

Ovid Embase/Medline quick guide

Searching using Subject Headings

'Advanced Search' is the default search in Embase and Medline. Keyword(s) are 'mapped' against the database of subject headings. A subject search is a useful way to find articles on a topic and will include synonyms and variant spellings. NOTE: Medline and Embase each use different subject headings.

- Enter the word or phrase you wish to search
- This is '**mapped**' against a list of possible headings
- Click the '**Scope Note**' to confirm the definition of the subject heading and to see a list of keywords it is used for (if you're doing an exhaustive search, it is useful to note down some or all of these for additional keyword searching)
- Click on the Heading to open up the **Tree Structure**. This displays broader and narrower headings
- **Explode** broadens your search and captures all headings which fall below a selected heading in the tree structure
- **Focus** retrieves only those articles where the heading(s) is one the main concepts the article is about. NOTE: Focus and Explode CAN be used together.
- Having selected the subject heading(s) the next screen displays **Subheadings** for the Subject Heading you have selected. These allow you to narrow your search down to a particular aspect – eg Epidemiology, Etiology, Prevention and Control, Therapy, Statistics

and Numerical Data. If you have chosen a large number of headings, you might end up skipping the subheading screen.

Searching using keywords

Searching using keywords can also be useful. For example, if you're looking for an author, or an institution, or if you are unfamiliar with the topic and not sure what the subject heading will be, a title or abstract search can be handy.

Useful shortcuts,

- .ti** title search, eg quitting smoking.ti
- .au** author search eg Ibrahim G*.au
- .ab** abstract search
- .in** institution search eg University of Canterbury.in
- .tw** title and abstract search

Truncation and wildcard searches

Truncation is technique to search for the start of a word. In Ovid the truncation symbol is an asterisk *

asthm*.ti finds asthma/asthmatic/asthmatics in the title field

Use **?** to replace either one or no letters

p?ediatric.ab finds paediatric or pediatric in the abstract field

Combining searches

Use **AND, OR, NOT** to combine your search results.

Physical activity **AND** mortality

Combining searches with **AND** **reduces** the number search results as both concepts must be present

Running **OR** jogging

Combining searches with **OR** **increases** the number of search results as either concept will be retrieved

New Zealand **NOT** Australia

Combining searches with **NOT** reduces the number of results

Using 'Limits' to narrow your search

Search results from the last line of searching will be displayed at the bottom of the screen. To view a different search, click '**Display**' for the search results you would like to view.

Under the search box you will find common limits such as, English Language and Publication Year. Click additional limits to view more limits, including age, clinical queries and publication type.

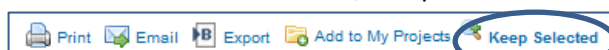
Limits can also be found to the left of the search results.

Viewing your search & search results

The 'Expand' tab will appear at the right of your search history when you have more than four lines of searching. Click the tab to view all the lines of searching.

Search results from the last line of searching will be displayed at the bottom of the screen. To view a different search, click '**Display**' for the search results you would like to view.

To mark selected search results, tick the checkbox to the left of each result then, 'Keep Selected'



Results can be printed, emailed, exported to EndNote or saved to 'My Projects'

Find the full text

To the right each reference in the result list is a 'Search for Full Text' button

When you click this button either a new window will open with full text of the article, or, if we don't have electronic access to the journal, you will be given the option to search the Library catalogue to check if we have the journal in print.

If the full text is not available electronically or in print you can request the article using Interloan <http://library.canterbury.ac.nz/interloans/> Interloan is a free service.

Saving a search or creating an alert

Select '**Save Search History**' to save your search.

- If you have not saved a search before you will be prompted to create a login and password.
- Once logged in, give the search a name and select the type of search you would like – permanent, alert, or my projects.
- **Permanent** searches can be saved and rerun
- **AutoAlerts** are saved and run at intervals you specify and the results are emailed to you
- **MyProjects**

Further assistance

If you have questions -

Chat with Library staff online using Asklive

Contact the Health Science Liaison Librarian,
Margaret Paterson
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