Searching International Pharmaceutical Abstracts (IPA)

Adapted from the University of Minnesota Bio-Medical Library IPA Guide, with permission - December 2012

- This guide shows you how to search IPA
- Other functions - such as limiting or refining the results, printing, exporting to EndNote – are the same as for Medline in Ovid SP
- IPA does not have a Map Term to Subject Heading feature

DEFAULT SEARCH

The default Advanced Search mode is either by single keyword or by phrase.

Keyword/phrase searches look in the following indexes:

- title
- subject heading word
- registry word
- abstract
- trade name/generic name

SEARCH FIELDS

To view and select from IPA’s subject heading list, you will need to click Search Fields.

Search Fields contains many different options for searching within IPA.

In the All Fields display on page 2:

- The highlighted fields are the indexes included in the default keyword/phrase search
- The red-circled fields are the most useful for subject searching
1. **Subject Heading (sh):** This field contains index terms taken from IPA’s controlled vocabulary. It contains primary and secondary drug terms and non-drug terms. To search for a primary term, enter the term followed by “$” for truncation. Browse and select from the index by entering the first few letters of any primary term. Then click on Display indexes, or hover the mouse over the field name to see the display below, and click on the field.

You can also use to add to your own set of options in the My Fields tab.

2. **Concept Heading/Related Concept Heading (cc/rs):** Contains one of 25 broad classifications used to describe a document’s secondary focus. Ex. “adverse drug reactions,” “drug stability,” “pharmaceutics.” To view and select from the complete list, check the Concept Heading or Related Concept Heading box and enter the letter “a” in the search box.

3. **Floating Subheading (fs):** Contains the secondary-level drug and non-drug index terms. These terms often include information about drug combinations and comparisons.

4. **Registry Word (rw):** This field contains the word-indexed chemical names of the compounds indicated in the Registry Number (RN) field. It can be used to search portions of chemical names.

5. **Trade Name/Generic Name (tn):** Contains the proprietary name of a drug, its corresponding generic name, and, if applicable, its combination components.

6. **Pharmacologic/Therapeutic Classification (pc):** Contains the following information: AHFS drug class name, AHFS drug class code number, and generic drug name.