

Searching Healthcare Databases on Ovid

Healthcare databases are used to find reliable, relevant research on a specific topic. They contain references (often with summaries or abstracts) of journal articles, guidelines, dissertations, and book chapters. Ovid is a platform that provides access to the following databases, covering all aspects of healthcare:

Allied and Complementary Medicine (AMED) 1985 - present

Covers occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry, speech and language, plus alternative medicine: acupuncture, chiropractic, homeopathy, yoga, hypnosis, etc. Indexes around 600 European journals.

EMBASE 1974 - present

A biomedical and pharmaceutical database with more emphasis on European sources. Indexes 8,500 journals, including about 2,900 not indexed in Medline.

EMCARE 1995 - present

Indexes articles from over 3,700 journals covering nursing and allied health research. Includes 1,800 journals not available in other leading nursing databases.

Health Management Information Consortium (HMIC) 1979 – present

Comprises DoH Data and King's Fund databases, covering NHS health services management, policy, and social care. DoH Data includes planning; public health; toxicity studies on specific chemicals. King's Fund focuses on improvements in health and health care, partnership working and workforce development.

MEDLINE 1946 - present

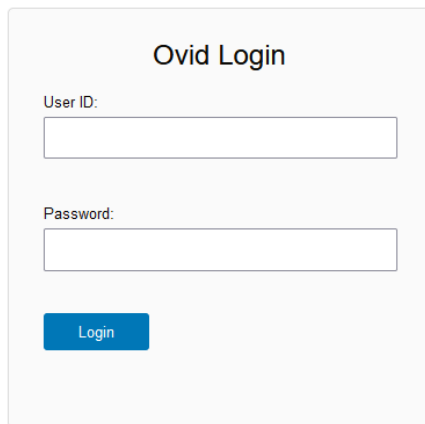
A comprehensive US medical database. Other subjects covered include dentistry, veterinary medicine, and advanced nursing practice. The database covers over 5,500 journals from 70 countries.

Social Policy and Practice 1981 - present

Access to over 400,000 bibliographic records on social and health care policy and practice from predominately UK sources.

To Access the Databases

1. Go to: <https://ovidsp.ovid.com> or access a specific database via the Knowledge & Library Hub (access the Hub by clicking the link on the Library website at www.sdhl.nhs.uk)
2. Click the 'OpenAthens/Institutional' link, specify 'Torbay & South Devon NHS FT' and log in with your Trust PC log-in details




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[OpenAthens | Institutional](#) [Ovid SSO](#)

3. Select the database you wish to search (e.g. Medline) and click OK (**we recommend searching one database at a time**)



Select Resource(s) to search:

- All Resources**
 - Journals@Ovid Full Text February 16, 2022
 - Your Journals@Ovid
 - AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine) 1985 to February 2022
 - Embase 1974 to 2022 February 16
 - Ovid Emcare 1995 to 2022 Week 6
 - HMIC Health Management Information Consortium 1979 to November 2021
 - Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 16, 2022
 - Social Policy and Practice 202201

OK **Add Group** **Delete Group**

Preparing to Search

In order to obtain the most comprehensive results, you need to think carefully about your search topic before you begin. Turn your topic into a question, then break the question down into its key aspects and formulate search terms/keywords for each aspect. Consider synonyms or alternative phrases, and international differences in spelling or terminology. Search each term and combine them with the Boolean operators AND or OR (see below). For example:

Topic: Recent investigations into mechanisms for detecting early signs of sepsis or septic shock in children.

