

Searching For Healthcare Information

Accessing OVID databases

From the Library homepage www.mftlibrary.org and click on **Online Resources** and then **Healthcare Databases**.

Select the OVID database you wish to search. You will then need to login with your OpenAthens username and password. You will also need to create an account with OVID in order to save searches.

Ovid Login

User ID:

Password:

Login

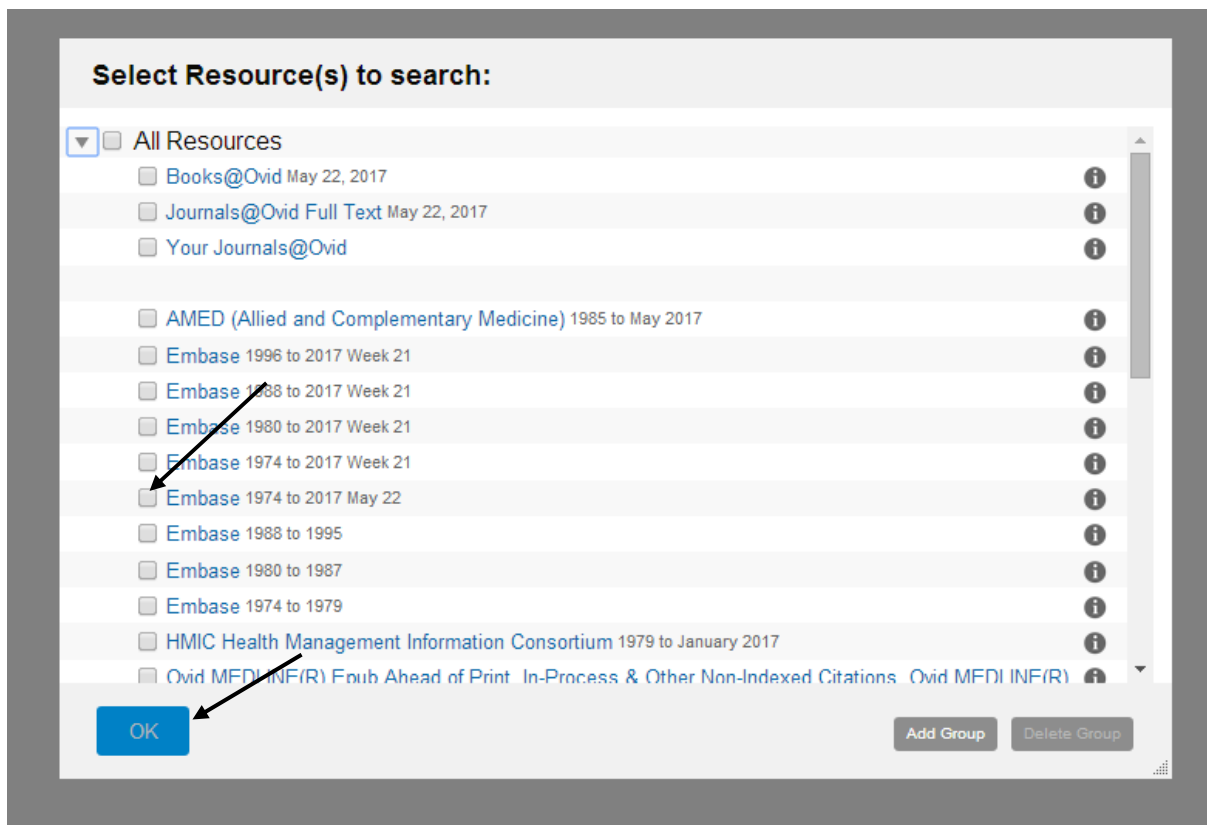
OpenAthens Login Institutional Login

Buy Articles

Buy immediate access to full text content from the latest, most trusted journals

Browse Articles

After logging in with Athens you will be taken to the database menu. Tick the database you want to search in and click OK.



How to Search

Firstly you need to formulate a clear question. This should generate search terms. There are models which may help you do this such as PICO:

P = Population, (e.g. patient group, problem, condition, disease gender, age etc.) - what's the problem about? Who's affected?

I = Intervention (e.g. treatment, exposure, diagnostic test, drug, procedure) – what is being done?

C = Comparison (not always applicable) – what's the alternative, comparing your intervention with another treatment or test.

O = Outcome (e.g. reduced mortality, improved quality of life, length of stay, cost effectiveness, complications) - what effect will it have?

