

# Search Workbench:

Building, Refining, and  
Comparing PubMed  
Searches Using  
Interactive  
Visualizations

Edwin Sperr, MLIS, AHIP  
Clinical Information Librarian

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## Search Workbench

type 2 diabetes AND insulin

Search

Search Workbench lets you easily examine, edit and visualize your [PubMed](#) Searches. See how the parts of your search overlap and observe how it performs over time.

Then *compare* your searches to another in order to zero-in on exactly the terms you want to use. [\(more\)](#)

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## Search Workbench

Search

Your search: 'type 2 diabetes AND insulin' found [62245](#) results [?](#)

Was translated to:

("diabetes mellitus, type 2"[MeSH Terms] OR "type 2 diabetes mellitus"[All Fields] OR "type 2 diabetes"[All Fields]) AND ("insulin"[MeSH Terms] OR "insulin"[All Fields])

Edit this search

Delete this search

Add a nickname for this search:

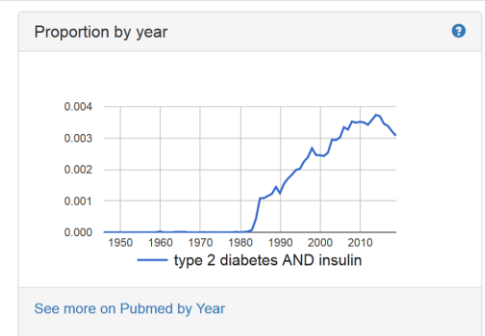
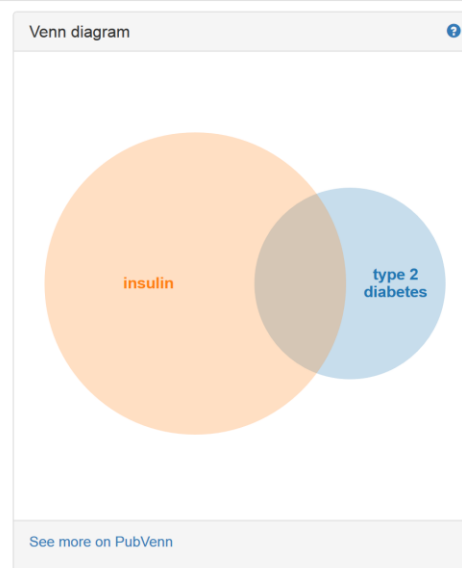
Add

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Reset All Searches

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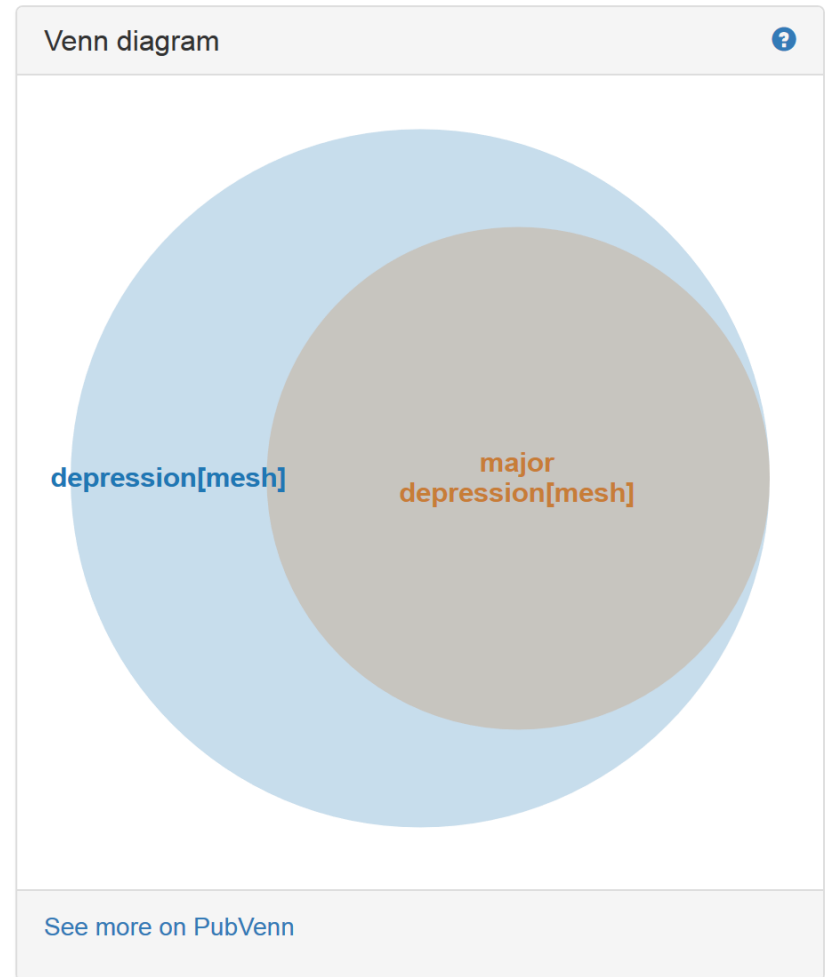
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## How?

