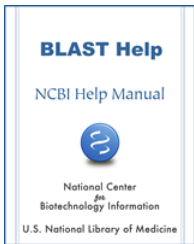




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**NLM Citation:** BLAST® Command Line Applications User Manual [Internet]. Bethesda (MD): National Center for Biotechnology Information (US); 2008-. Limiting a Search by taxonomy. 2008 Jun 23 [Updated 2021 Jan 7].

**Bookshelf URL:** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/>



## Limiting a Search by taxonomy

Created: June 23, 2008; Updated: January 7, 2021.

In order to limit a BLAST search by taxonomy, one needs to provide the NCBI taxonomy ID(s) (taxid) for given organism(s). A taxid is simply a number that specifies a node in the taxonomic tree. For example, 9606 is the taxid for human, 9989 is the taxid for rodentia, and 2 is the taxid for all bacteria. Taxids are preferable to organism names as the latter can be ambiguous. For instance, bacteria is both a genus of insects as well as a superkingdom.

Additionally, one may use the `-negative_taxids` and `-negative_taxidlist` options to exclude sequences by taxid.

### Limiting a BLAST search by taxonomy

```
$ blastn -db nt -query QUERY -taxids 9606 -outfmt 7 -out OUTPUT.tab
```

For additional details, please see [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK569839/#usrman\\_BLAST\\_feat.Taxonomic\\_filtering\\_fo](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK569839/#usrman_BLAST_feat.Taxonomic_filtering_fo)