You may want to include a separate search for a setting if this is relevant, e.g. critical care, hospital, primary care etc. If you want a particular study type. e.g. RCT, this can be added as a limit at the end of your search. (see Applying Limits below).

A question such as '*Does the flu vaccine help reduce absenteeism in healthcare workers?* Could be broken down as follows:

P	I	C	O
Health personnel Healthcare workers Healthcare staff Nurses Doctors Hospital staff etc.	Flu vaccine Influenza vaccination Influenza immunization etc.		Absence Sick leave Absenteeism etc.

AND and OR

The process is to list synonymous / similar terms under each column heading. These are then combined using **OR**

Once this has been done, combine each column using **AND**.

It is not necessary to fill each column. Your question may not even be suitable for the PICO model.

The main thing to remember is you MUST break your question down into different concepts.

Carrying Out a Search.

Sample Question: *Is there a relationship between passive smoking and lung cancer in males?*

We will break down this question into two main concepts:

1. Passive smoking
2. Lung cancer.

We will then limit the results to Males

Begin with one of the concepts and carry out a keyword search for the term. Then continue searching the same concept, thinking of synonymous terms, potential alternative spellings (e.g. American), singular and plurals.

The search for passive smoking may include the following keywords:

passiv* smok*
second hand smok*
secondhand smok*
Involuntary smok*
tobacco pollution
etc.

Note: the * is used as a wildcard to truncate a word. Thus, smok* will retrieve the words smoke, smokes, smoked, smoking.

In OVID, when you want to limit your search to title and abstract you must type *.ti,ab* at the of the term, like this: *Involuntary smok*.ti,ab*.

To search for the subject heading you need to click the 'Map term to Subject heading' box.

By using a combination of both keywords (which will bring up the most up-to-date- information) with subject headings (used to index the articles in the database) you will have a more comprehensive search and eliminate the risk of missing out important information. *You do not need to use truncation when search subject headings.*

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Embase 1974 to 2017 May 22

Enter keyword or phrase
(* or \$ for truncation)

Keyword

Author

Title

Journal

passive smoke

Search

Limits (expand)

Include Multimedia

☒Map Term to Subject Heading

From here you can select *Explode*, which expands results to include records about the broader topic and all related topics, and *Focus* which retrieves only those results that pertain to the subject heading.

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:
Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the thesaurus.
See term mapped to thesaurus term

☐Include All Subheadings

Combine with:

OR

Continue >>

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	passive smoking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div></div>
<input type="checkbox"/>	passive smoke.mp. search as Keyword			

Exploded terms:

Select Term(s)	Subject Heading	Hits	Explode	Focus	Scope Note
[Back up in List]					
<input type="checkbox"/>	passive movement	3014	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div></div>
	passive personality disorder				
<input type="checkbox"/>	passive skin anaphylaxis	2606	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div></div>
	passive smoke				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	passive smoking	10322	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div></div>
[Used For]					
	passive cigarette smoke				
	passive cigarette smoking				
	passive smoke				
	passive tobacco smoke				
	passive tobacco smoking				
	second hand cigarette smoke				
	second hand smoke				
	second hand smoking				
	second hand tobacco smoke				
	secondhand cigarette smoke				
	secondhand smoke				
	secondhand smoking				
	secondhand tobacco smoke				
	smoking,passive				
	tobacco smoke pollution				
[Broader Terms]					
<input type="checkbox"/>	smoking	246381	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<div></div>

4

Now we want to combine these terms with the Boolean operative **OR**. So far our search on EMBASE looks like this:

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Search', 'Journals', 'Books', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'Mobile'. Below this is a 'Search History (6)' section. It contains a table with columns: #, Searches, Results, Type, Actions, and Annotations. The table lists four searches:

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
3	secondhand smok*.ti,ab.	2167	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
4	Involuntary smok*.ti,ab.	118	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
5	exp passive smoking/	10322	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
6	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5	12924	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations

Below the table, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. The 'OR' button is highlighted. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', and 'View Saved'.

We can now add our second search term, 'lung cancer'. Remember, there are various synonyms for 'cancer', and you must use all of these in your keyword search. You can search for them like this: *(lung* AND (cancer* OR neoplasm* OR carcinoma*)).ti,ab* Notice that the search terms must be in parentheses.

