

## Search Operators for Different Databases - PubMed, Ovid databases (Medline, Embase, PsycInfo), Cochrane, CINAHL, Web of Science, Scopus

Database	Controlled vocabulary	Boolean operators	Proximity operators	Truncation/Wildcard	Phrase searching
<b>PubMed</b>	<b>MeSH</b>  Default is exploded heading  Exploded: <i>"Dementia"[Mesh]</i>  Not exploded (not include headings found below this term in MeSH hierarchy): <i>"Dementia"[Mesh:NoExp]</i>  Major Topic - Exploded: <i>"Dementia"[Majr]</i>  Major Topic – Not exploded: <i>"Dementia"[Majr:NoExp]</i>	<b>AND, OR, NOT</b>   	Not available	<b>*</b>  To search for all terms that begin with a word, enter the word followed by an asterisk (*).  Truncation turns off automatic term mapping and the process that includes the MeSH term and any specific terms indented under that term in the MeSH hierarchy.  PubMed searches for the first 600 variations of a truncated term. E.g. therap* produces more than 600 variations and will not search for therapy!	<b>"... "</b>  To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks.  Searching a phrase using double quotes turns off automatic mapping to MeSH terms. For example, "heart attack" will not map to the MeSH term Myocardial Infarction, whereas, heart attack will.
<b>Ovid databases</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medline</li> <li>• Embase</li> <li>• PsycInfo</li> </ul>	<b>MeSH (Medline), Emtree (Embase), PsycInfo Thesaurus (PsycInfo)</b>  Default is <b>unexploded</b> heading  exploded: <i>exp Dementia/</i>  Not exploded: <i>Dementia/</i>  Major Topic (Focus) - Exploded: <i>exp *Dementia/</i>	<b>AND, OR, NOT</b>  <b>FREQ</b>  FREQ lets you specify a term's threshold of occurrence in records retrieved.  <term>.xy./freq=n  E.g. bloodpressure.tx./freq=10 retrieves only records in which the phrase blood pressure appears ten or more	<b>ADJn</b>  ADJn is a positional operator that lets you retrieve records that contain your terms (in any order) within a specified number (n) of words of each other. To apply adjacency, separate your search terms with the ADJ operator and a number from 1 to 99. e.g. <i>physician adj5 relationship</i>	<b>\$ or *</b>  unlimited right-hand truncation searches for variations on a word that are formed with different suffixes. e.g. <i>gene*</i> finds <i>gene, genes, genetics, generation</i>  <b>\$n or *n</b>  Limited right-hand truncation restricts the number of characters following the word. e.g. <i>dog\$1</i> finds <i>dog</i> or <i>dogs</i> but not <i>dogma</i>  <b>#</b>	When multiple words are entered into the search box, Ovid searches them as a phrase automatically e.g. skin cancer  If you do not want to search as a phrase, you need to use Boolean operators between them. e.g. skin AND cancer

	Major Topic – Not exploded: <i>*Dementia/</i>	times in the full text (TX) field of the database. It does not work for multiple fields.		<p>The mandated wild card character stands for <b>one</b> character within a word or at the end of a word. e.g. <i>wom#n</i> finds <i>woman</i> and <i>women</i></p> <p><b>?</b></p> <p>The optional wild card character stands for <b>zero or one</b> characters within a word or at the end of a word. e.g. <i>colo?r</i> finds <i>color</i> and <i>colour</i></p>	
<b>Cochrane</b>	<p><b>MeSH</b></p> <p>Exploded: <i>MeSH descriptor: [mh "Dementia"]</i></p> <p>Not exploded (unexploded): <i>MeSH descriptor: [mh ^"Dementia"]</i></p> <p>Major Topic - Exploded: <i>Not available</i></p> <p>Major Topic – Not exploded: <i>Not available</i></p>	<p><b>AND, OR, NOT</b></p> <p>E.g. <i>{OR #1-#4,#9} searches #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #9</i></p>	<p><b>NEAR</b></p> <p>Finds the terms when they are within 6 words of each other. Terms can appear in either order. e.g. <i>cancer near lung</i></p> <p><b>NEAR/X</b></p> <p>Finds the terms when they are within X words of each other. Terms can appear in either order. e.g. <i>cancer near/3 lung</i></p> <p><b>NEXT</b></p> <p>Finds the terms when they appear next to each other. Terms must appear in the order specified. Use the NEXT operator for phrase searching with wildcards. e.g. <i>hearing NEXT aid*</i> (find hearing aid and hearing aids)</p>	<p>A wildcard can be added to the right (end of term), left (beginning of term) and internal (within) a term, however the word root must be at least 3 characters.</p> <p><b>*</b></p> <p>Retrieves variations of the search term and replaces <b>one or more</b> characters e.g. <i>transplant*</i> finds <i>transplant, transplants, transplanting, transplantation, transplantable</i> e.g. <i>*glycemia</i> finds <i>hyperglycemia</i> or <i>hypoglycaemia</i> e.g. <i>leuk*mia</i> finds <i>leukemia</i> or <i>leukaemia</i></p> <p><b>?</b></p> <p>Retrieves variations of the search term and replaces <b>one</b> character e.g. <i>wom?n</i> finds <i>women</i> or <i>woman</i></p>	<p>“... ..”</p> <p>To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks.</p> <p>Phrase search does NOT support the use of wildcards.</p>

