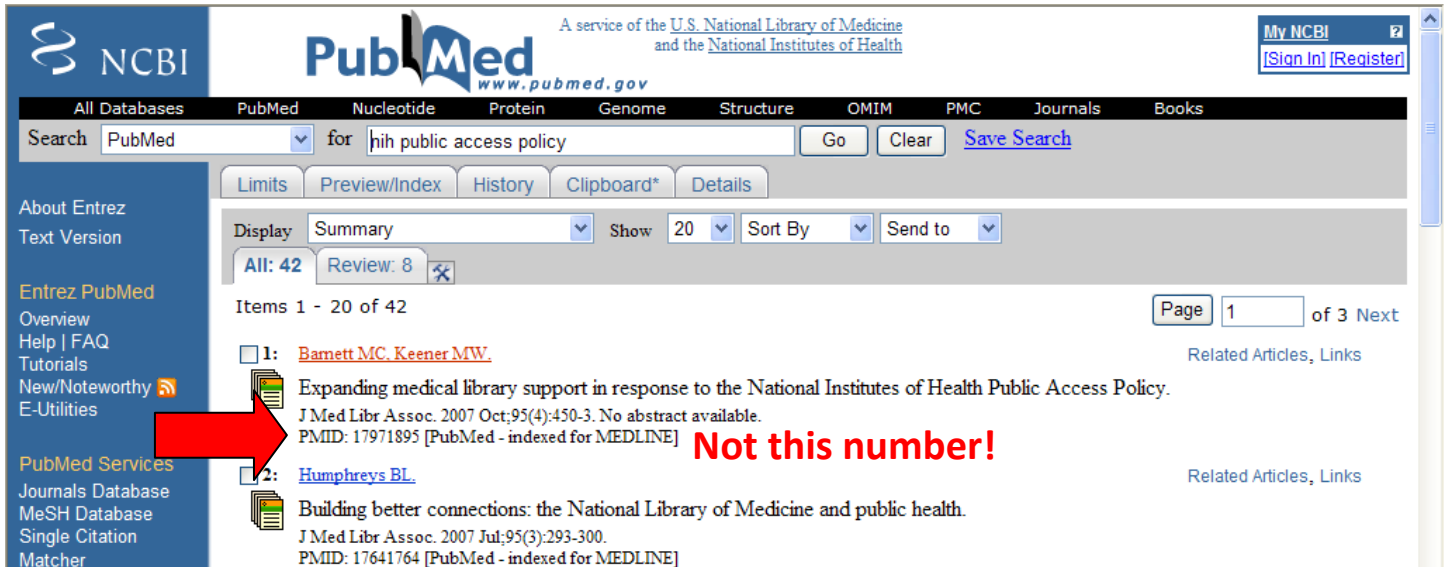


PMID vs. PMCID: What's the difference?

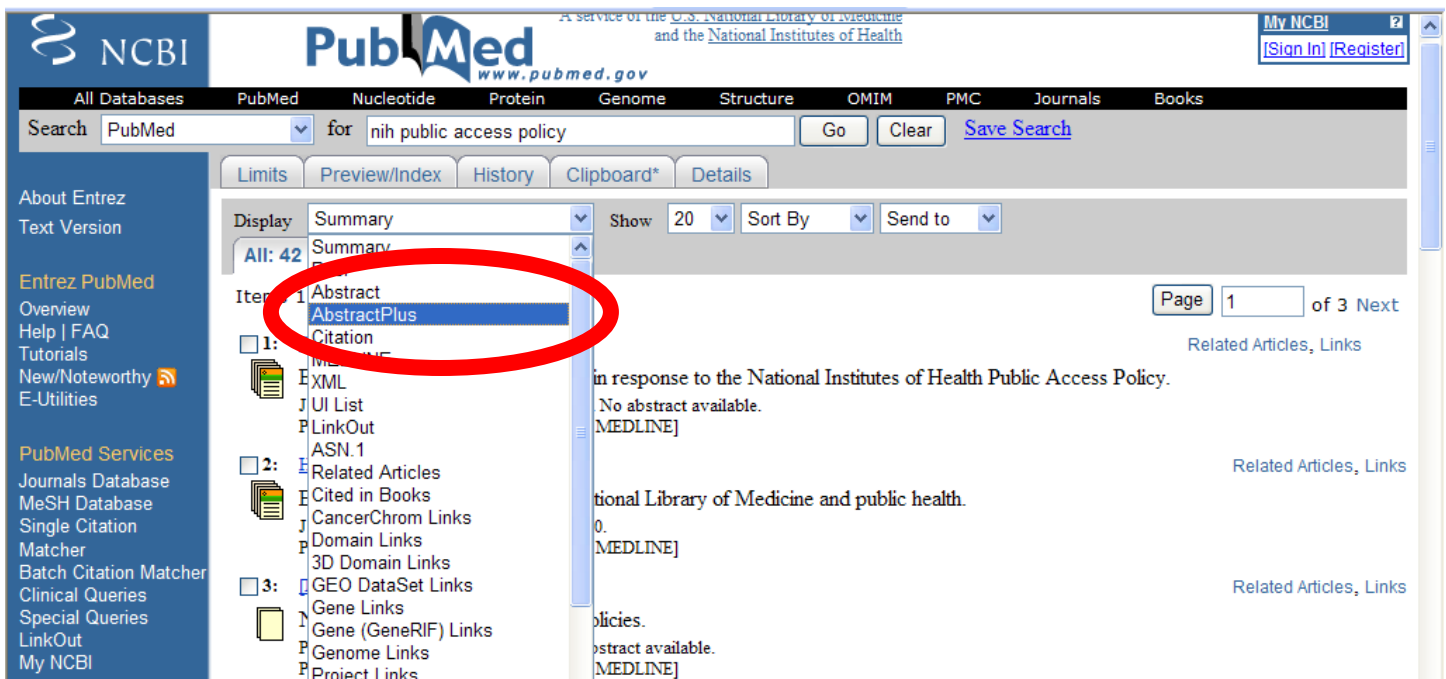
NIH grant proposals, applications and reports are required to include the PubMed Central reference number (**PMCID**) for cited articles that have been archived in [PubMed Central](#) in compliance with the [NIH Public Access Policy](#) (mandatory compliance effective April 7). PubMed Central is a free, publicly-accessible full-text digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. All articles added to PubMed Central are assigned a unique identifier – a PMCID – that will need to be submitted to the NIH. Due to similar terminology, there is confusion over where to find the correct number.