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface with a 'Search History (9)' section. It contains a table with columns: #, Searches, Results, Type, Actions, and Annotations. The table lists nine searches:

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
1	passiv* smok*.ti,ab.	5443	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
2	second hand smok*.ti,ab.	1299	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
3	secondhand smok*.ti,ab.	2167	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
4	Involuntary smok*.ti,ab.	118	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
5	exp passive smoking/	10322	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
6	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5	12924	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
7	(lung* and (cancer* or neoplasm* or carcinoma*)).ti,ab.	273098	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
8	exp lung cancer/	227777	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
9	7 or 8	356148	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations

Below the table, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. The 'OR' button is highlighted. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', and 'View Saved'.

Now we can combine the two search components, in this instance lines 6 and 9:

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface with a 'Search History (9)' section. It contains a table with columns: #, Searches, Results, Type, Actions, and Annotations. The table lists ten searches:

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
1	passiv* smok*.ti,ab.	5443	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
2	second hand smok*.ti,ab.	1299	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
3	secondhand smok*.ti,ab.	2167	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
4	Involuntary smok*.ti,ab.	118	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
5	exp passive smoking/	10322	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
6	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5	12924	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
7	(lung* and (cancer* or neoplasm* or carcinoma*)).ti,ab.	273098	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
8	exp lung cancer/	227777	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
9	7 or 8	356148	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations
10	9 and 6	1510	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	Annotations

Below the table, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. The 'OR' button is highlighted. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', and 'View Saved'.

Applying Limits

To apply limits to your search, tick the line you wish to limit (in our case line 10) and then tick the 'Limits' box and choose the limits you want. To see the full list of available limits *select Additional Limits*. Then click 'Limit A Search'. Here we have limited to English, Male, Adult, Full text and the dates 2007 -2017.

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Embase 1974 to 2017 May 22

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation)

☒ **Keyword** ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

☒ **Limits (close)** ☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

☐ Full Text ☐ Latest Update ☐ Abstracts
☐ Human ☐ Cochrane Library ☒ English Language

Publication Year -

Status
 -
 Article In Press Status
 Conference Abstract Status
 Embase Status
 InProcess Status

NLM Status
 -
 In-Data-Review
 In-Process
 PubMed-not-MEDLINE
 PubMed/MEDLINE

☐ Ovid Full Text Available
☐ Priority Journals
☐ Animals
☒ Male
☐ Exclude MEDLINE Journals

Publication Year -

To select or remove multiple items from a list below, hold down the Shift, Ctrl, or "Apple" key while selecting.

Records From
 -
 Conference Abstracts
 Embase
 MEDLINE

NLM Status
 -
 In-Data-Review
 In-Process
 PubMed-not-MEDLINE
 PubMed/MEDLINE

Clinical Trials
 -
 Clinical Trial
 Randomized Controlled Trial
 Controlled Clinical Trial
 Multicenter Study
 Phase 1 Clinical Trial

Languages
 -
 Danish
 Dutch
 English
 Esperanto
 Estonian
 Finnish

Source Types
 -
 Book
 Book Series
 Conference Proceeding
 Journal
 Major Reference Work
 Experimental Subjects

Animals <Category Heading>
 -
 ...Amphibia
 ...Ape
 ...Bird
 ...Cat

Star Ranking
 -

☒ Full Text
☐ Abstracts
☐ Animal Studies
☐ Female
☐ Retraction Notice

☐ Latest Update
☐ Human
☐ Cochrane Library
☒ English Language

Status
 -
 Article In Press Status
 Conference Abstract Status
 Embase Status

EBM-Evidence Based Medicine
 -
 Evidence Based Medicine
 Consensus Development
 Meta Analysis
 Outcomes Research

Clinical Queries
 -
 Prognosis (maximizes specificity)
 Prognosis (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)
 Causation-Etiology (maximizes sensitivity)
 Causation-Etiology (maximizes specificity)
 Causation-Etiology (best balance of sensitivity and specificity)
 Economics (maximizes sensitivity)

Publication Types
 -
 Abstract Report
 Article
 Article in Press
 Books
 Book Review

Human Age Groups
 -
 Infant <to one year>
 Child <unspecified age>
 Preschool Child <1 to 6 years>
 School Child <7 to 12 years>
 Adolescent <13 to 17 years>
 Adult <18 to 64 years>

Routes of Drug Administration
 -
 Buccal
 Epidural
 Inhalational
 Intraarterial
 Intraarticular

Year Published
 -

You can also filter for Clinical Query.

The Clinical Query Limit

Clinical queries are pre-tested search strategies (or filters) which are made up of search terms that identify the methodology of a study. They are used as an effective way to retrieve particular types of studies that answer questions relating to therapy, diagnosis, prognosis, aetiology/etiology etc.

