Beyond the List:

Refining your PubMed searches with interactive visualizations

Edwin Sperr

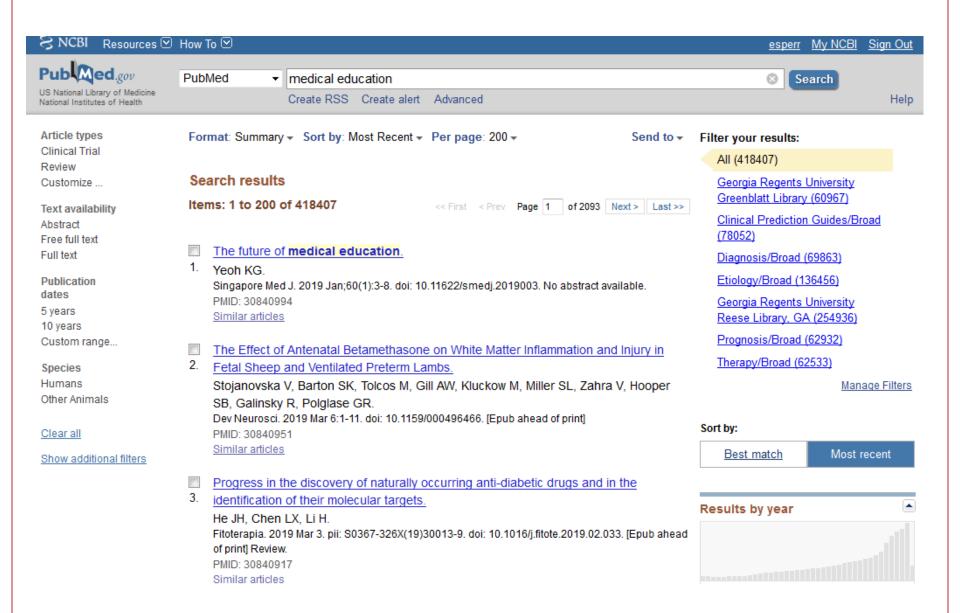
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AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL

PARTNERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA







Lists

Pro

- Simple
- Great for providing access

Con

- Are only ordered on one axis
- Don't show context

Can we do better?

"The fundamental task in data analysis is to make smart comparisons.

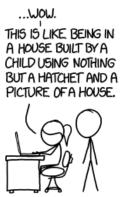
We are always trying to ask the question, 'Compared with what?' "

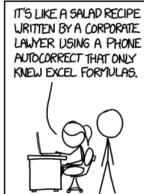
-- Edward Tufte

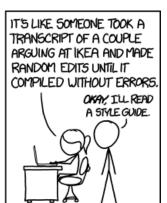
Design Principles: Fast, Cheap and Out of Control

- Use existing libraries whenever possible
- Push as much out to the browser as possible
- Working code will work just fine...





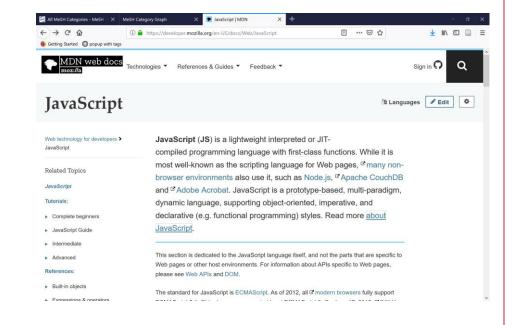




https://xkcd.com/1513/

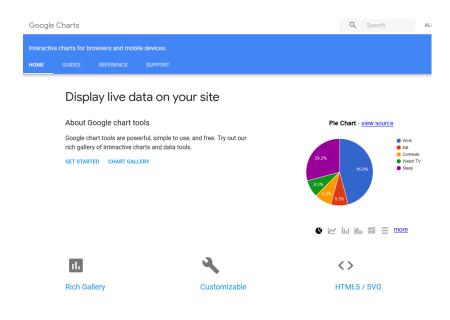
Fun with JavaScript!

- Runs in the browser
 - Many browsers have builtin "developer" tools
- Lots of self-study materials available online
- Readily extendable using external libraries and frameworks



Google Charts

- Relatively simple
- Free!
- Can use with static tables of data or interactive data that you grab on the fly



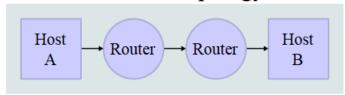
https://developers.google.com/chart/

Basic Pattern

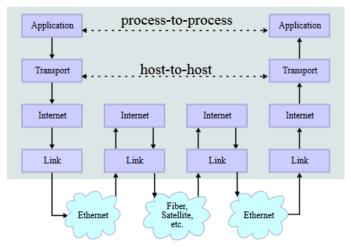
- 1. Send search to PubMed
- 2. Retrieve counts
- 3. Compare them to a baseline of some kind
- 4. Graph the difference
- 5. ???
- 6. Profit

APIs

Network Topology



Data Flow



Kbrose -- Wikimedia

APIs

```
{
    "header": {
        "type": "esearch",
        "version": "0.3"
    },
    "esearchresult": {
        "count": "20648",
        "retmax": "0",
        "retstart": "0",
        "querykey": "1",
        "webenv":

"NCID_1_65988278_130.14.22.33_9001_1551
995173_1918872135_0MetA0_S_MegaStore",
        "idlist": [ ...
```

