



Single Citation Matcher

A Visual Step-by-Step Guide

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.

1 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 screenshot shows the PubMed website interface. In the left sidebar, under "PubMed Services", the "Single Citation Matcher" link is circled in red. A green circle highlights the "Single Citation Matcher" link in the main content area. A green box highlights the "MyNCBI" section, which includes the text "Set up an automated PubMed update in fewer than 5 minutes." and a list of steps: (1) Get a MyNCBI account, (2) Save your search, (3) Your PubMed updates can be e-mailed directly to you.

2 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.

- 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:

Date: (month and day are optional)

Volume: Issue: First page:

Author name (see [help](#)):

Only as first author Only as last author

Title words:

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

- Journal may be the full title or the title abbreviation.
- For first and last author searching, use smith jc format.

The screenshot shows a search form with the following fields and values:

- Journal: new
- Date: (empty)
- Volume: (empty)
- Author name: (empty)
- Title words: (empty)

An auto-complete dropdown menu is open, showing suggestions for the "Journal" field:

- The New England journal of medicine
- Science (New York, N.Y.)
- Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences
- Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and M
- The New Zealand medical journal
- New York state journal of medicine
- The Australian and New Zealand journal of surgery
- Australian and New Zealand journal of medicine
- Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine
- The Australian & New Zealand journal of obstetrics & gyna

Buttons for "Go" and "Clear" are visible at the bottom left.

The screenshot shows the NCBI PubMed search results page. The search query is "The New England journal of medicine". The results section shows:

Field: Title
See [Details](#). No items found.

The page includes navigation links for "Limits", "Preview/Index", "History", and "Clipboard". The NCBI logo and "PubMed" branding are visible at the top.

The screenshot shows a search form with the following fields and values:

- Journal: The New England journal of medicine
- Date: yyyy/mm/dd (month and day are optional)
- Volume: (empty) Issue: (empty) First page: (empty)
- Author name (see [help](#)): Han
- Title words: atherosclerosis

An auto-complete dropdown menu is open for the "Author name" field, showing suggestions:

- Han
- Hansen
- Hanson
- Hansson
- Hancock
- Hanna
- Handa
- Han J
- Hansen J

Buttons for "Go" and "Clear" are visible at the bottom left.

6 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.

The screenshot shows a PubMed search interface. At the top, the search criteria are: "The New England journal of medicine"[Jour] AND. The search results are displayed in a table with columns for "Field" and "Title". There are three results listed, each with a checkbox and a yellow icon. The third result, by Hansson GK, is highlighted with a red border. The interface includes navigation buttons like "Limits", "Preview/Index", "History", "Clipboard", and "Details".

Field	Title
<input type="checkbox"/> 1:	Kriszbacher I, Koppen M, Bodis J. Inflammation, atherosclerosis, and coronary artery disease. N Engl J Med. 2005 Jul 28;353(4):429-30; author reply 429-30. No abstract available. PMID: 16050062 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
<input type="checkbox"/> 2:	Garcia de Tena J. Inflammation, atherosclerosis, and coronary artery disease. N Engl J Med. 2005 Jul 28;353(4):429-30; author reply 429-30. No abstract available. PMID: 16049220 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]
<input type="checkbox"/> 3:	Hansson GK. Inflammation, atherosclerosis, and coronary artery disease. N Engl J Med. 2005 Apr 21;352(16):1685-95. Review. No abstract available. PMID: 15843671 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]