Selecting the appropriate filter, will:

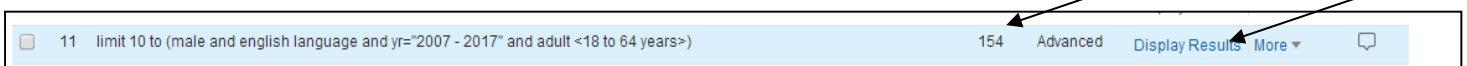
- increase the relevancy of your search
- introduce a level of consistency to your searching making it more systematic
- save you time in when conducting your search
- provide you with a particularly useful way of limiting a broad search

Clinical queries are available in Embase and CINAHL.

Filters may have: High sensitivity (broad) - giving most results
High specificity (narrow) - giving least results
Optimized – giving medium results

The Search Results

Below you can see the final results with limits.



To view the results click 'Display results'. The results are displayed as follows:

Search Information

You searched: limit 10 to (male and english language and yr="2007 - 2017" and adult <18 to 64 years>)

Search terms used: cancer*, carcinoma*, hand, involuntary, lung cancer, lung*, neoplasm*, passiv*, passive smoking, second, secondhand, smok*

Search Returned: 154 text results

Sort By: -

Filter By

- Add to Search History
- Selected Only (0)
- Years
 - All Years
 - Current year
 - Past 3 years
 - Past 5 years
 - Specific Year Range
- Subject
- Author
- Journal
- Publication Type

Results:

- Fanconi anemia genes in lung adenocarcinoma - A pathway-wide study on cancer susceptibility.**
Yang S.-Y., Hsiung C.-N., Li Y.-J., Chang G.-C., Tsai Y.-H., Chen K.-Y., Huang M.-S., Su W.-C., Chen Y.-M., Hsiung C.A., Yang P.-C., Chen C.-J., Wu P.-E., Yu J.-C., Shen C.-Y., Hsu H.-M.
Journal of Biomedical Science. 23 (1) (no pagination), 2016. Article Number: 23. Date of Publication: 03 Feb 2016.
[Article]
Publisher: BioMed Central Ltd. (E-mail: info@biomedcentral.com)
Abstract | My Projects | Annotate
- The fraction of cancer attributable to ways of life, infections, occupation, and environmental agents in Brazil in 2020.**
Azevedo E Silva G., De Moura L., Curado M.P., Da Silva Gomes F., Otero U., De Rezende L.F.M., Daumas R.P., Guimaraes R.M., Meira K.C., Da Costa Leite I., Valente J.G., Moreira R.I., Koifman R., Malta D.C., De Campos Mello M.S., Guedes T.W.G., Boffetta P.
PLoS ONE. 11 (2) (no pagination), 2016. Article Number: e0148761. Date of Publication: 03 Feb 2016.
[Article]
Publisher: Public Library of Science (E-mail: plos@plos.org)
Abstract | My Projects | Annotate
- Secondhand smoking and the risk of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in a high incidence Region, Kashmir, India: A case-control-observational study.**
Rafiq R., Shah I.A., Bhat G.A., Lone M.M., Islami F., Boffetta P., Dar N.A.
Medicine (United States). 95 (1) (no pagination), 2016. Article Number: e2340. Date of Publication: 2016.
[Article]
Publisher: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins (E-mail: kathiest.clai@apta.org)
Abstract | My Projects | Annotate
- Case-control study of cumulative cigarette tar exposure and lung and upper aerodigestive tract cancers.**

Some results have direct links to the full-text. To see if there is full text available click on the article title link and then click on the PMID (Pubmed ID)

Accession Number: 354181808

PMID: 19239522 [<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19239522>]

NLM Status: MEDLINE

Author: Pericas J.; Gonzalez S.; Bennasar M.; De Pedro J.; Aguilo A.; Bauza L.

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Correspondence Address: J. Pericas, Department of Nursing and Physiotherapy, University of Balearic Islands, Cra. de Valldemossa, km 7.5, 07122 Palma, Spain. E-mail: jordi.pericas@uib.es

Country of Publication: United Kingdom

Title: Cognitive dissonance towards the **smoking** habit among nursing and physiotherapy students at the University of Balearic Islands in Spain.

Source: International Nursing Review. 56 (1) (pp 95-101), 2009. Date of Publication: March 2009.