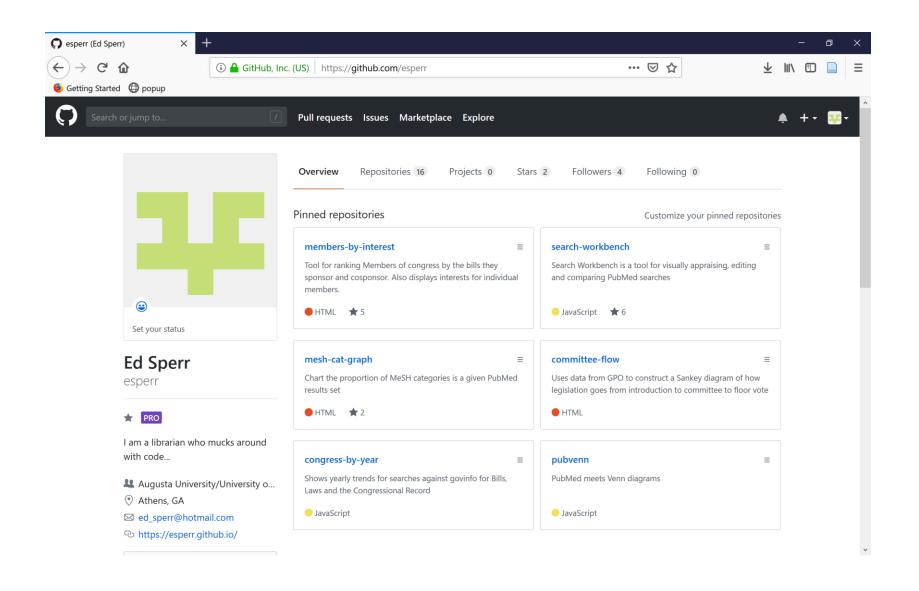
https://eutils.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/eutils/e search.fcgi?db=pubmed&usehistory=y&ter m=dengue+OR+dengue+fever&retmode=js on&retmax=0&email=ed_sperr%40hotmail.c om&tool=pmsearchbench

E-Utilities

- API to NCBI databases
- Maintained by NLM
- Simple syntax for calls easy to implement in many environments

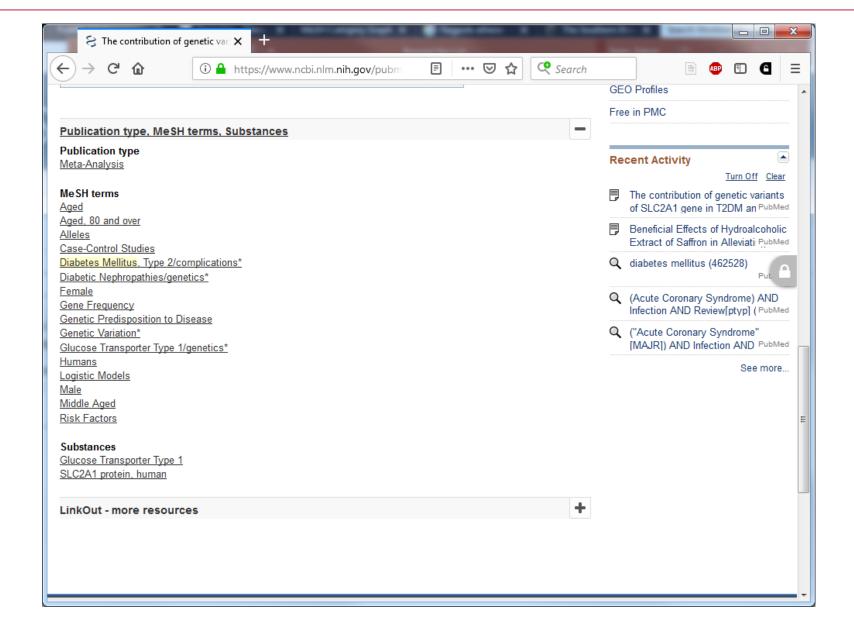
https://eutils.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/eutils/esearch.fcgi?db=pubmed&term=diabetes&retmode=json&rettype=count

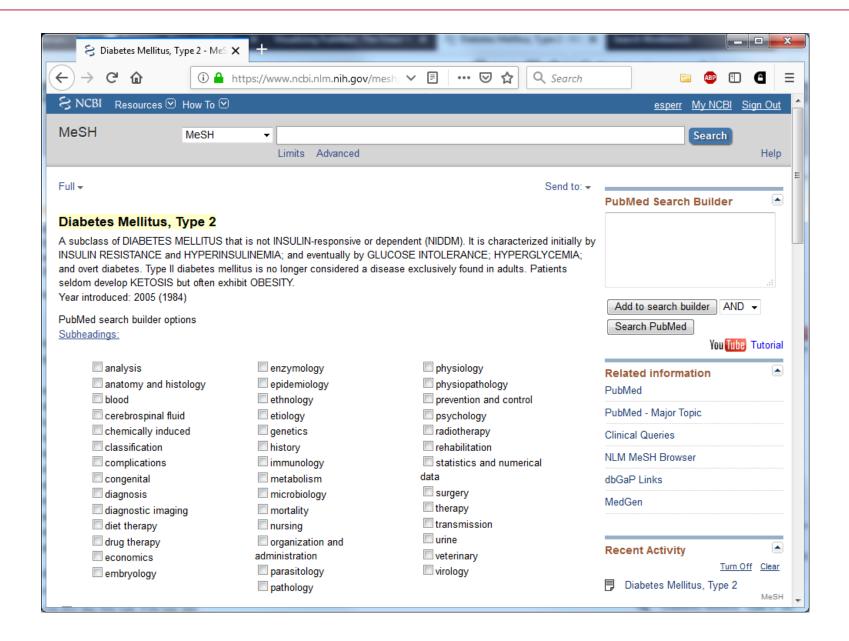
 Brand-new documentation at https://dataguide.nlm.nih.gov/