Question: *What early recognition tools are available for detecting septic shock or sepsis in children?*

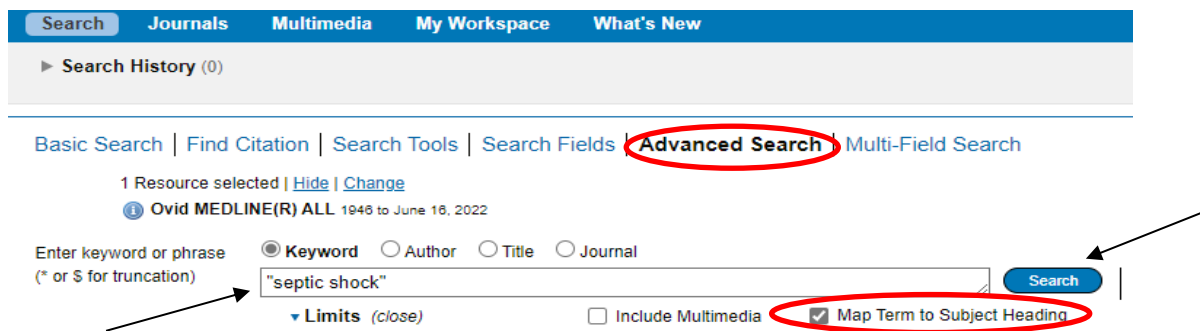
Relevant search terms broken down by aspect may be:

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Aspect 1	Aspect 2	Aspect 3
Septic shock	Children	Early recognition
Sepsis	Child	Early signs
	Infant	Alerts
	Paediatric	Screening
	Pediatric	

Use OR to combine all terms in a column to give a total result for each aspect, then use AND to combine the results from each aspect.

Searching

1. Ensure 'Advanced Search' is selected
2. Begin with the first aspect of your question (column 1 above). Enter the first search term/keyword in the search box ('Septic shock' in our example) and click 'Search'.
Tip: enter phrases in quote marks "..."



- Ovid defaults to mapping the search term to subject headings (used to group related articles in the database) which gives your search a wider catchment. For the most comprehensive results, select your original free-text keyword search (which will

appear at the bottom of the subject heading list) as well as any other relevant headings. Ensure the 'Combine with' box is set to 'OR' and click continue. If there are no relevant headings, just select your original keyword search and click 'Continue'. You can also choose to 'Explode' a heading which expands results to include the broader topic and related topics, or 'Focus' the heading which retrieves only results that pertain directly to it. Scope notes show what is covered by each heading.

Note: You can disable 'Map Term to Subject Heading' by clicking on the tick-box.

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

Include All Subheadings
 Combine with: OR Continue

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shock, Septic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	"septic shock".mp. search as <i>Keyword</i>			

- For clarity of illustration, the example search below has been conducted with 'Map Term to Subject Heading' turned off

3. Repeat for other search terms/keywords that form the first aspect of your question (column 1). Results for each term will appear beneath the search box
4. Click on 'Search History' (top left) to display your search lines so far
5. Combine the terms by selecting each search line and clicking 'OR'

Search Journals Multimedia My Workspace What's New

▼ Search History (2) View Saved

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 "septic shock".mp. or *Shock, Septic/	33979	Advanced	Display Results More	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 Sepsis/ or sepsis.mp.	141205	Advanced	Display Results More	

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved

Email All Search History Copy Search History Link Copy Search History Details

6. A new search line will display in Search History showing results for the combined terms

3 1 or 2 161363 advanced Display Results More

7. Repeat for the other two aspects in columns 2 and 3 **Note: Search history displays only the latest four search lines – to view all search lines click ‘Expand’ on the right of the page**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	children.mp.	1156806	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	child.mp.	2290978	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	infant.mp.	1281890	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	paediatric.mp.	69845	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	pediatric.mp.	353862	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8	3157319	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10	"early recognition".mp.	17887	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	"early signs".mp.	5451	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	alerts.mp.	7425	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13	screening.mp.	704071	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	10 or 11 or 12 or 13	732748	Advanced	Display Results	More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR Expand

8. Now combine the three aspect results (lines 3, 9 and 14 in this example) with **AND** to return final results that incorporate all search terms for each concept of your question (line 15).

# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 "septic shock".mp. or Shock, Septic/	38280	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 Sepsis/ or sepsis.mp.	141205	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 1 or 2	164592	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 children.mp.	1156806	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 child.mp.	2290978	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 infant.mp.	1281890	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 paediatric.mp.	69845	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 pediatric.mp.	353862	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8	3157319	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 "early recognition".mp.	17887	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 "early signs".mp.	5451	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 alerts.mp.	7425	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 screening.mp.	704071	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 10 or 11 or 12 or 13	732748	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 3 and 9 and 14	1300	Advanced	Display Results More ▾	<input type="checkbox"/>

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Applying Limits

You can refine your search further by applying limits such as a publication date-range, language or type of article.

1. In Search History, tick the search line you wish to limit (usually your final result) then click on 'Limits' (beneath the search box).
2. Select those you wish to apply and click on 'Search' (to see the full, extensive list of available limits, click on 'Additional Limits').
3. In this example, line 20 has been limited to English language papers published from 2021 – current.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a search history bar at the top. The first search line is selected, and the 'Limits' button is circled in red. Below the search bar, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. A grey bar contains buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', 'Create Auto-Alert', 'View Saved', 'Email All Search History', and 'Copy Search History Link'. The main search area has a search box with 'Keyword' selected and a search button. Below the search box, the 'Limits' section is expanded, showing various filter options. The 'English Language' checkbox is checked, and the 'Publication Year' dropdown is set to '2021' and 'Current'. The 'Additional Limits' button is circled in red. Arrows point to the 'English Language' checkbox and the 'Publication Year' dropdown.

4. A new search line shows results (142) based on the applied limits

The screenshot shows a search history bar with a search line that has been limited. The search line is 'limit 15 to (english language and yr="2021 -Current")'. The number '142' is circled in red, indicating the number of results. The bar also shows 'Advanced' and 'Display Results More' options.

Managing results

1. Results from the last search line in Search History automatically display but you can select results from any line by clicking the line's 'Display Results' link. On the results page you will see further filter options in the left-hand panel (e.g. by publication type or years published). Results default to display in 'Citation View' but you can select 'Title View' (displays only the title line) or 'Abstract View' (displays title, citation and abstract) by selecting the relevant box in the grey bar above the first result.



2. In citation view you can view abstracts of individual results by clicking 'Abstract' below each citation. In citation view and abstract view, you can also check for links to full texts.

16 limit 15 to (english language and yr="2021 -Current") 142 Advanced [Display Results](#) More ▾

The screenshot shows a search results page with the following elements:

- Search Information:** Search terms used include 'alerts', 'child', 'children', 'early recognition', 'signs', 'infant', 'paediatric', 'pediatric', 'screening', 'sepsis', 'septic', 'shock', 'shock'.
- Filter By:** A sidebar on the left with a red circle around it, containing options for 'Add to Search History', 'Selected Only (0)', 'Years' (All Years, Current year, Past 3 years, Past 5 years, Specific Year Range), 'Subject', 'Author', 'Journal', 'Book', and 'Publication Type'.
- Search Results:** A list of five citations. Each citation includes the title, authors, journal name, date, and UI number. Below each citation are links for 'Abstract', 'Cite', 'My Projects', and 'Annotate'. To the right of each citation are links for 'Abstract Reference', 'Complete Reference', 'Find Similar', and 'Find Citing Articles'. A 'Get Full Text' button is circled in red for each citation.

Saving searches and results

You can save your search strategy and save individual results by setting up a personal Ovid account.

1. Create or log into an account by clicking 'My Account' at the top of the page or 'My Workspace' on the blue menu bar

The screenshot shows the Ovid website interface. At the top right, the 'My Account' link is circled in red. Below the header, a blue navigation bar contains 'Search', 'Journals', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'What's New', with 'My Workspace' also circled in red. Below the navigation bar, there is a search history section and a search interface with various options like 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', 'Advanced Search', and 'Multi-Field Search'. The search interface includes a search box, a search button, and an 'Expand Term Finder' button.