Publisher: Blackwell Publishing Ltd (9600 Garsington Road, Oxford OX4 2XG, United Kingdom)

Keyword: Attitudes, Behaviour, Cognitive Dissonance, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Tobacco Smoking, University Students

Subject Headings: [adult](#)
[article](#)
[attitude to health](#)
[cannabis smoking / ep \[Epidemiology\]](#)
[*cognition](#)
[cross-sectional study](#)
[drinking behavior / ep \[Epidemiology\]](#)
[education](#)
[female](#)
[habit](#)
[*health personnel attitude](#)
[health survey](#)

You can then see the complete reference in Pubmed and access the full text (if available) by clicking on the full text link on the right.

NCBI Resources How To oschaff My NCBI Sign Out

PubMed.gov US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

PubMed 19239522[uid] Search

Create RSS Create alert Advanced Help

Format: Abstract

Send to

Int Nurs Rev. 2009 Mar;56(1):95-101. doi: 10.1111/j.1466-7657.2008.00669.x.

Cognitive dissonance towards the smoking habit among nursing and physiotherapy students at the University of Balearic Islands in Spain.

Pericas J¹, Gonzalez S, Bennasar M, De Pedro J, Aguilo A, Bauza L.

Author information

Abstract

AIM: To estimate the prevalence of tobacco smoking among physiotherapy and nursing students at the University of the Balearic Islands in Spain and to describe their perceptions, attitude and behaviour towards smoking and towards the Spanish Smoking Prevention Act.

BACKGROUND: Active smoking is the first avoidable cause of death in the world while passive smoking is the third. The tobacco epidemic kills 5.4 million people a year from lung cancer, heart disease and other related illnesses. In Europe, around one-third of the Community population are smokers, with about 650,000 smoking-related deaths per year in the Community. In Spain, 56,000 people a year are estimated to die from tobacco-related illnesses.

METHOD: An observational, cross-sectional, descriptive study, with a sample of 345 out of 645 students (53.5% participation rate) who completed an anonymous, self-administered, standardized survey devised by the World Health Organization.

FINDINGS: The study revealed a 26.1% prevalence of tobacco smoking (26.9% among women and 22.6% among men), which is similar to percentages of students at other Spanish universities. Smokers and non-smokers reported many differences in attitude and behaviour, some of which have potential repercussions in their career, such as in estimating the harmful effects of tobacco smoke or the status of health professionals as role models in the society they serve.

CONCLUSION: The results of this study will contribute to develop an anti-smoking programme at the university and to establish smoking-prevention campaigns.

PMID: 19239522 DOI: 10.1111/j.1466-7657.2008.00669.x
[Indexed for MEDLINE]

MeSH terms

LinkOut - more resources

Full text links

Full Text Online Wiley Online Library

Save items

Add to Favorites

Similar articles

Tobacco use amongst nursing and physiotherapy students: a cross section [Int J Nurs Stud. 2007]

Cognitive dissonance and undergraduate nursing students' knowledge of, and at [J Adv Nurs. 2004]

Correlates of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use among Scottish postsecor [J Stud Alcohol. 1997]

Review Prevalence of smoking among dentists in Catalonia--S [Med Oral Patol Oral Cir Bucal....]

Review Education program about tobacco for medical students. [Przegł Lek. 2005]

See reviews... See all...

