Replicating searches in different health sciences database platforms

Workshop notes November 2015

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Maximising Platform Usage

Some database platforms such as Ovid and Ebsco offer more search options than smaller ones such as Web of Knowledge and Proquest – they do not all have the same functionality.

It does not mean the smaller databases are “less effective” – sometimes less is more!
Before you start....

Write down all the words that you can think of that relate to your topic

Divide them into groups of words that

- you MUST have
- you don’t mind having
- you definitely don’t want
Recognising the Rules

Remember the rules for **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**

**AND** narrows the search

**OR** broadens the search

**NOT** excludes a term
Things to Remember

You should search one database at a time otherwise many search tool options will disappear from the search screen.

The databases tell you what’s been published not necessarily what’s held at UML.

You need to be aware that different databases have different target audiences in mind.

Searching similar keywords in different databases may reveal other terminology you may not have considered...
A Quick Snapshot

• MeSH for Attitude in Medline....

• MeSH for Attitude in PsycInfo....

Both of these are Ovid databases but have very different results for the same term [Attitude]....
## Identifying the Functionalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>OVID</th>
<th>EBSCO</th>
<th>WEB OF KNOWLEDGE</th>
<th>PROQUEST</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basic/Advanced Searches?</td>
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MeSH? Suggest Subject Terms?

Essentially they have the same function. They have different names for copyright reasons.

They help you “net” or find alternative words and phrases to the ones you initially search with.

Their purpose is to show how your chosen word/phrase is indexed within that database and to highlight other potentially related terms.

N.B sometimes you may get “false drops”. This is when a word may have several meanings, for example, “stroke”
Things to Remember

When searching MeSH lists and selecting search terms you must take care to group similar words together.

If you know a word is likely to generate thousands of records – search them separately.
Limit and Refine Options

The Ovid platform has the greatest number of limits. These will vary between the different databases – they are not all the same.

The Ebsco platform has similar limits to Ovid, especially in CINAHL (other Ebsco databases may have less).

Web of Knowledge and Proquest resources have fewer limits. These are fairly basic ones.
Searching Ovid

MeSH..
Searching EBSCO

MeSH equivalent..
Maximising your searches on Web of Knowledge and Proquest

By exploring the range of MeSH and limit options on Ovid and Ebsco you should be able to increase the number of words you originally wrote down.

Look at the list again and recheck words

- you MUST have
- you don’t mind having
- you definitely don’t want
Searching Web of Science

The search screen allows you to change the search fields and boolean (AND, OR, NOT) commands and add extra fields... This should allow you to be more versatile with your search terms...
Refine... and refine again!

By exploring the Refine options and refining your search in stages, you should be able to achieve more manageable totals...
Click on Sign In and create an account here..
Opening/finding your Ovid Account

Click on **My Account** and enter your account details

Click on **My Workspace**

Click on **My Searches & Alerts**

Choose your search and Click on **Run**

Your results will then be displayed on the main **Search** page
Saving EBSCO Searches

Click on Sign In and create an account here..
Opening/finding your EBSCO Account

Click on **Sign In** (top right)

Sign In & click on **Folders** (top right)

Click on **Saved Searches**

Choose your search

Click on **Retrieve Saved Search** link

Results should display
Saving Web of Science Searches

You can save your searches for another day... **Sign In** to set up an account for your saved searches.
Opening/finding your WoS Account

Sign in and click on **My Saved Searches**, then choose the search you wish to Open…
Can I save everything in one place?

Yes – you would need to use a specific bibliographical software package such as Endnote. See library Training Calendar for further details...
EndNote online library

Keep all your references in one place
EndNote online

– cite while you write


Further help:

- Library Webpages
- Systematic review pages
- Databases online Enquiry Forms
- Library subject pages