When looking at citations in [PubMed](#), when displaying results in the “Summary” format, you see a PMID number, a unique identifier assigned to each article as it is added to PubMed. This is **NOT** the same number assigned to articles in PubMed Central, and will not meet the NIH guidelines.



The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page for the query "nih public access policy". The search results are displayed in "Summary" format. The first result is by Barnett MC, Keener MW, with PMID: 17971895. A red arrow points to the PMID field, and the text "Not this number!" is overlaid in red. The second result is by Humphreys BL, with PMID: 17641764. The page also shows navigation options like "Page 1 of 3 Next" and "Related Articles, Links".

To retrieve the PMCID number, you need to change the Display option to “AbstractPlus”.



The screenshot shows the PubMed search results page for the query "nih public access policy". The search results are displayed in "AbstractPlus" format. The "Display" dropdown menu is set to "AbstractPlus", which is circled in red. The first result is by Barnett MC, Keener MW, with PMID: 17971895. The second result is by Humphreys BL, with PMID: 17641764. The page also shows navigation options like "Page 1 of 3 Next" and "Related Articles, Links".

Once in the "AbstractPlus" display, you will see the PMCID to the lower right of the citation. This is the number to include on NIH proposals, applications and reports. **PLEASE NOTE:** Beginning May 25, if a publication has been submitted to PubMed Central but the PMCID is not yet available, NIH requests that grantees submit the NIH Manuscript Submission system reference number (**NIHMS ID**) instead. The NIHMS ID will be available to the individual who submitted the manuscript via the [NIH Manuscript Submission system](#). For tutorials on the NIHMS system, click [here](#).

The screenshot shows the PubMed website interface. At the top, there are logos for NCBI and PubMed, along with the text "A service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health". Below this is a navigation bar with tabs for "All Databases", "PubMed", "Nucleotide", "Protein", "Genome", "Structure", "OMIM", "PMC", "Journals", and "Books". The search bar contains the text "nih public access policy" and has buttons for "Go", "Clear", and "Save Search". Below the search bar are buttons for "Limits", "Preview/Index", "History", "Clipboard*", and "Details". The display settings are set to "AbstractPlus", "Show 20", and "Sort By" is set to a dropdown menu. The results show "All: 42" and "Review: 8". The first result is "1: J Med Libr Assoc. 2007 Oct;95(4):450-3." with a "FREE full text article in PubMed Central" badge. The abstract text is "Expanding medical library support in response to the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy." by "Barnett MC, Keener MW." The citation includes the journal name, volume, issue, and page numbers. Below the citation is the author information: "Coy C. Carpenter Library, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1069, USA. mbarnett@wfubmc.edu" and the PMID: "PMID: 17971895 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]". To the right of the citation, the PMCID is listed as "PMCID: PMC2000773". A green arrow points from the PMCID to the text "Use this number!". Below the citation are logos for "Wake Forest University School of Medicine" and "FULL TEXT Options". To the right of the citation is a "Related Links" section with several links: "Open access as public policy. [PLoS Biol. 2004]", "PLOS position on NIH public access policy. [Science. 2005]", "Support for the NIH public access policy. [Science. 2006]", "The genome Assembly Archive: a new public resource. [PLoS Biol. 2004]", and "Information access. NIH public access policy. [Science. 2004]".

Contact Molly Keener at 716-4203 or mkeener@wfubmc.edu with questions.