- Browser + JavaScript
- NCBI E-utilities API
  - <https://dataguide.nlm.nih.gov/>
- JS libraries for visualization

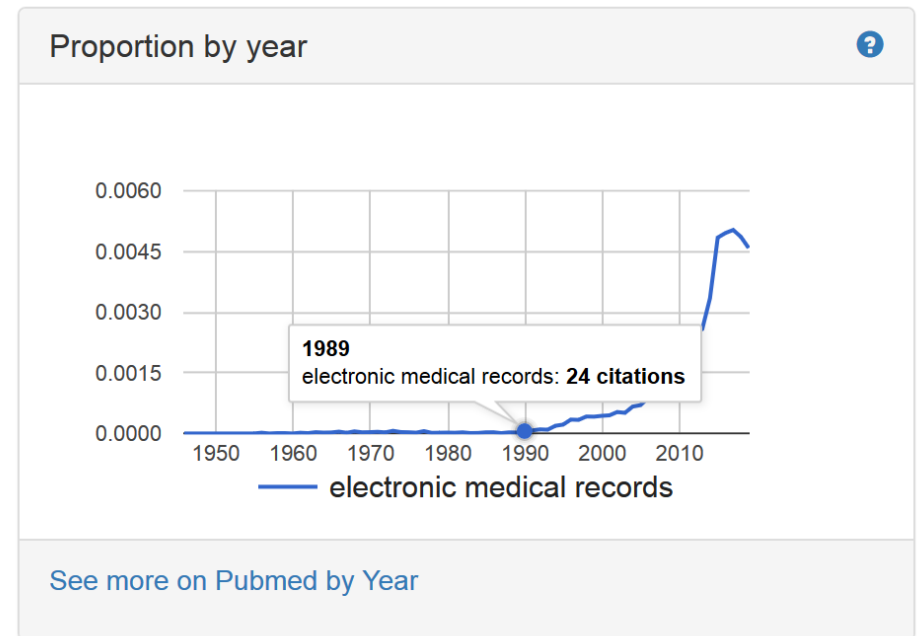
# Refining a search visually

“depression[mesh] OR  
major depression[mesh]”



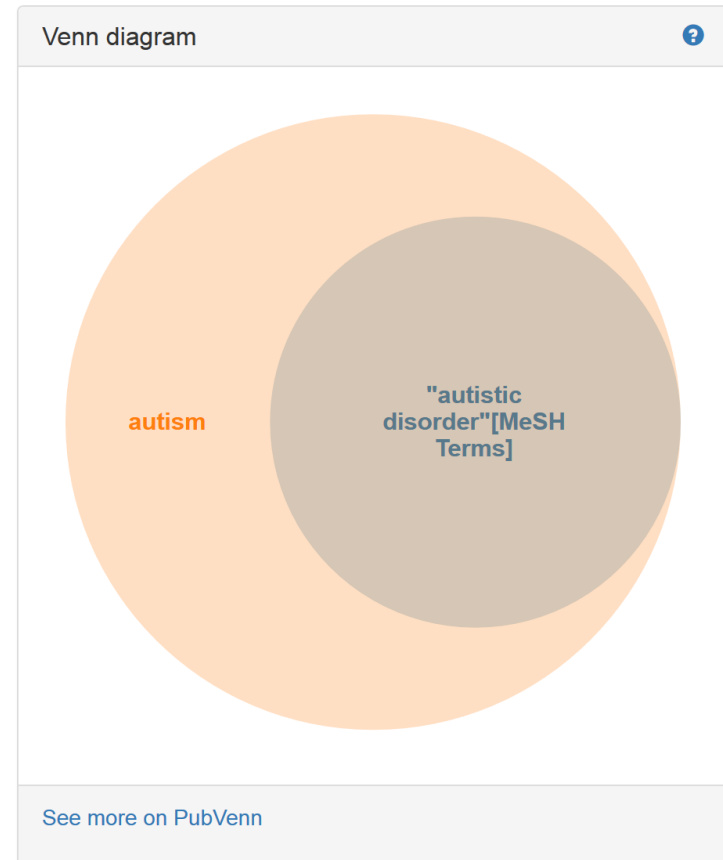
# Refining a search visually

“electronic medical records”



