**Functionality Matrix**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Functionality | Ovid | EBSCO | ProQuest |
| **Boolean operators** | And / or button choices  Type “not” into the search bar if using (e.g. **2 NOT 1**)  Option:  **or/1-4** as shortcut to 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 | And / Or button choices from Search History  And / Or / Not choices from drop-down menu on Advanced Search | No button options – need to type in your And/Or/Not combinations into the search box  Search could be written either: **1 and 2** is the same as **S1 and s2**. |
| **Default field code** | .mp. This is database specific.  In Medline:  mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms  Myocardial infarction.mp. | All fields  myocardial infarction | All fields  "myocardial infarction" |
| **Phrase searching** | Default phrase searching without “” | Default phrase searching without “” | Must use “” for phrase searching: “word word“ |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Truncation & wildcard** |  |  |  |
| Truncate  with any number of character | \* or $  nurs\* (nurse nurses nursing etc)  nurs$ (nurse nurses nursing etc) | \*  nurs\* (nurse, nurses, nursing etc) | \*  nurs\* (nurse nurses nursing etc)  MAX 5 CHARACTERS |
| Wild card  with 1 or 0 characters | ?  wom?n finds woman or women  p?ediatrics finds paediatrics or pediatrics | ?  wom?n finds woman or women.  #  p#ediatrics finds paediatrics or pediatrics | ? or \*  Wom\*n finds woman or women  Wom?n finds woman or women  ? OR [\*1]  Nurse\*1 (nurse nurses) |
| **Common field codes** |  |  |  |
| Title/Abstract | Heart attack**.ti,ab.** | **TI** (heart attack) or **AB** (heart attack)  Field codes have to be in CAPITAL LETTERS, Booleans do not | **ti**(heart attack) OR **ab**(heart attack)  or  **TI,AB**(HEART ATTACK) |
| author | Patel**.au.** | **AU** patel | **au**(patel) |
| **Proximity** |  |  |  |
| Near within  (either direction) | adjX  adj5 would mean “four words or less” | nX  n5 would mean “five words or less” | near/X  near/5 would mean “five words or less” |
| Next to (in order) | adj | wX  w5 would mean “five words or less” | pre/X or p/X  pre/5 would mean “five words or less” |
| **Display** | * Chronological – default * Can sort by any field (e.g. database, author, entry date, journal etc) but does not list relevance as an option except in Basic search | * Date newest – default * Date oldest * Source * Relevance   This can be set in your preferences | * Relevance * Oldest first * Most recent first |
| **Subject headings** | *Examples use Medline’s MeSH* |  |  |
| standard | Schizophrenia / | (MH "Schizophrenia+") | MAINSUBJECT.EXACT("Schizophrenia") |
| Exploded | Exp Schizophrenia / | (MH " Schizophrenia +") | MAINSUBJECT.EXACT.EXPLODE("Schizophrenia") |
| Focused | \* Schizophrenia / | (MM " Schizophrenia ") | MJMAINSUBJECT.EXACT("Schizophrenia (Disorganized Type)") |
| Exploded *and* focused | Exp \*Schizophrenia / | (MM " Schizophrenia +") | MJMAINSUBJECT.EXACT.EXPLODE("Schizophrenia") |
| **Extra subject heading functionality** | “Term Finder” (in Medline only) gives access to controlled vocabulary, definitions and related terms from Unified Medical Languages System (UMLS). | “Apply equivalent subjects” (in Advanced Search) uses mapped vocabulary terms to expand the search, when a search term matches a known concept. |  |
| **Export functionality** | 1000 per set  (first set 1-1000, second set 1001-2000, etc) | Can export full set of hits up to 25,000 | Would recommend batches of up to 500 at a time.  Clear folder to export second set of 501-1000. |
| **Export formats** | Microsoft Word, PDF, txt, Microsoft Excel, EndNote, RefWorks, RIS, XML. | RIS, XML, BibTeX, EndNote, RefWorks, Reference Manager, Zotero, CSV. | RefWorks, RIS, PDF, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, txt. |
| **TIPS:** Copy paste not working? | Check that you’re using straight quote marks – so " " rather than “” | Full set export will arrive in an email as a zip file containing RIS file |  |

More resources comparing database interface: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6148622/>  (Table 1) and <https://www.quest.scot.nhs.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/360001762018-Database-search-interface-comparison-guide>