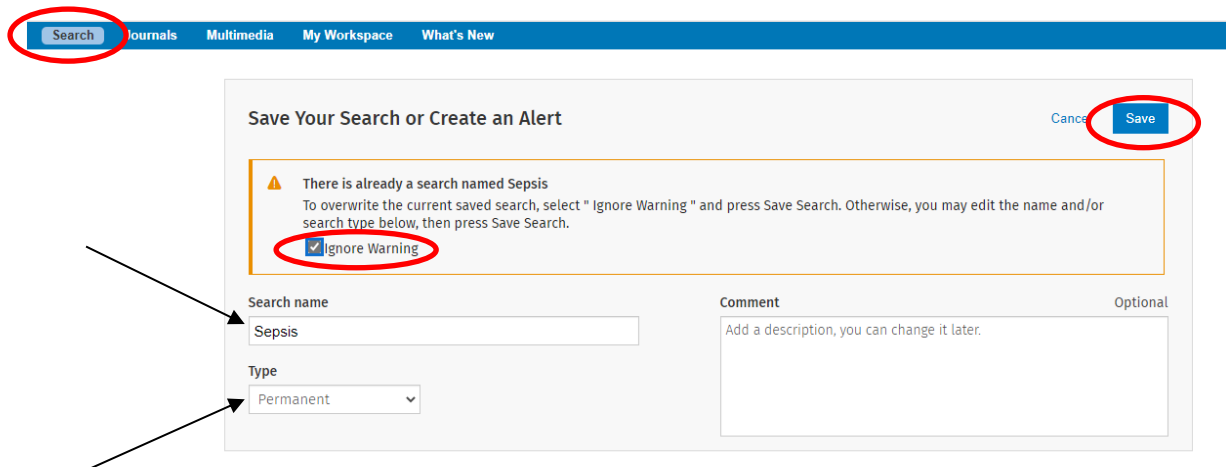
2. Sign into your existing account or click on 'Create Account'. Click 'Search' on the blue menu bar to return to your search page

The screenshot shows the Ovid website interface. The 'Search' link in the blue navigation bar is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Personal Account Login' form with fields for 'Personal Account Name' and 'Password', and a 'Login' button. To the right of the form, there is a 'Don't have an Account?' section with a 'Create Account' link, which is also circled in red.

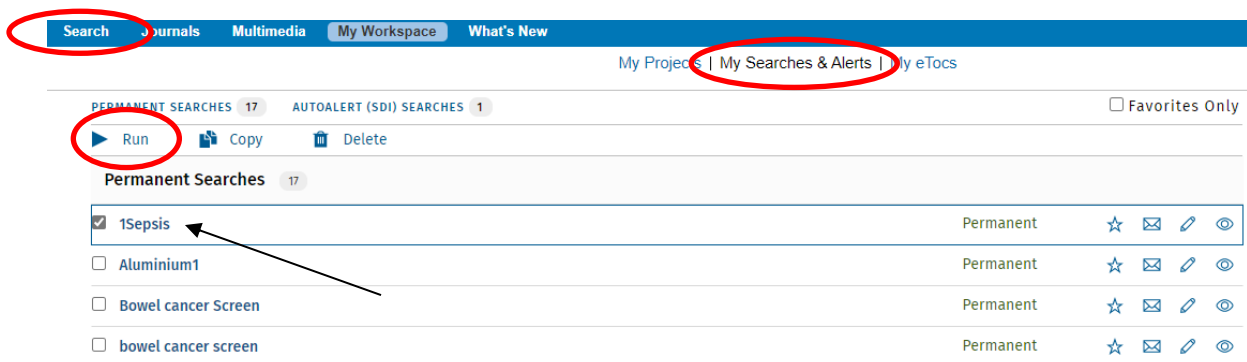
3. To save your search click on 'Save All' beneath your search history

The screenshot shows the Ovid website interface displaying search results. The results are listed in a table with columns for search ID, search text, and search type. Below the table, there are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. The 'Save All' button is circled in red. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Email All Search History', 'Copy Search History Link', and 'Copy Search History Details'.