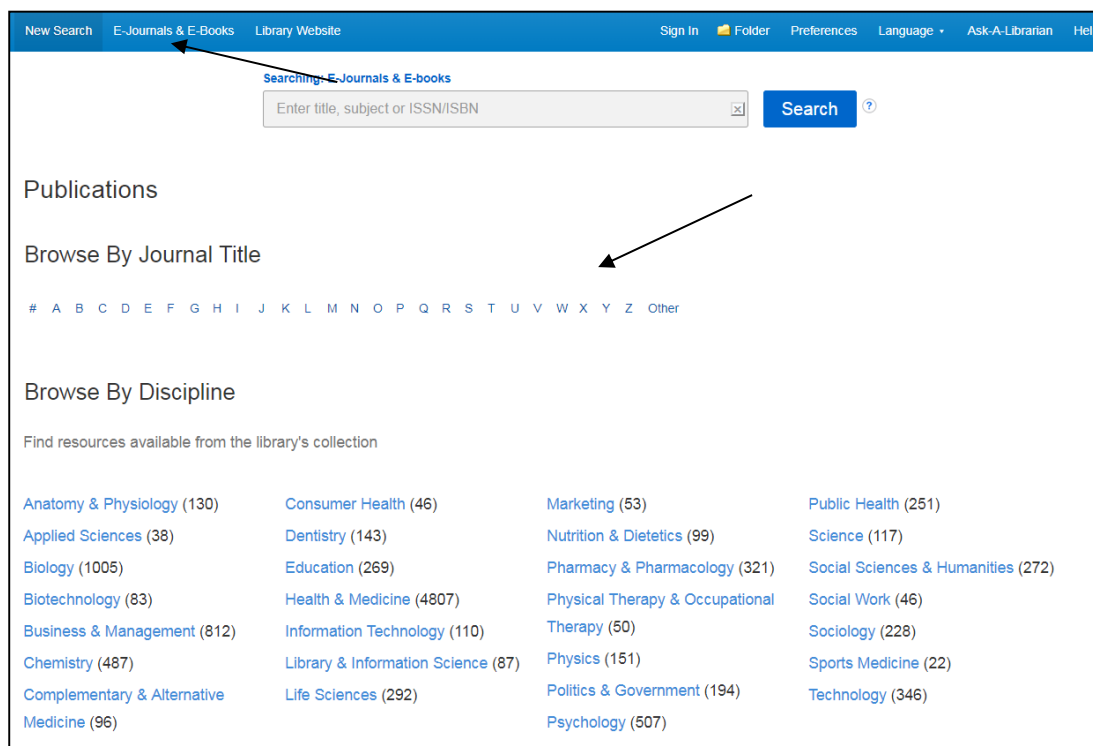
Cited by 3 PubMed Central articles

Reviewing the prevalence of (cigarette) smoking and its related factors in stu [Addict Health. 2011]

Lifestyle and health among Spanish university students: differ [Int J Environ Res Public Health....]

Nursing education and beliefs towards tobacco cessation and control: a cr [Tob Induc Dis. 2011]

You can also search for the journal in the Library's Knowledge Hub:

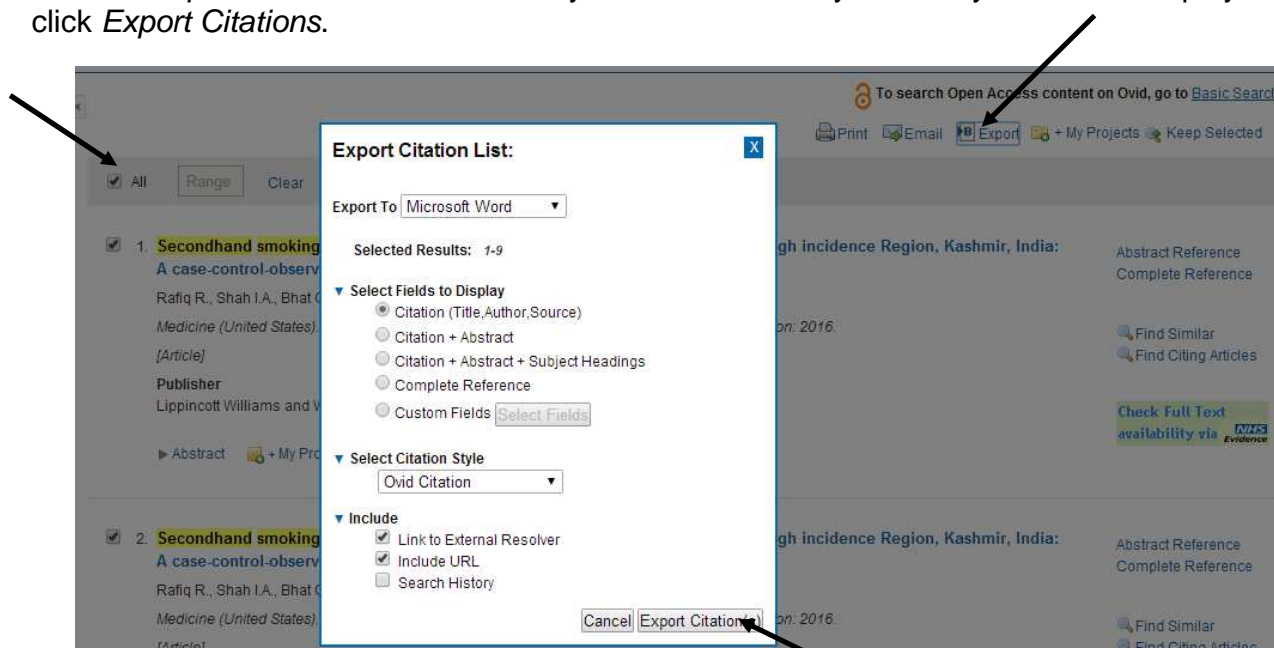


If you require the full-text for a journal article not held at the library you have the following options:

1. First check the MFT Library ejournals catalogue via the library hub to make sure it is not held at the library: <http://library.staffnet.xcmmc.nhs.uk/Home>
2. See if you can get access via your university collection if you are a student
3. Request it as a document supply. <http://library.staffnet.xcmmc.nhs.uk/document-supply>

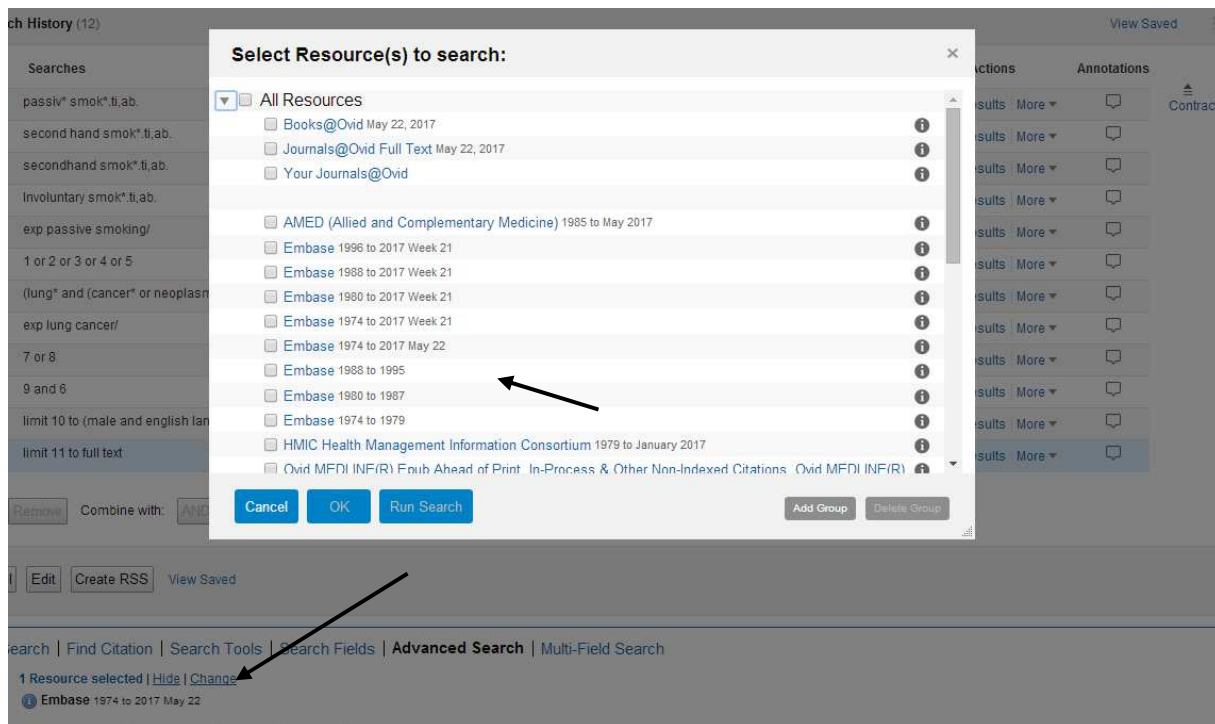
Exporting results

To export your results tick the line corresponding to the results you want to export, or choose *All*. Click on *Export* and choose the format you'd like and how you'd like your results displayed and then click *Export Citations*.



Changing Databases

Once you have finished your search you have the option of searching again using a different database. Click on *Change* and choose a different database from the menu.



Saving your search

In order to save your searches you will need to register with OVID:

The screenshot shows the Ovid "Personal Account Login" page. At the top right, there are links for "My Account" and "Support & Training". Below these is a blue header bar with "My Workspace" and "Mobile". The main content area has a "Personal Account Login" section with a "Personal Account Name:" label and a text input field, a "Password:" label and a text input field, and a "Login" button. Below the login section is a link for "Forgot Account Name or Password?". To the right of the login section is a "Don't have an Account?" section with a user icon, the text "Use a Personal Account to save searches, create alerts and manage research.", and a "Create Account" link. Arrows point to the "My Account" link and the "Create Account" link.

Once logged in you can save selected rows or the entire search.