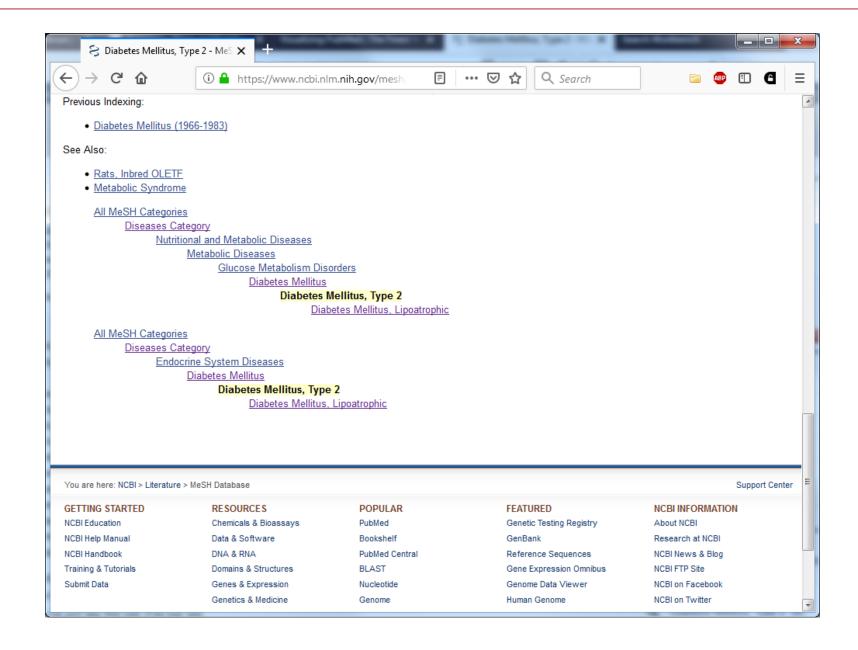


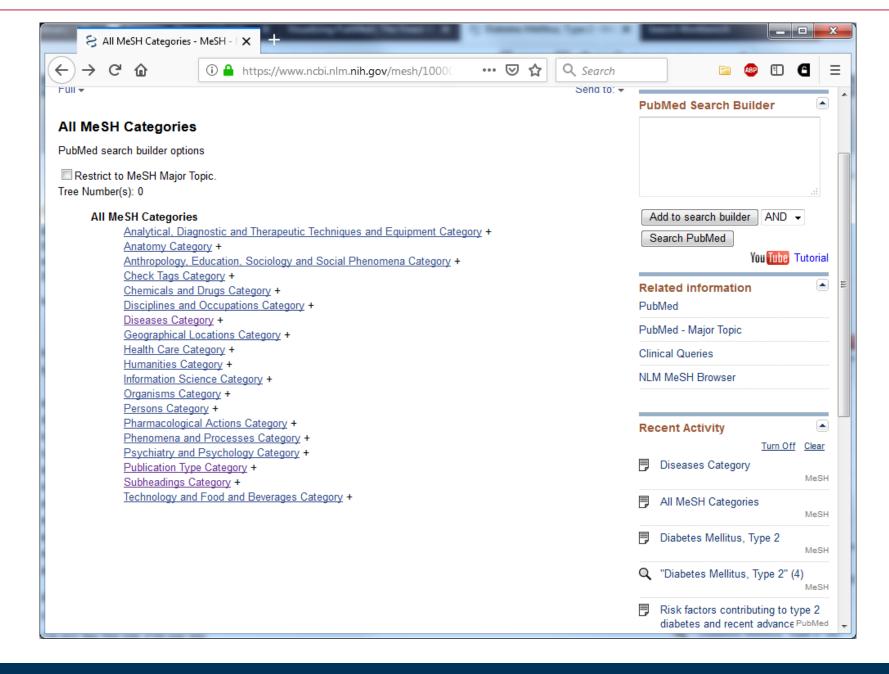


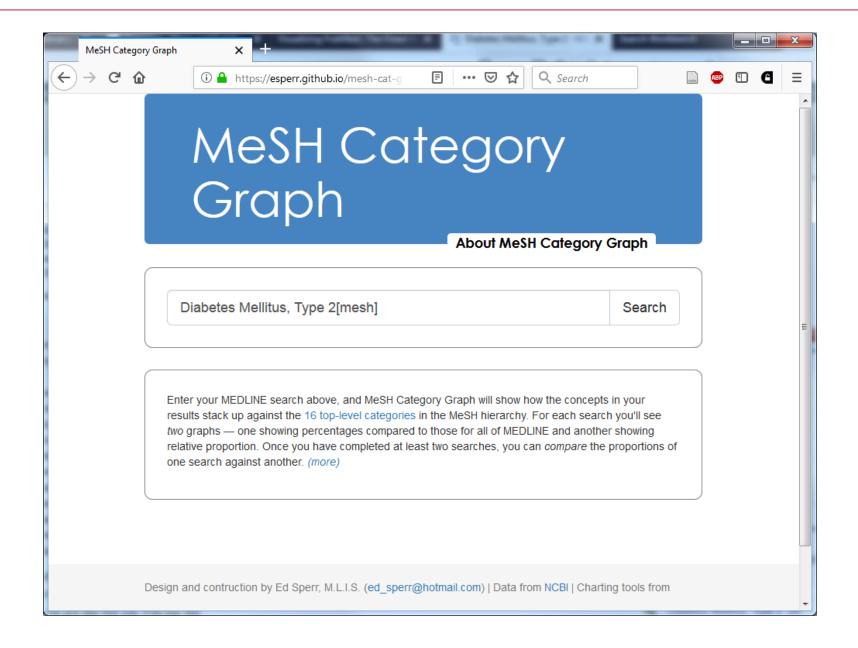












Percentage of results in each category for "Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2[mesh]" Your search All MEDLINE Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment Anatomy Anthropology, Education, Sociology and Social Phenomena Chemicals and Drugs Disciplines and Occupations Diseases Category Geographical Locations Health Care Humanities Information Science Organisms Persons Phenomena and Processes Psychiatry and Psychology Technology and Food and Beverages 50% 100% 0%

