

Alt HealthWatch

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About the Database

Alt HealthWatch

This database focuses on the many perspectives of complementary, holistic and integrated approaches to health care and wellness. It offers libraries full text articles for more than 180 international, and often peer-reviewed journals and reports. In addition, there are hundreds of pamphlets, booklets, special reports, original research and book excerpts. Full text titles include *American Journal of Chinese Medicine*, *American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine*, *California Journal of Oriental Medicine*, *European Journal of Clinical Hypnosis*, *International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms*, *Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine*, *Journal of Asian Natural Products Research*, *Journal of the Australian Traditional-Medicine Society*, *Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association* and many others. *Alt HealthWatch* provides in-depth coverage across the full spectrum of subject areas covered by complementary and alternative medicine.

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Searching Tips

There are a number of helpful tips and hints you can use to improve your search results. For example, you can use Boolean operators to link search terms together; and/or limit the search to a specific title.

Boolean Operators

Sometimes a search can be overly general (results equal too many hits) or overly specific (results equal too few hits). To fine tune your search, you can use AND, OR, and NOT operators to link your search words together. These operators will help you narrow or broaden your search to better express the terms you are looking for and to retrieve the exact information you need quickly.

USING THE "AND" OPERATOR: If you have a search term that is too general, you can append several terms together using "AND". By stringing key terms together, you can further define your search and reduce the number of results. Note: Unless you define a specific search field, the result list will contain references where all your search terms are located in either the citation, full display or full text.

- For example, type **government AND health care** to find results that refer to both government and health care.

USING THE "OR" OPERATOR: In order to broaden a search, you can link terms together by using the "OR" operator. By using "OR" to link your terms together you can find documents on many topics. Linked by this operator, your words are searched simultaneously and independently of each other.

- As an example, search **government AND health care OR medicare** to find results that reference the terms "government" and "health care", or the term "medicare".

USING THE "NOT" OPERATOR: In order to narrow a search, you can link words together by using the "NOT" operator. This operator will help you to filter out specific topics you do not wish included as part of your search.

- Type: **government OR health care NOT medicare** to find results that contain the terms "government" or "health care" but not the term "medicare".
- To further define your results, type: **government AND health care AND medicare** to constrict the search to include all terms linked by the "AND" operator.

[Grouping Terms Together Using Parentheses](#)

Parentheses also may be used to control a search query. Without parentheses, a search is executed from left to right. Words that you enclose in parentheses are searched first. Why is this important? Parentheses allow you to control and define the way the search will be executed. The left phrase in parentheses is searched first; then based upon those results the second phrase in parentheses is searched.

- Generalized Search: low risk or high risk and stocks or bonds
- Focused Search:(low risk or high risk) and (stocks or bonds)

In the first example, the search will retrieve everything on low risk or high risk stocks AS WELL AS everything on bonds whether or not the articles refer to low risk or high risk.

In the second example, we have used parentheses to control our query to only find articles about stocks or bonds that reference high risk or low risk.

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Searchable Fields

The default fields for unqualified searches consist of the following: all authors, all subjects, all keywords, all title info (including source title) and all abstracts.

The following list will help you locate detailed information referenced in this database as a field.

Searchable tag	Description	Example
AB	Abstract or Author-Supplied Abstract [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search of the abstract summaries.	AB Bikram
AN	Accession Number [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for an article's identification (accession) number.	AN 12511729
AR	Author Phrase [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for an article's author, in the format of last name, first name, and middle initial if available.	AR Altshul, Sara
AS	Author-Supplied Abstract [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search for documents that have an abstract supplied by the author. [Note: not visible on interface]	AS Y
AU	Author(s) [Word Indexed] Author(s) last name followed by his/her first name and a middle initial if available	AU Jibrin

