Single Citation Matcher is a service provided by PubMed. (You can easily access PubMed through the Medical Library home page. There is a link for PubMed in the “Major Resources” list in the left column of the page.) In the left column of the PubMed home page, under “PubMed Services”, there is a link for Single Citation Matcher. Click on that link to access Single Citation Matcher.

The Single Citation Matcher is a “fill-in-the-blank” form that allows you to enter partial journal citation information to locate that citation. Any of these fields can be left blank. You simply need to fill in the part you know.

The Scenario

A colleague or professor mentions a good review article on atherosclerosis and coronary artery disease published in a recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* by an author whose name sounds like “Hanson”. You want to find the full text of the article, but you do not have the complete citation of it. PubMed’s Single Citation Matcher provides a quick and easy way to verify your citation.

- Use this tool to find PubMed citations. You may omit any field.
- Journal may be the full title or the title abbreviation.
- For first and last author searching, use smith jc format.

**Journal:** The New England journal of medicine

**Date:** yyyy/mm/dd (month and day are optional)

**Volume:** Issue: First page: 

**Author name (see help):** Hanson

- Only as first author
- Only as last author

**Title words:** atherosclerosis coronary artery disease
In our example, we would type in “New England Journal of Medicine” in the title field, “Hanson” in the author field, and “atherosclerosis coronary artery disease” in the “title words” field.

Notice that the title and author fields has an auto-complete feature to help you eliminate any typos.

This search returns no result, which means part of the information we provided was not correct. We should then go back to Single Citation Matcher to look for any typos or other errors, or simply eliminate any information that we are not so sure of.

For example, when we enter the author name “Hanson”, we noticed that there are a lot of names sounding like “Hanson” – maybe this author’s name is spelled differently from the way we typed in. Let’s omit the author field and broaden our search.

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This time it correctly produced the result we want – we did spell the author’s name wrong.

Remember, when your search returned too many or nothing, you will need to either broaden or narrow your search. The basic rule is: provide less information to broaden the search; provide more information to narrow the search.