Made with Mesh Category Graph: http://esperr.github.io/mesh-cat-graph/

Sperr – Beyond the List

GHSLA

Percentage

March 12, 2019

Proportion of results for "Heart Diseases[mesh]" in each category compared to baseline

Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment

Anatomy

Anthropology, Education, Sociology and Social Phenomena

Chemicals and Drugs

Disciplines and Occupations

Diseases

Geographical Locations

Health Care

Humanities

Information Science

Organisms

Persons

Phenomena and Processes

Psychiatry and Psychology

Technology and Food and Beverages



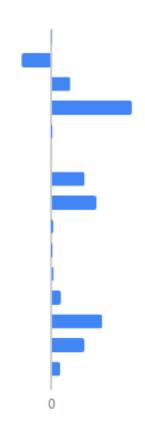
Proportion

Made with Mesh Category Graph: http://esperr.github.io/mesh-cat-graph/

Category

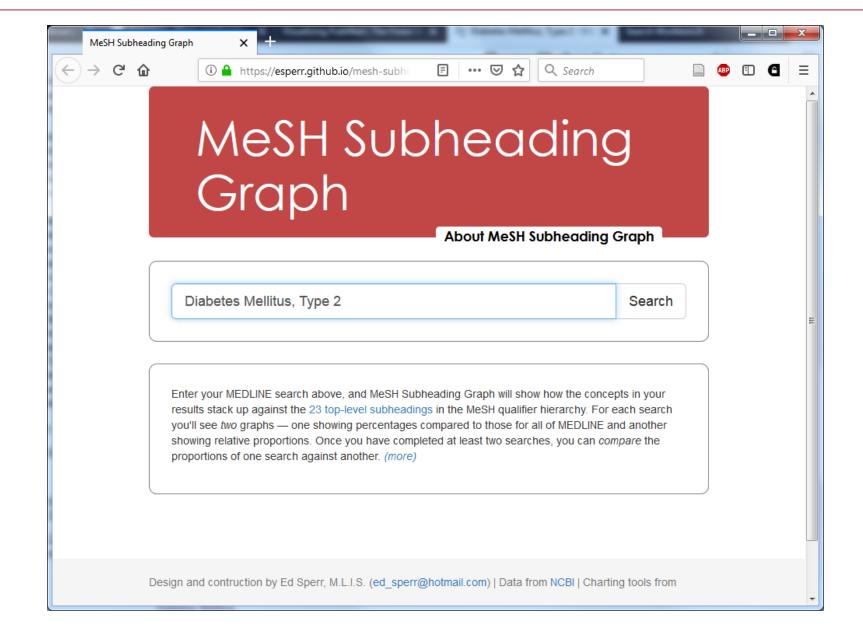
Analytical, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques and Equipment
Anatomy
Anthropology, Education, Sociology and Social Phenomena
Chemicals and Drugs
Disciplines and Occupations
Diseases
Geographical Locations
Health Care
Humanities
Information Science
Organisms
Persons
Phenomena and Processes
Psychiatry and Psychology

Technology and Food and Beverages

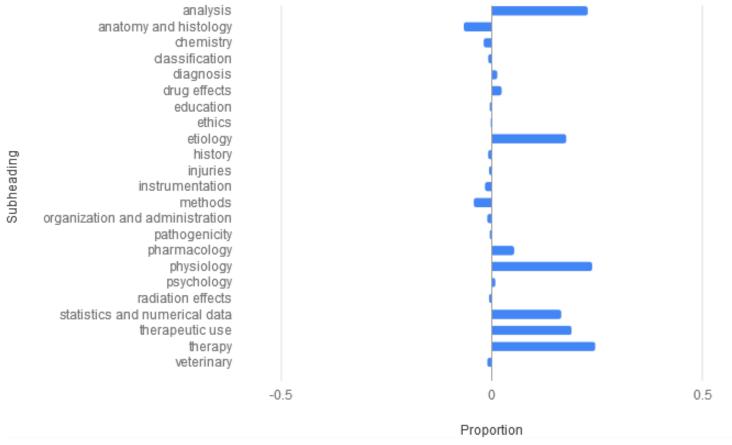


heart diseases[mesh] | Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2[mesh]

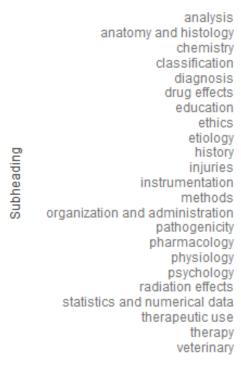
Category

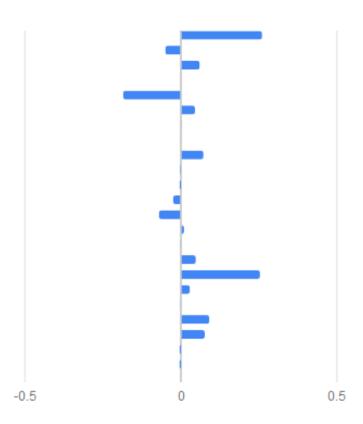


Proportion of subheadings for "Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2[mesh]" compared to baseline



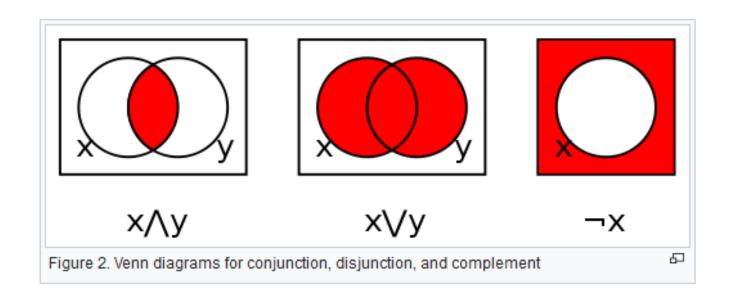
Made with Mesh Subheading Graph: http://esperr.github.io/mesh-subhead-graph/



