Hi, I am Cindy Logan one of the librarians with K-State Libraries and one of the many librarians that are here to help you be successful with your research here at K-State. There are 3 goals for this tutorial. First, I’ll show you how to get to the libraries website, then how to get to the databases, specifically the PubMed database, and then how to get help from me or one of the other librarians here at K-State. So to start we’re going to start at the university’s website www.ksu.edu or www.k-state.edu, whichever is your preference. I’m going to put in the word libraries in the upper right hand corner search box and press return. K-State Libraries is the first option in the list of results. So we will click on that option. And it will take us to the Libraries website.

In the middle of the page you will notice Search It. This is the Libraries search tool that searches a lot of, but not all of, our databases that we have all at the same time. It’s a really great place to start if you don’t know where you should start for doing your research. But since I know that I want to go to a particular database, I am going to select the word Databases at the bottom of that box. And then what will come up is the letters of the alphabet. We call this our A to Z listing but it is the alphabetical listing of all the databases that we have. So we’re going to select the P and scroll all the way to the bottom and select PubMed. It happens to be the very last one.

From here we are going to put some search phrasing in to the search box. I’m not going to be worried about the results you get, what I want you to understand is the process you are going to use. The results really don’t matter right now. From here we’ll put in some phrases to do some searching. It will be fairly broad but I am more interested in you understanding the process of doing the searches and less concerned, right now, with the results that we get. Although I will show you some ways to narrow your results down. The topic I am going to use is childhood obesity. As I type you will see PubMed offers me some fill-in type words or other suggestions for the topic. There is not anything special or better or worse about these suggestions, it is just wording that other people have typed in.

You are welcome to use them or stick with what you are typing. After typing in my search words, I click on search or hit return. From these results we obviously have way more than what we’ll want to look through. But lets take a look at just one of the citations to understand the components that make it up. In the first one, I can click on the title and it will give me more information. There is the journal title, the publication date, the volume, and the doi which is like that article’s permanent address on the web. Following that we see the article title and the article authors.
Then we see the abstract, which is just a shortened version of the article and tells us what they actually did in their study.

04:00 Some of the abstracts you see in PubMed are broken down into different sections, you’ll see background or introduction, objectives, methods, structure or statistics, results, and conclusions. Some of the abstractions have a few or most of these different sections. When they have these sections, we know that it was original or empirical research meaning the authors did the study themselves not someone else. Let’s go back to our results list and see if we can find another one. Let’s look at number 3. Here is one that I was talking about. It has a purpose, methods, results, and conclusions identified. The purpose section basically talks about the purpose of the study. The methods section tells you how they went about their research. Results often has some statistical information that will let you know the accuracy of what they did. The conclusions will often tell you what this means in the big picture. Maybe they’ll address what they thought would happen and what did happen. The conclusion ties everything together. Underneath that is a section of keywords. This is a good place to look for additional words that you may not have thought of for your search.

05:28 Maybe we want to go back and look at some of the other citations to see if there are some other words we might want to use. I am just going to scroll through these and see what we might be able to find. Let’s use cardiovascular risk factors. I’ll just add this to my search term at the top. So we narrowed the results down substantially so that will be better. For this assignment, you will need 6 abstracts. So put in your search topics and go through some of the citations that would be relevant to your search topics and print out/save the abstracts. The next video will show you how to get the full text of articles that you need for your assignment.