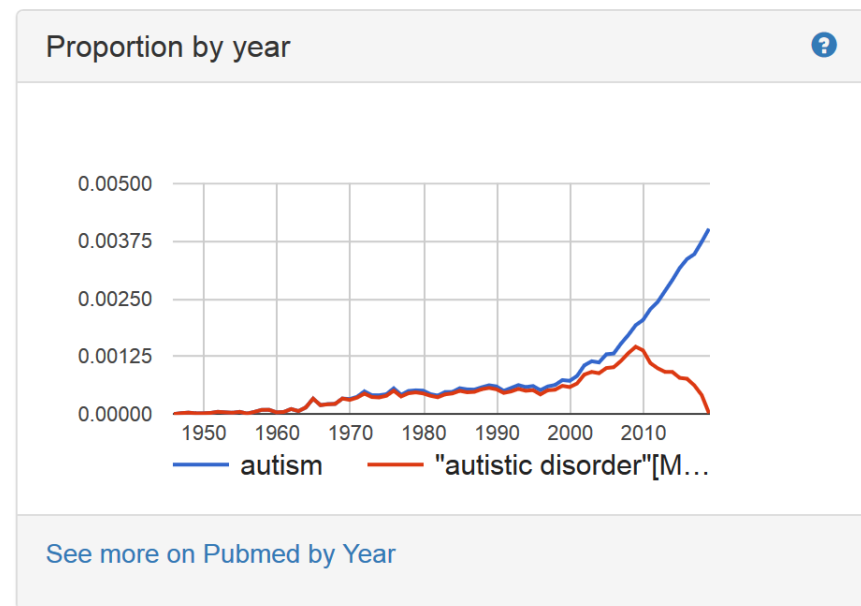
# Comparisons can be useful

“autism”  
vs.  
“autistic  
disorder[mesh]”



# Comparisons can be useful

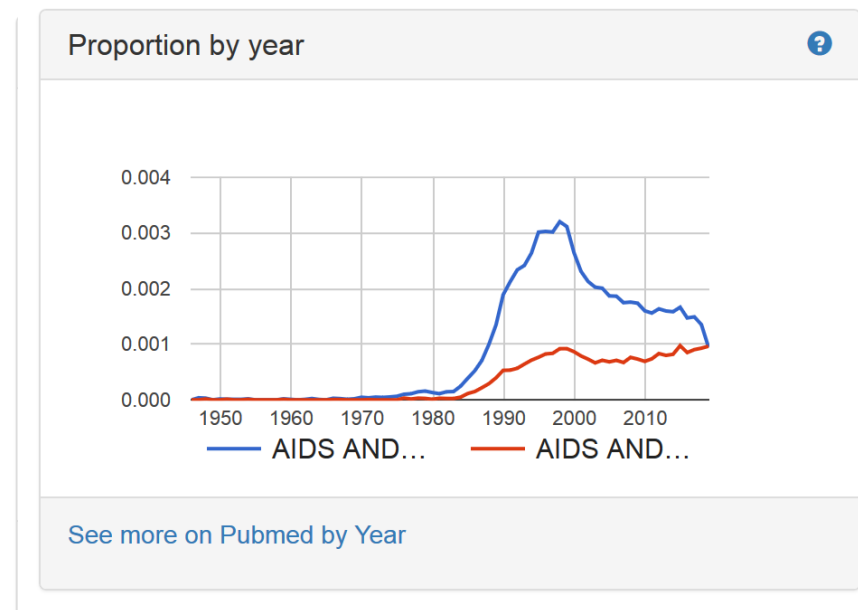
“autism”  
vs.  
“autistic  
disorder[mesh]”





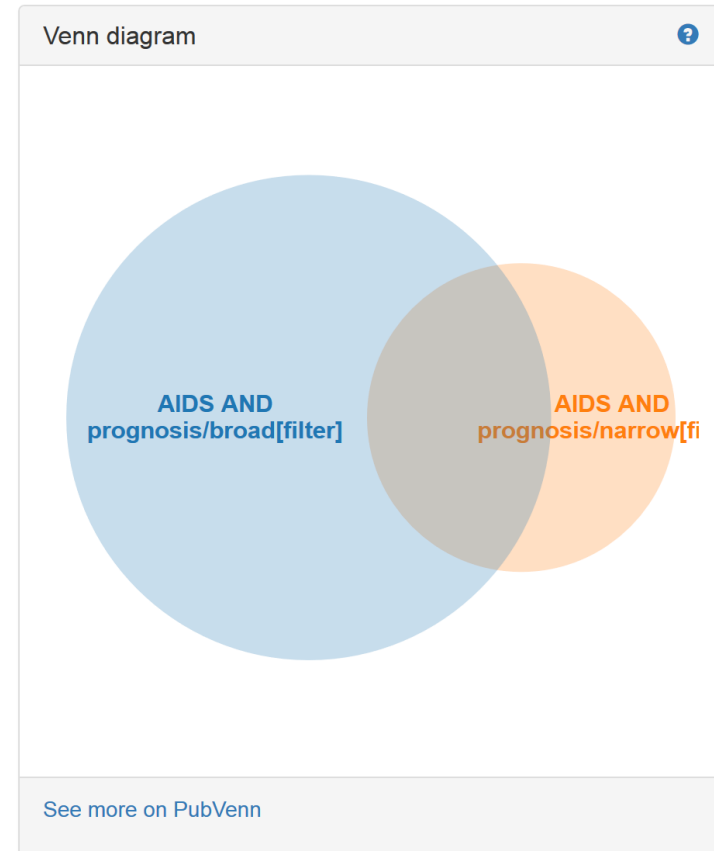
# Comparisons can be useful

“AIDS AND  
prognosis/broad[filter]”  
vs.  
“AIDS AND  
prognosis/narrow[filter]”



# Comparisons can be useful

“AIDS AND  
prognosis/broad[filter]”  
vs.  
“AIDS AND  
prognosis/narrow[filter]”



# Comparisons can be useful

<https://searchworkbench.info>