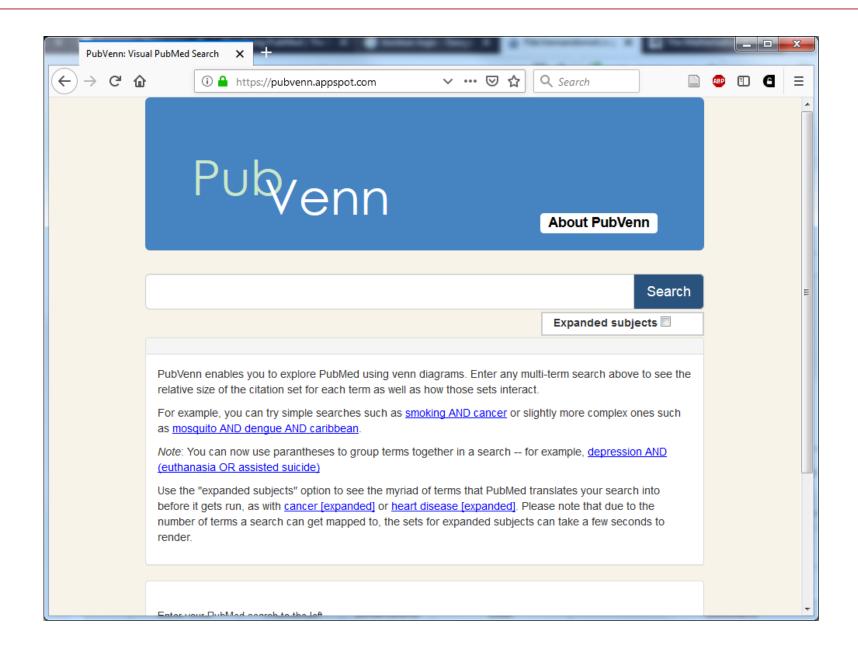


heart diseases[mesh] | Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2[mesh]

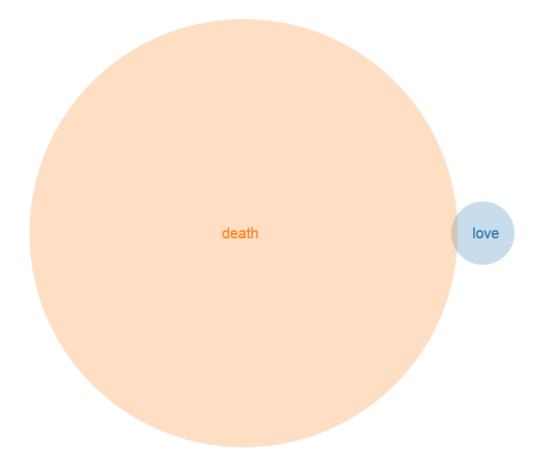
Can we tell something about how the parts of a search are connected?



Watchduck -- Wikimedia

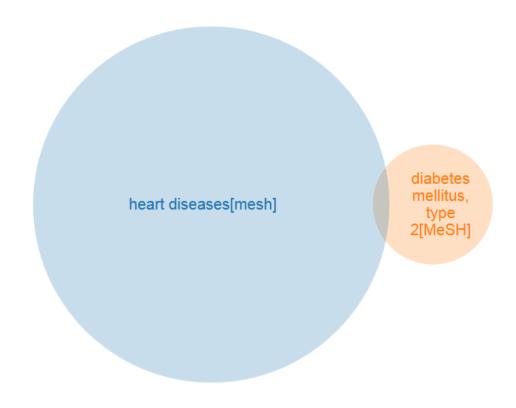


love AND death



Made with PubVenn: https://pubvenn.appspot.com/

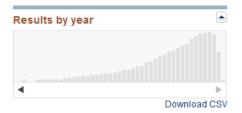
heart diseases[mesh] AND diabetes mellitus, type 2[MeSH]



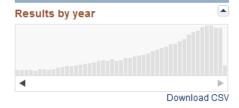
Made with PubVenn: https://pubvenn.appspot.com/

Can we show trends for a search over time?

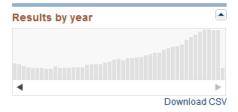
Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2[mesh]