7 (lung* and (cancer* or neoplasm* or carcinoma*).ti,ab.

8 exp lung cancer/

9 7 or 8

10 9 and 6

11 limit 10 to (male and english language and yr="2007 - 2017" and adult <18 to 64 years>)

12 limit 11 to full text

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All Edit Create RSS View Saved

To view or open saved searches click on 'View Saved' in the top right corner. To re-run the search tick the box and select *Run*.

Permanent Searches | Expert Searches

Run Delete Copy

a\b - Rename - Edit - Display - Email Jumpstart

Permanent Searches (top)

☒ a\b - Rename - Edit - Display - Email Jumpstart

EMBASE MREH Author

Common syntax:

There is a common way of searching across all Healthcare using the same wildcards and operators. Here is a brief overview.

TRUNCATION	SYMBOL
A way to search for alternative endings of words. You need to think of the root of your word and apply the wildcard *. Unlimited truncation e.g. manag* finds manage, manages, managing, managed, management etc. Be careful however e.g. nurs* finds nurse, nurses, nursing, nurse-led but also nursery.	*
Limited truncation: number (<i>n</i>) specifies the maximum characters after wordstem e.g. Child*4 finds child, children	* <i>n</i>

Doesn't find Childhood, childless	
The optional wild card character ? (question mark) can be used within or at the end of a search term to substitute for one or no characters. This wild card is useful for retrieving documents with British and American word variants. Example colo?r retrieves results that contain the words color or colour . You can use multiple wild cards in a single query word.	?

BOOLEAN OPERATORS	
Finds records containing BOTH terms. e.g. heart and exercise	AND
Finds records containing either term e.g. smoking or tobacco	OR
Use brackets to include more than one type of operator e.g. (diet or nutrition) and diabetes	()
Excludes terms – use with care e.g. Alopecia not (cancer or chemotherapy)	NOT
Will default to AND	No command

PROXIMITY CONNECTORS	
Finds records where the terms appear within <i>n</i> words of each other in either direction. e.g. hyperactiv* adj7 child* finds e.g. 'child/children who are diagnosed as being hyperactive....' note: hyperactiv* will also pick up the term 'hyperactivity' which should further improve the results.	ADJn

PHRASES	
Use adj between words or quotation marks to find a phrase. e.g. "play therapy" finds play therapy only. It will not find play-based therapy, play and music therapy	"....."

HYPHENATED WORDS	
There is no need to include hyphens (-) in search terms such as hand washing or side effects , as the results will be the same. Keep in mind that terms such as hand washing and well being may also be written as handwashing or wellbeing .	-

Refining a search

What to do if you don't find what you are looking for? Searching for literature can occasionally lead to unsatisfactory results. There are generally two types of problems that may be encountered:

- Too many irrelevant articles in the search result
- Too few relevant articles generated by the search.

Ideally when carrying out a literature search the results should find all of the articles which are relevant to the question, while excluding any article which is not relevant.

Too Many Irrelevant Articles

If the search results contain a large amount of irrelevant articles try:

- Using the thesaurus
- Using the NOT command to exclude a concept which is not wanted. (Use only if results have a strong bias towards a topic that you do not want at all as you may remove some useful information.)
- Searching for phrases using “ ”. For example if you search for **Mental Health** without quotation marks, the results generated include irrelevant hits where the words mental and health appear in any order, anywhere in the title or abstract.
- Think of more precise keywords that can be used/added to the search.
- Using the Limits, such as limit to geographical location, age group etc.
- Limiting the date of publication range.
- Searching by **Title**, or **title and abstract**, rather than **all fields**.
- Using the combine search option to fine tune your search.
- Select **Focus** instead of **Select**.

Not Enough Useful Articles

If the search results do not contain enough useful articles try:

- Alternative spelling – Use the American and European spellings of a word. For example gynaecology or gynecology
- Different synonyms – try using alternative words or phrases to describe your search topic/concept. For example, try ‘bandage’ as an alternative to ‘dressing’ as a search term.
- Searching an alternative database. i.e. switch from Medline to EMBASE Widening your search – your search may be restricted by too many different concepts. Try removing one of the search terms or limits.
- Using the OR command, e.g. wound care OR ‘wound management’
- Truncation – Use the * command to give suffix variations. For example, bandag* will find bandage, bandages, and bandaging
- Searching ‘in any field’ or ‘in title and abstract’ rather than just in title.

Note: If you are searching for results in a new area of research there may be few published articles.

Olivia Schaff - Clinical Librarian

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