				e.g. <i>system?</i> finds <i>system</i> or <i>systems</i> but not <i>systematic</i>	
<b>CINAHL</b>	<b>CINAHL Headings</b>  Exploded: (MH "Dementia+")  Not exploded: (MH "Dementia")  Major Topic (Major Concept) - Exploded: (MM "Dementia+")  Major Topic – Not exploded: (MM "Dementia")	<b>AND, OR, NOT</b>  When Boolean operators are contained within a phrase that is enclosed in quotation marks, the operator is treated as a stop word. When this is the case, any single word will be searched for in its place.	<b>Nx (near)</b> Finds words if they are within x words of one another regardless of the order in which they appear. e.g. <i>tax N5 reform</i> finds <i>tax reform</i> and <i>reform of income tax</i>  <b>Wx (within)</b> Finds words if they are within x words of one another and in the order in which you entered them. e.g. <i>oil W3 (disaster OR clean-up OR contamination)</i>	<b>*</b> Enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. All forms of that word will be found. e.g. <i>comput*</i> finds <i>computer</i> or <i>computing</i>  The Truncation symbol (*) may also be used between words to match any word. e.g. <i>a midsummer * dream</i> finds <i>a midsummer night's dream</i>  <b>?</b> Represents <b>one</b> character e.g. <i>ne?t</i> finds <i>neat</i> , <i>nest</i> or <i>next</i>  <b>#</b> Represents <b>zero or one</b> character e.g. <i>colo#r</i> finds <i>color</i> or <i>colour</i>	<b>"... .."</b> To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks.  If a phrase contains stop words the stop words will not be searched, but the searchable words will be searched in the order as entered.  If you enter hyphenated words in a search, the search engine automatically searches for the word in both hyphenated and non-hyphenated forms e.g. <i>animal-assisted</i> finds <i>animal assisted</i> and <i>animal-assisted</i>
<b>Web of Science</b>	Not available	<b>AND, OR, NOT</b>	<b>NEAR/x</b> Use NEAR/x to find records where the terms joined by the operator are x words of each other. e.g. <i>Brown NEAR "spider bite"</i>  If you use NEAR without /x, the system will find records where the terms joined by NEAR are within 15 words of each other.	<b>*</b> Represents any group of characters, including no character. e.g. <i>hydro*power</i> finds <i>hydropower</i> or <i>hydroelectricpower</i>  <b>?</b> Represents any single character is useful for searching last names of authors where the last character is uncertain.  <b>\$</b> Represents <b>zero or one</b> character. e.g. <i>flavo\$r</i> finds <i>flavor</i> and <i>flavour</i>	<b>"... .."</b> To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks.  This applies only to Topic and Title searches. e.g. <i>"energy conserv*"</i> finds <i>energy conservation</i> or <i>energy conserving</i>  If you enter hyphenated words in a search, the search engine automatically searches for the word in both

					hyphenated and non-hyphenated forms e.g. <i>waste-water</i> finds <i>waste water</i> and <i>waste-water</i>
<b>Scopus</b>	<b>IndexTerms</b>  Scopus does not carry out its own indexing. However, it is possible to search controlled vocabulary terms that had been assigned to the document  e.g. INDEXTERMS("Dementia") returns documents where <i>dementia</i> is an index term	<b>AND, OR, AND NOT</b>	<b>W/n</b> (within) Where the terms in the search must be within a specified number of terms ( <i>n</i> ). <i>n</i> can be a number from 0 to 255. Either word may appear first. e.g. <i>pain W/15 morphine</i> would find articles in which "pain" and "morphine" are no more than 15 terms apart  <b>PRE/n</b> (precedes by) Where the first term in the search must precede the second by a specified number of terms ( <i>n</i> ). <i>n</i> can be a number from 0 to 255. e.g. <i>behavioural PRE/3 disturbances</i> finds articles in which "behavioural" precedes "disturbances" by three or fewer words	<b>!</b> To search for a variable number of characters. e.g. <i>locom!</i> finds <i>locomotive</i> , <i>locomotives</i> or <i>locomotion</i>  <b>?</b> Replaces <b>one</b> character anywhere in a word. e.g. <i>wom?n</i> finds <i>women</i> or <i>woman</i>  <b>*</b> Replaces a fixed number of characters e.g. <i>dog</i> finds <i>dogs</i>  Scopus finds variant spellings and matches Greek characters and their common American/British English variant spellings. Also, using the singular form of a word in your search retrieves the singular, plural, and possessive forms of most words. e.g. <i>criterion</i> finds <i>criteria</i> or <i>criterion</i>	{... ...} To find documents that contain an <b>exact phrase</b> , including any stop words, spaces, and punctuation, enclose the phrase in braces.  "... ..." To find documents that contain a <b>loose/ approximate phrase</b> (your search terms appear adjacent to each other), enclose the terms in double quotation marks.  Searching for "criminal* insan*" finds criminally insane and criminal insanity. Searching for "heart attack" finds heart attack and heart attacks.