malaria



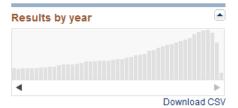
tuberculosis



surgery

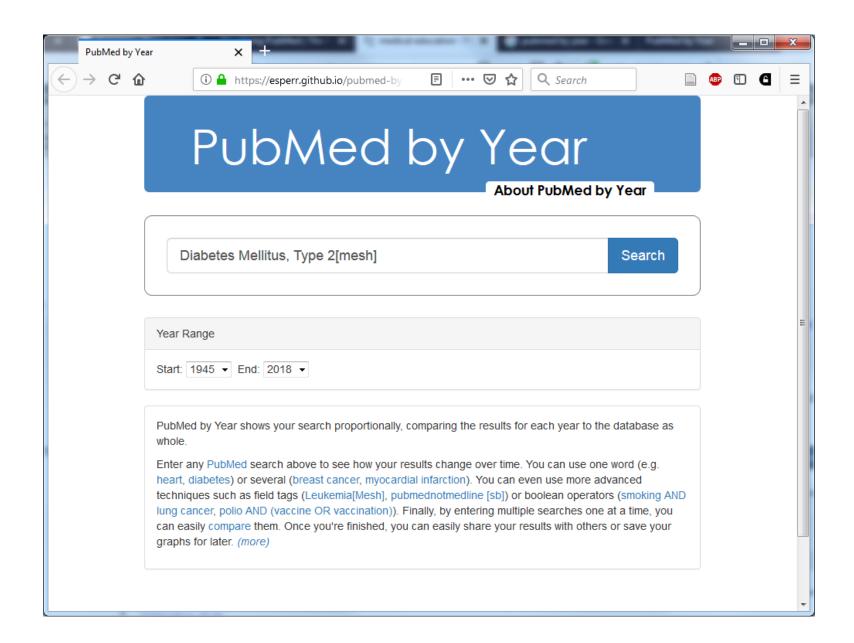


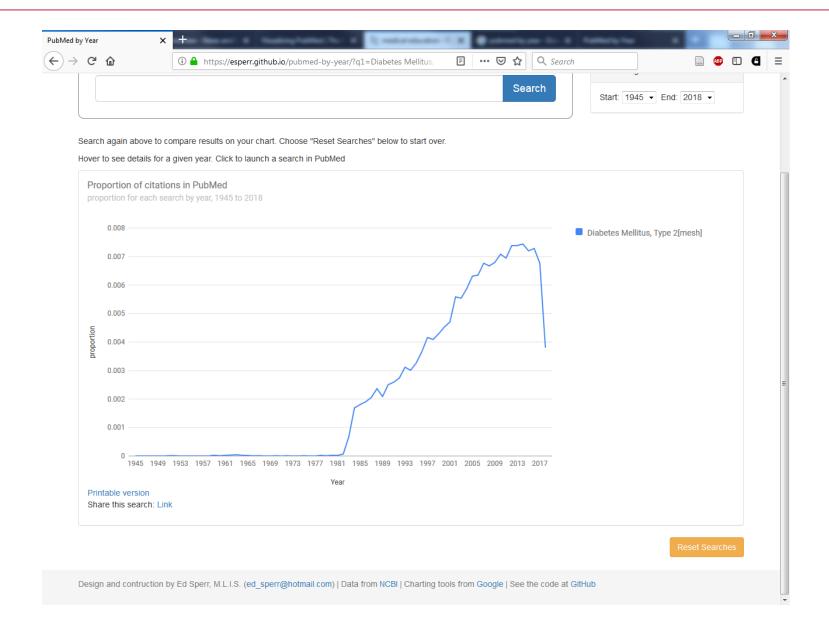
heart diseases[mesh]



medical education

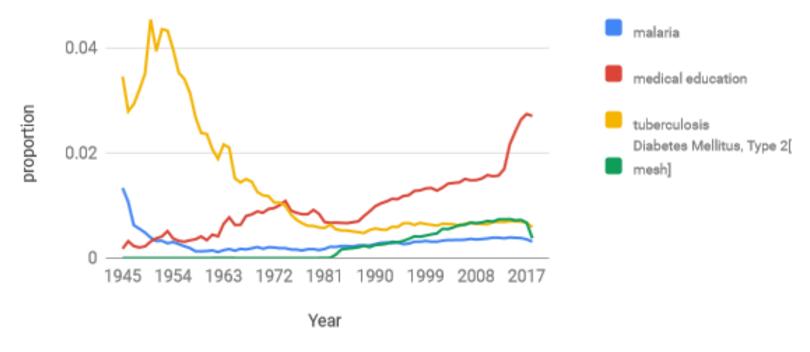






Proportion of citations in PubMed

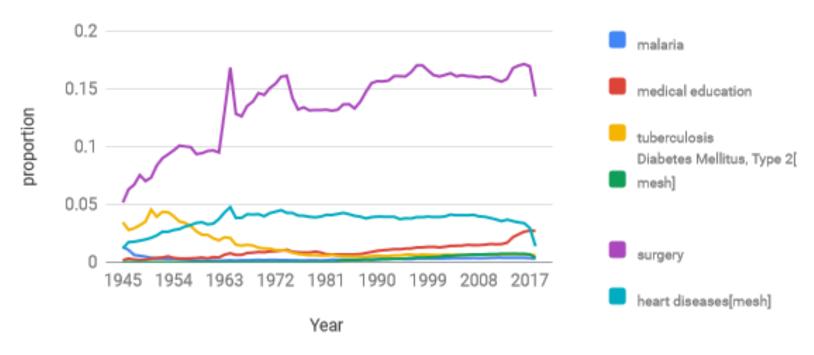
proportion for each search by year, 1945 to 2018