4. Enter a search name, select type as 'Permanent'. If you are updating an existing search, check that 'Ignore Warning' is ticked. Click 'Save'. Click 'Search' to return to your search page



5. You can view and re-run your saved searches at any time by clicking on 'My Workspace', then 'My Searches & Alerts'. Select a saved search and click 'Run' to open



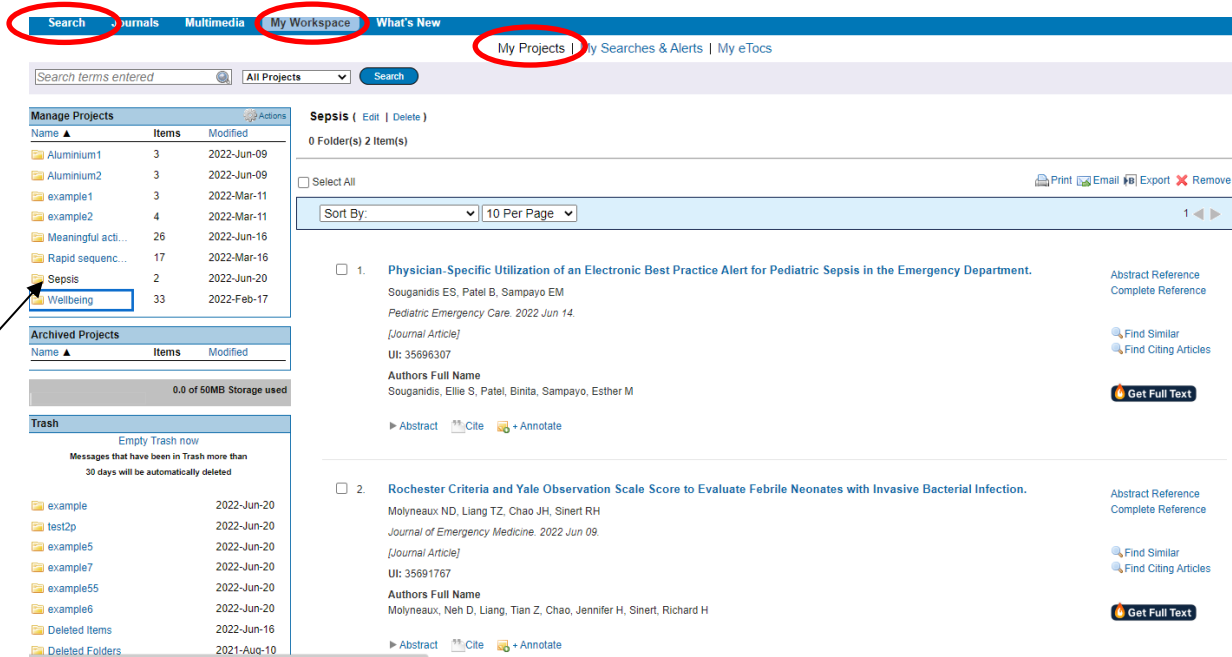
6. To save individual results, select those you wish to save and click '+ My Projects' at the top of your results screen

The screenshot shows a search results page with three entries. The top entry is selected with a red circle around its checkbox. The top navigation bar includes 'Print', 'Email', 'Export', '+ My Projects', and 'Keep Selected', with '+ My Projects' circled in red. The search bar at the top right contains the text 'to search Open Access content on Ovid, go to basic Search'. The first entry is 'Physician-Specific Utilization of an Electronic Best Practice Alert for Pediatric Sepsis in the Emergency Department.' with a red circle around its checkbox. The second entry is 'Minilungs from Human Embryonic Stem Cells to Study the Interaction of Streptococcus pneumoniae with the Respiratory Tract.' with a red circle around its checkbox. The third entry is 'Rochester Criteria and Yale Observation Scale Score to Evaluate Febrile Neonates with Invasive Bacterial Infection.' with a red circle around its checkbox. Each entry includes author names, journal titles, and a 'Get Full Text' button.

