginning to study a new area of research and need an overview of the topic or need to know the current state of research in a field.

How Do I Find Review Articles?

Most databases and indexes allow you to limit your search to include only review articles. This option might be listed as "review articles", "literature reviews", or "reviews." Below are instructions for finding review articles.

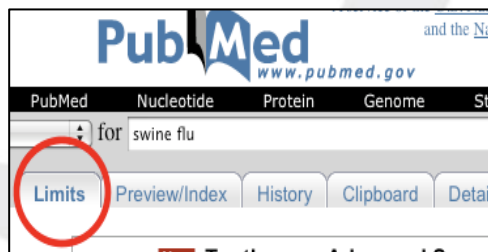
Web of Science (click *Web of Science on the Biology Guide*: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/subjects/rqs/22>)

Perform a search as you usually would, entering in your topic in the search box on the search page. When the results list appears, look at the left hand side of the page and you will see a "Refine Results" box. Under "Document Types" check "Review" and then click "Refine" for a results list of only review articles.



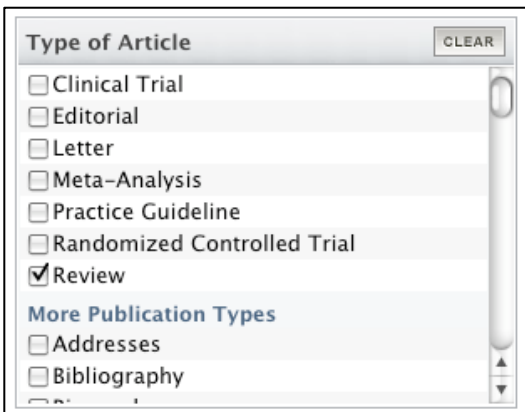
PubMed (click *PubMed on the Biology Guide*: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/subjects/rqs/22>)

Enter your search term in the search box, then click on the "Limits" tab just below the search bar.

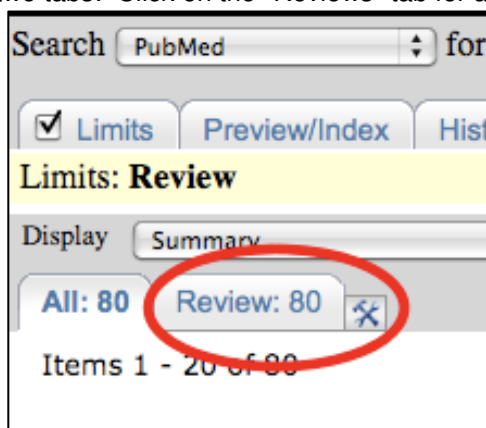


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In the limits window, scroll down to the "Type of Article" menu, then check "Review." Scroll back up to the search box with your search term, and then click the "Go" button at the end of the search box.

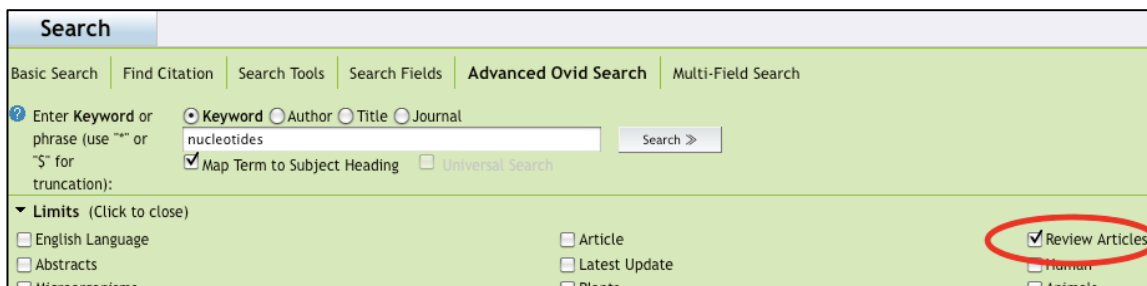


Tip: If you forget to limit your search to reviews, PubMed will do this for you. On the search results page, there are two tabs: Click on the "Reviews" tab for a filtered list of only review articles.



Biosis Previews (click *Biosis Previews on the Biology Guide*: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/subjects/rqs/22>)

Underneath the search box on the main page, there is a "Limits" section. Click "Review Articles" and perform your search.



Got Questions?

Ask Us! You can also get help in person at our Reference Desks or via phone, email or chat.