Made with PubMed by Year: http://esperr.github.io/pubmed-by-year

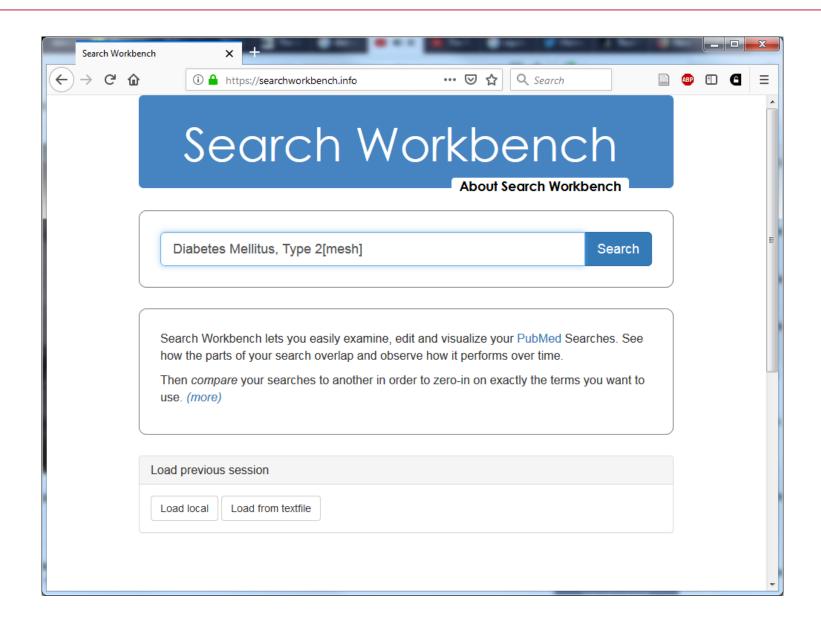
Proportion of citations in PubMed

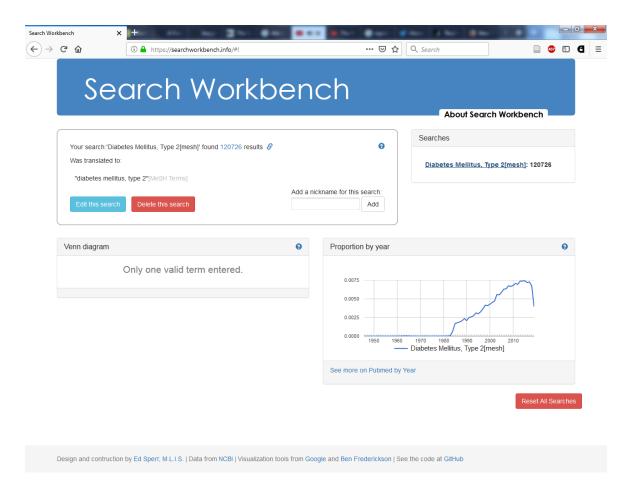
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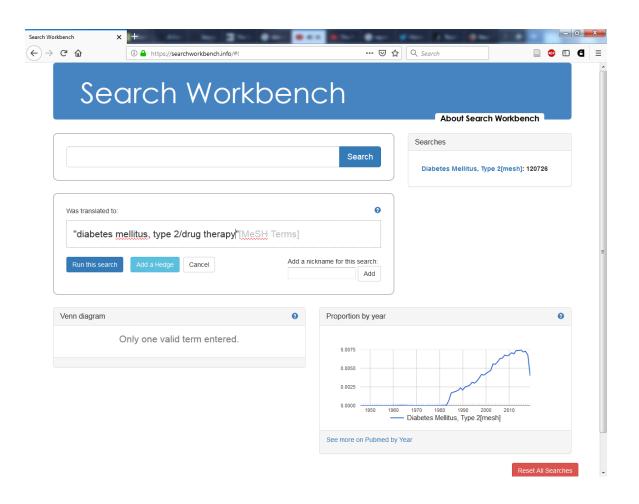


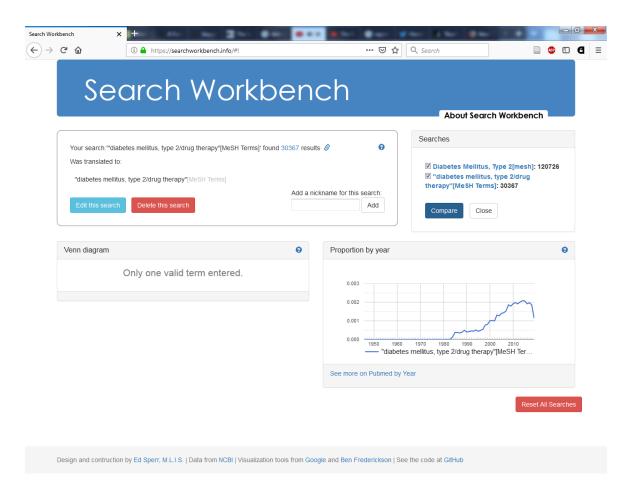
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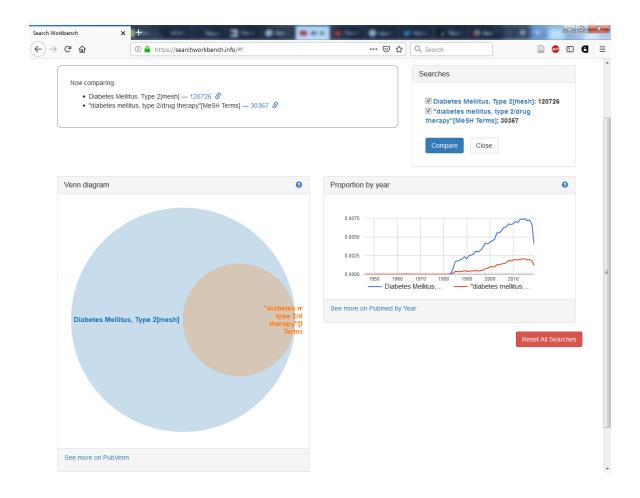
Is it useful to combine these techniques?

