**Question:** I am looking for articles on the history of the Chernobyl accident and the public health aspects.

The LibGuide to **History of Medicine, Healthcare, and Disease**: [http://nyu.libguides.com/histhealth](http://nyu.libguides.com/histhealth) can help you get started.

Because you are interested in the *public health* aspects of the topic, you could start with an article database like Medline (the premier biomedical database indexing over 3600 journals, produced by the National Library of Medicine.)

Following is an example of a Medline via **PubMed** search for articles.
Medline via the PubMed interface https://arch.library.nyu.edu/databases/proxy/NYU03384 is accessed via the NYU Libraries databases page. (Accessing this way ensures you are recognized as an NYU student eligible for full text links to subscribed journals.)
A simple search: Chernobyl
Retrieves more than 3800 articles…

1. Estimation of the thyroid doses for ukrainian children exposed in utero after the chernobyl accident.
   PMID: 22004928 [PubMed - in process]
   Related citations
Use the **Limits** to restrict to type of article
Using the **Limits** to restrict to type of article: “Historical article” is one way to narrow your results.
Another way to narrow a search is with an added term:

Articles in green area retrieved, contain both terms.
PubMed translates keywords to MeSH terms: (MeSH, “Medical Subject Headings,” are the standard vocabulary used to describe article citations.)

Cancer is translated to the MeSH term: **Neoplasms**
Another way to narrow your search is using Limits to restrict to type of article Review:

(chernobyl AND neoplasms) AND Articles with publication type: “Review” (in Pubmed/Medline)

(“Review” is a publication type in Pubmed, PsycINFO, CINAHLPlus and more) A review article is often a good place to start for background overview of a new topic.
Here is a PubMed record that meets the search criteria:

Chernobyl
AND
Review
AND
Historical Article

Radiation hormesis--a remedy for fear.

Jaworowski Z.

Central Laboratory for Radiological Protection, ul. Konwaliowa 7, Warsaw 03-195, Poland. jaworc@clor.waw.pl

Abstract

Personal reflections on radiation hormesis for the past 50 years are presented. The causes of ignoring and rejections of this phenomenon by international and national bodies and by radiation protection establishment are analyzed. The opposition against nuclear weapons and preparations for nuclear war was probably the main factor in inducing the concern for adverse effects of low doses of ionizing radiation, a byproduct of activism against the nuclear weapon tests. UNSCEAR was deeply involved in preparation of the scientific basis for cessation of nuclear test, and contributed to elaboration of the LNT assumption, which is in contradiction with the hormetic phenomenon. However, this authoritative body recognized also the existence of radiation hormesis, termed as 'adaptive response.' The political and vested interests behind exclusion of hormesis from the current risk assessment methodology are discussed.
PubMed:

For the history of a topic, do a search, view the MeSH display for the term, then *limit* the search to the **subheading**: “history,” (Use the subheading: /history with a specific MeSH term to indicate an historical aspect of that term. It includes brief historical notes but excludes case histories.)
Exercise: Do a MeSH search on one of the following topics. What does your natural language keyword map to in the MeSH vocabulary?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. AIDS</td>
<td>11. Nits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Lou Gehrig’s disease</td>
<td>12. Spanish flu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Flu</td>
<td>13. Marsh fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pertussis</td>
<td>15. Natural disasters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. German measles</td>
<td>16. Small pox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. September 11</td>
<td>17. H1n1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hurricanes</td>
<td>18. SARS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mumps</td>
<td>20. Royal free disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q: What if my term doesn’t map to a MeSH term?

A: Spanish flu doesn’t map to a MeSH term. You can go back to the PubMed search screen, search on your term, and then notice the terms that describe relevant articles.

For example, look at this citation:
PMID: 20568568

View relevant articles and their descriptors. Let those lead you to related citations and related MeSH descriptors.