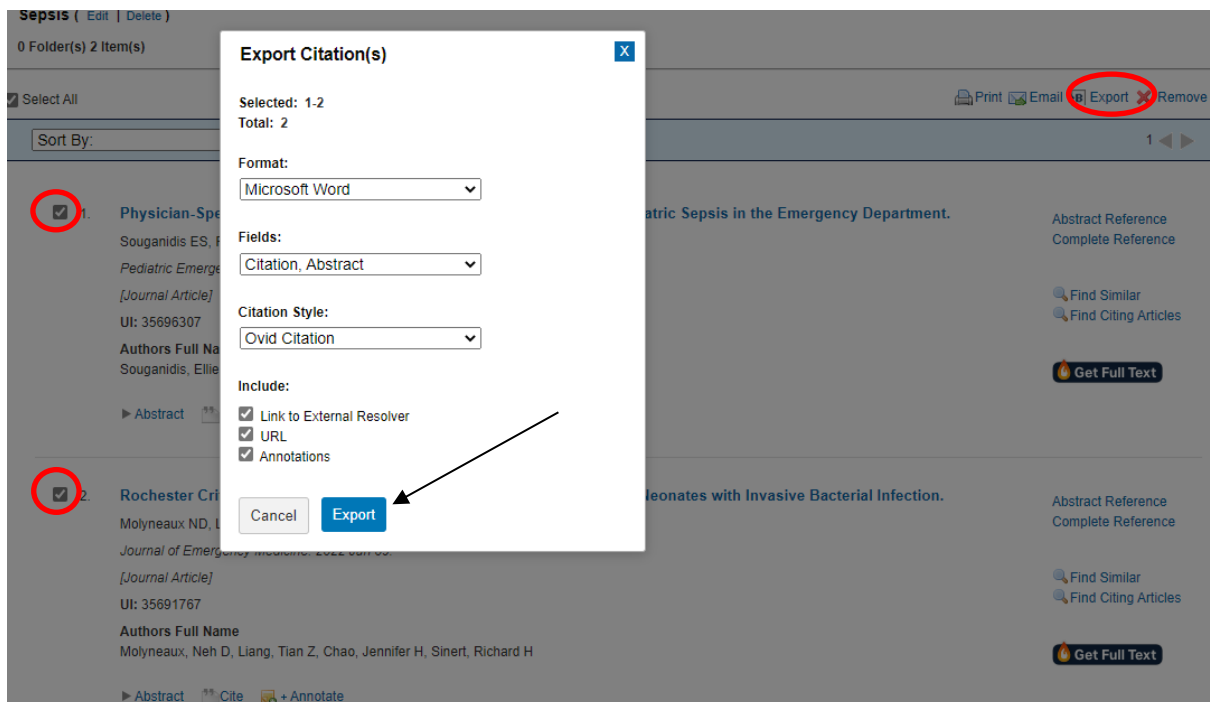
7. If you are not logged in to your personal Ovid account you will be prompted to do so and then presented with the following screen, where you can save your selected results to an existing folder (project) or create a new one. Click on 'Add Item(s)' to save your selected results to the project. Click 'Search' on the blue menu bar to return to your search page

The screenshot shows a blue navigation bar with 'Search', 'Journals', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'What's New'. The 'Search' button is circled in red. Below the navigation bar is a dialog box titled 'Add Item(s) to:'. The dialog has two radio buttons: 'An Existing Project' and 'A New Project'. The 'A New Project' option is selected. Below the radio buttons is a dropdown menu with the text 'Meaningful activity measu'. Below the dropdown is a text input field with the text 'Sepsis', which is circled in red. Below the text input field is a text area for 'Project Description' with a character limit of 'max chars =256'. At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Add Item(s)', with 'Add Item(s)' circled in red. Two arrows point from the 'Add Item(s) to:' title to the radio buttons.

