

CREATING ALERTS & SAVED SEARCHES

Test an Alert strategy

TASK: Creating a good Alert strategy requires testing. Try a search strategy against updates – records added to a database – and tweak it so it brings in record returns that fit your expectations. Databases update on specific schedules, such as daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and Alerts run against updates. By testing a strategy against updates you can approximate how many records your strategy will retrieve in a given update range. The good news is it doesn't cost anything to test a strategy.

<p>1. Enter a search strategy in the database(s) of your choice in any search form. This example shows a search in Advanced Search.</p> <p>2. Click Preview result counts.</p> <p>3. You created search set 1 (S1). Click Actions in the right-hand column and click Save search. You can save a search for the duration of the testing period and delete it after you create the Alert.</p>	
<p>4. Give the Saved Search a name and click Save.</p>	
<p>5. ProQuest Dialog advises that the search has been saved. Click Close.</p>	

6. Now go into **My Research** and find the Saved Search under the **Searches** tab. Click the **hyperlinked search statement** at **Searched for**.

The screenshot shows the ProQuest My Research interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Documents (0), **Searches (2)**, Alerts (5), RSS feeds (0), Tags (0), Shared lists, Widgets, and Account. Below this, the 'Saved searches (2)' section is visible. The first search entry is highlighted with a red circle around the 'Searches (2)' tab and a red arrow pointing to the 'Searched for' field. The search criteria are: MJMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes). Other details include Databases: MEDLINE®, Notes: Add notes, Saved: March 08 2013, and options to Modify Search, Delete, Create alert, Create RSS feed, and Get link.

7. Click the update timeframe you wish to test.

The screenshot shows the same ProQuest My Research interface as in step 6, but with a 'Re-run saved search' dialog box open. The dialog box prompts the user to 'Make a selection to search for content based on when it was last updated.' The options are: All dates, Last 7 days, **Last 30 days** (highlighted with a red box), Last 3 months, Last 12 months, After this date..., and Specific date range... There is also a checkbox for 'Remember my selection for this session.' and a 'Cancel' button.

8. Results return against the update timeframe. Click **Modify search**.

The screenshot shows the search results page for the 'Breast Cancer Therapy' search. The search criteria are displayed at the top: MJMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes). Below this, it indicates 'Additional limits - Updated: Last 30 days' and shows '411 Results *'. A red box highlights the search criteria and the 'Modify search' button. Below the search criteria, there are options to 'Search within', 'Create alert', 'Create RSS feed', 'Save search', and 'Download all results'. The search name is 'Breast Cancer Therapy' and there are 0 selected items. The results list includes three items, each with a preview button and details about the source and date. A 'Sort results by:' dropdown menu is set to 'Relevance' with a 'Sort' button. There are also options to 'Duplicate document settings', 'Change database order', and 'Include duplicates'.

9. On the Advanced Search page use the **Updated** drop-down list under **Limit to:** to test the search. Options range from **Last 7 days** to **After this date to Specific date range**.

Search options 2 Recent searches

Limit to: Abstract included Human Animals Females Males
 Reviews Clinical trials

Publication date: All dates

Updated: **All dates** (dropdown menu open)

Date created: All dates

MeSH subject: Last 3 years Look up MeSH subjects

Major MeSH: On this date... Look up Major MeSH

CAS registry number: After this date... Look up CAS registry numbers

Author: Before this date... Look up Authors

Search tips

- nurs* finds up to 10 characters (e.g., nurse, nurses, nursing) with unlimited word variations. Learn more
- Use quotation marks (e.g., "DNA testing") to search for a phrase.
- diabetes NEAR/3 treatment: NEAR/n looks for documents that contain two search terms within a specified number of words.

10. Try **Limiting the Update** range to **after a specific year, month, or date**.

Search options (✓ limits applied) 3 Recent searches

Limit to: Abstract included Humans Animals Females Males
 Reviews Clinical trials

Publication date: All dates

Updated: **After this date...**

Search for documents updated on or after a specific year, month, or date

February 15 2013 (YYYY)

Date created: All dates

Search tips

- nurs* finds up to 10 characters (e.g., nurse, nurses, nursing) with unlimited word variations. Learn more
- Use quotation marks (e.g., "DNA testing") to search for a phrase.
- diabetes NEAR/3 treatment: NEAR/n looks for documents that contain two search terms within a specified number of words.

11. Browse the search sets that reflect the search strategy tested against different **Update** timeframes

Items selected: 0 Delete Hide all details Export all searches Saved searches (2)

Set	Search	Databases	Results	Actions
S5	MIMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes) ✓ Limits applied Databases: MEDLINE® Limited by: Updated: Last 7 days	MEDLINE®	112*	Actions
S4	MIMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes) ✓ Limits applied Databases: MEDLINE® Limited by: Updated: After February 15 2013	MEDLINE®	289*	Actions
S3	MIMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes) ✓ Limits applied Databases: MEDLINE® Limited by: Updated: After January 15 2013	MEDLINE®	643*	Actions
S2	MIMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes) ✓ Limits applied Search name: Breast Cancer Therapy Databases: MEDLINE® Limited by: Updated: Last 30 days	MEDLINE®	411*	Actions
S1	MIMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) ✓ Limits applied Databases: MEDLINE® Limited by: Humans	MEDLINE®	37366*	Actions

12. Modify the search and test it if it looks like the strategy will result in too many or too few records. You want the Alert to produce a reasonable number of “hits” in the selected frequency.

Once you are satisfied with the approximate results for a given update range, go into **My Research** and delete the **Saved Search**, unless you want to keep it in addition to the Alert.

For help in creating an Alert see [ProQuest Dialog™ – How Do I Create an Alert?](#)

ProQuest Dialog MEDLINE® Basic Search | Advanced | Command Line

Advanced Search

Look Up Citation

Thesaurus | Field codes | Search tips

MJMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) in All fields + text

AND human(yes) in All fields + text

AND fruits or vegetables or soy or flax in All fields + text

Preview result counts Search Clear form

Search options (limits applied) 5 Recent searches

Items selected: 0 Delete Hide all details Export all searches Saved searches (2)

Set	Search	Databases	Results	Actions
S5	MJMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes) Limits applied Databases: MEDLINE® Limited by: Updated: Last 7 days	MEDLINE®	112°	Actions
S4	MJMESH.EXPLODE(Breast Neoplasms -- (therapy OR diet therapy OR rehabilitation OR drug therapy OR radiotherapy)) AND human(yes) Limits applied Databases: MEDLINE®	MEDLINE®	289°	Actions

NEED HELP?

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