CS	Cover Story [Word Indexed] Performs an exact search for the value "Y" indicating that the article is a cover story.	CS Y
CY	Country ID [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for a country's ISO identification code, indicating an article's country of publication.	CY US
DE	Heading or Keyword [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for subject headings and author-supplied keywords describing an article.	DE "Yoga"
DT	Date of Publication [Date Indexed] Performs an exact search for articles published on a specific date, in the format of CCYYMMDD.	DT 20020301
FM	Images Available [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for an article's type of full text. The searchable values are "T," "C," or "P." "T" indicates HTML full text; "C" indicates images embedded in the full text; and "P" indicates a PDF document.	FM P
FT	Full Text Available [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for the value "Y" indicating that a record has full text available.	FT Y
GE	Geographic Terms [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search of geographic locations pertaining to an article's content.	GE California
	Illustrations [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search for articles containing	

IL	illustrations. Values to be searched include "Y" indicating the article contains illustrations, and types of illustrations such as graphs, charts, diagrams, etc.	IL Y
IP	Issue [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for a publication's issue number.	IP 3
IS	ISSN [Phrase Indexed] International Standard Serial Number.	IS 01470353
JN	Journal Name [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for the journal title in which an article was published.	JN Better Nutrition
MH	Subjects [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search of a document's geographic subject terms, keywords in an article, and generic subject headings.	MH Antioxidants
PG	Number of Pages [Number Indexed] Performs an exact numeric search for an article's page length.	PG 19
PT	Publication Type [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for the type of publication.	PT Periodical
PZ	Document Type [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search of the document type. This tag is also used by the Document Type list button limiter.	PZ Abstract
	Peer Review [Word Indexed]	

RV	Performs a search for the value "Y" indicating that the article is from a peer-reviewed publication.	RV Y
SU	Subject Terms [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search for geographic terms and subject terms describing a document's contents.	SU Acupuncture
SO	Journal Name [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search for the journal title in which an article was published.	SO Spiritual Science
SP	Start Page [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for an article's start page.	SP 61
TI	Title [Word Indexed] Performs a keyword search for the title of an article, or a descriptive phrase if the article is dated before Nov 87.	TI Healing
UI	Unique Identifier [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for an article's identification (accession) number.	UI 6922801
VI	Volume [Phrase Indexed] Performs an exact search for a publication's volume number.	VI 2

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Definition of Fields

The following table explains the contents of each field in a Alt HealthWatch record's detailed display.

Field Name	Description
Title	Title of the article
Alternate Title	Non-English title of the article
Language	Language in which the article was published
Authors	Author(s) name in last name, first name format
Source	The source in which the article was published, its volume number, the number of pages in the article, and a description and number of illustrations found in this article
Document Type	Indicates a record's document type, such as article, book, abstract, company report, industry overview, and more. All Document Types are displayed in the listbutton limiter on the Advanced Search screen
Subject Terms	The specific article's subject heading describing the record's content
Geographic Terms	The specific article's geographic subject headings describing the record's content
Abstract	A brief summary taken from the article itself
Country of Publication	The country in which an article was originally published.
Committee Name	The government department or committee referenced in the document
Guest	Guests referenced in the article
Full Text Word Count	The word count of the article's full text.
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
DOI	Digital Object Identifier.
Accession Number	Unique number to identify the record

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Index Browse

Index browsing allows the user to view all values that occur in specified fields in a database, along with corresponding hit counts. Access the index browse feature by clicking the green "Indexes" button on the upper portion of the "Advanced" search screen. Use the drop-down menu to choose an index to browse. Indexes can also be searched using tags. Since browsable indexes are phrase indexed, the exact form and spelling of terms as they appear in the database must be used in conjunction with the tags when entering a search

manually. Indexes available for browsing in the *Alt HealthWatch* database are listed below. Tags for all fields included in the index browse feature begin with "Z" (e.g. "ZA" for Author).

ZA	Author
ZD	Entry Date
ZG	Geographic Terms
ZI	ISSN
ZJ	Journal Name
ZL	Language
ZT	Publication & Document Type
ZU	Subjects
ZR	Year of Publication

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Where to Send Your Comments

If you have some comments about either the database or the software, we would appreciate hearing from you! Please mail your comments to:

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 P O Box 682
 Ipswich, MA 01938
 Tel: 800-653-2726
 Tel: 978-356-6500
 Fax: 978-356-6565

Please submit any questions you have to: **<http://case.support.epnet.com>**.

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