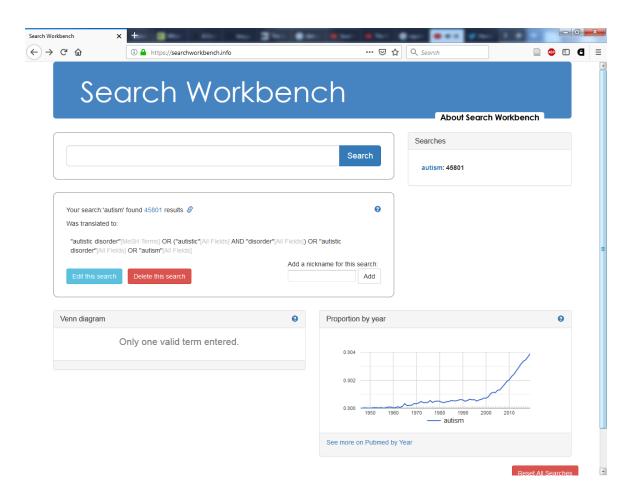


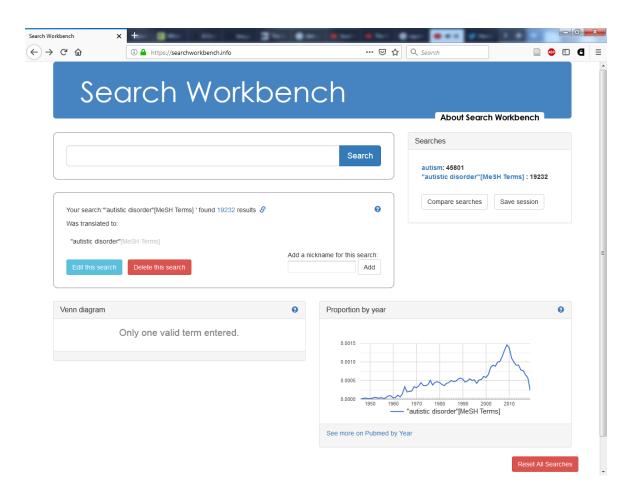


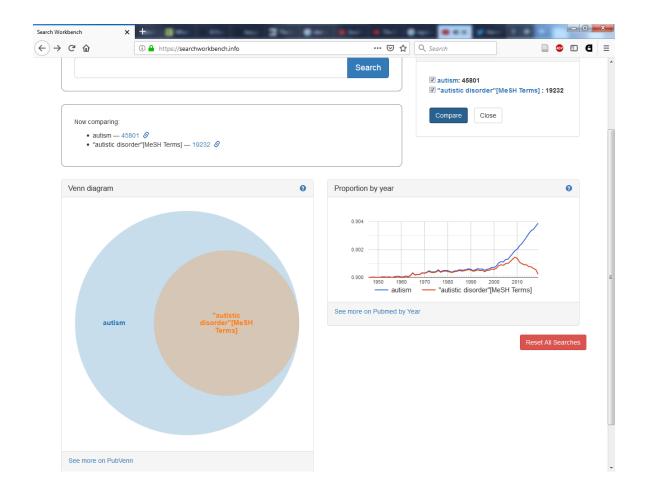


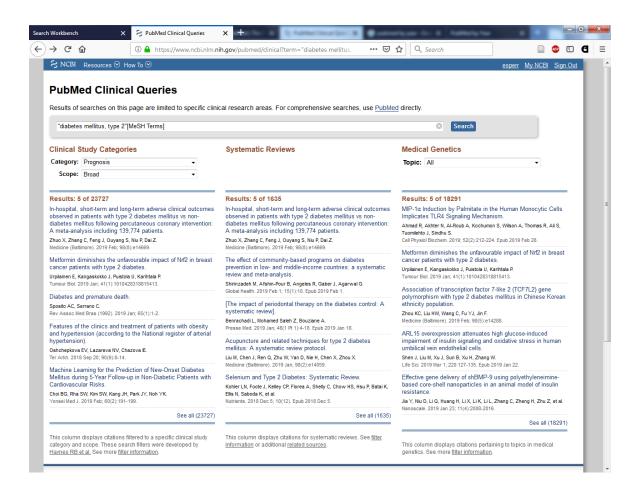


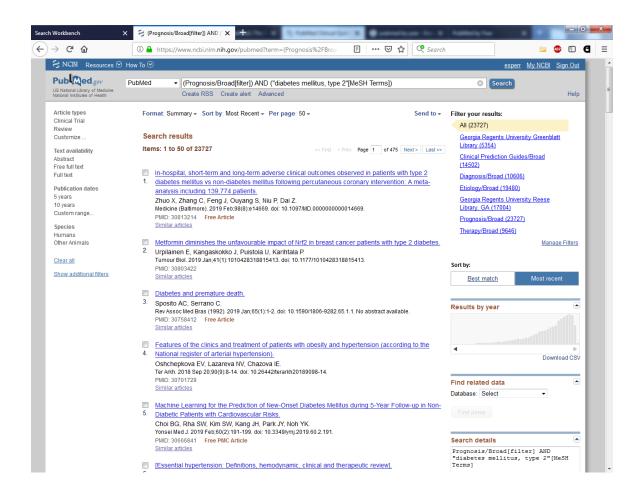


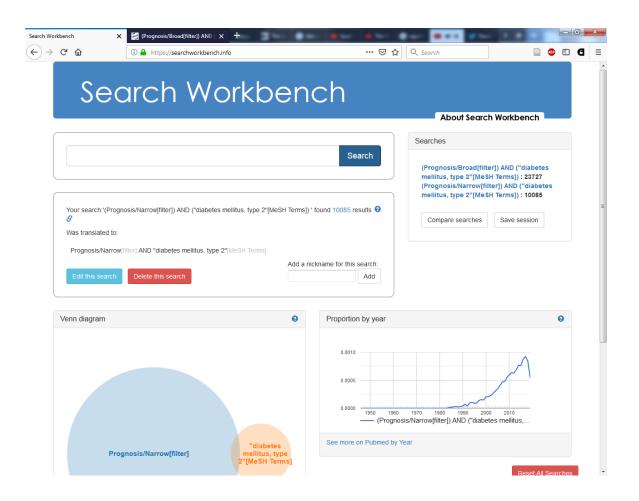


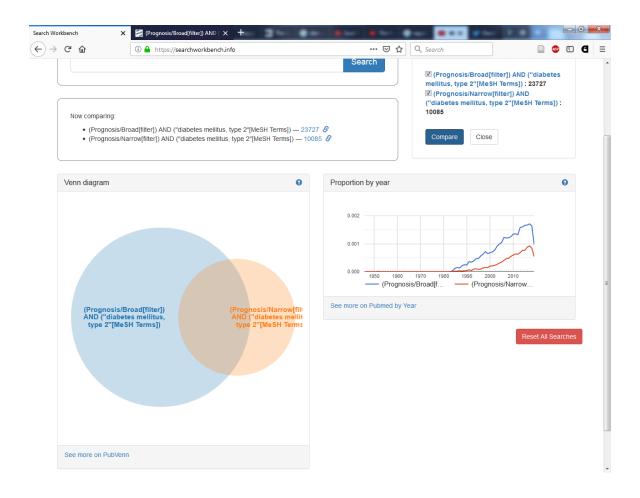












Questions?

https://esperr.github.io/visualizingpubmed/ https://searchworkbench.info/

https://github.com/esperr

esperr@uga.edu