- To view your projects at any time, click on 'My Workspace', then 'My Projects'. Select a project. The results saved to that project will display. Click 'Search' to return to your search page



- To export results from a project folder, select the results you wish to export and click on the 'Export' icon. Select format (e.g. MS Word, PDF etc), field (citation only, citation & abstract etc), and style (Ovid citation, MLA etc). Click 'Export'. Click 'Search' to return to your search page



Searching Other Databases

The above search example was run on Medline but you can easily run the same search on any of the databases supported by Ovid.

1. Click on 'Change', just above the search box

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top, there are two search filters: '15 3 and 9 and 14' (1300 results) and '16 limit 15 to (english language and yr="2021 -Current")' (142 results). Below the filters are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. Further down are buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', 'Create Auto-Alert', and 'View Saved'. On the right, there are buttons for 'Email All Search History', 'Copy Search History Link', and 'Copy Search History'. Below these are navigation links: 'Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search'. A red circle highlights the 'Change' link next to '1 Resource selected | Hide | Change'. Below this is a dropdown menu showing 'Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 17, 2022'. There is a search input field with a 'Search' button and an 'Expand Term Finder' button. At the bottom, there are checkboxes for 'Limits (expand)', 'Include Multimedia', and 'Map Term to Subject Heading'.

2. Select a database (e.g. Emcare) and click 'Run Search'

The screenshot shows the 'Select Resource(s) to search:' dialog box. It has a close button (X) in the top right corner. The list of resources includes:

- All Resources
- Journals@Ovid Full Text February 16, 2022
- Your Journals@Ovid
- AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine) 1985 to February 2022
- Embase 1974 to 2022 February 16
- Ovid Emcare 1995 to 2022 Week 6
- HMIC Health Management Information Consortium 1979 to November 2021
- Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to February 16, 2022
- Social Policy and Practice 202201

 At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Cancel', 'OK', and 'Run Search'. An arrow points to the 'Run Search' button. There are also 'Add Group' and 'Delete Group' buttons on the right side of the bottom bar.

3. The search will re-run in Emcare. You can save relevant results from the Emcare search (or from any other search) to the same project folder as results from the Medline search, so you can build evidence from across the databases

Syntax Operators

The following table of syntax operators and wildcards can be used to facilitate searching in all the databases:

TRUNCATION & WILDCARDS	SYMBOL
Unlimited truncation of word endings. Examples: manag* finds manage, manages, managing, managed, management; nurs* finds nurse, nurses, nursing, nurse-led, nursery.	*
Limited truncation of word endings - number (<i>n</i>) specifies the maximum characters after word-stem. Example: child*3 finds child, children, childish; child*4 finds child, children, childish childhood, childless.	* <i>n</i>
The question mark wildcard can be used within or at the end of a word as a substitute for one or zero characters. Useful for searching words with variant spelling (British or American). Examples: p?ediatric will search for paediatric or pediatric; behavio?r will find behavior or behaviour. You can use multiple wild cards in a single search term.	?
BOOLEAN OPERATORS	
Finds results containing BOTH search terms. Example: heart and exercise	AND
Finds results containing either term. Example: smoking or tobacco	OR
Use brackets to include more than one type of boolean operator. Example: (diet or nutrition) and diabetes	()
Excludes terms. Example: surgery not GP	NOT
NB: Databases will default to combining multiple search terms with AND if no Boolean operator is specified	
PROXIMITY CONNECTORS and PHRASES	
Return results where the search terms appear within <i>n</i> words of each other in either direction. Example: hyperactiv* adj7 child* will find ' <i>children who are diagnosed as being hyperactive....</i> ' and ' <i>hyperactivity in the pre-school child...</i> '	ADJ <i>n</i>
Quotation marks combine multiple search terms (words) into a single search term (phrase). Example: Critical care nursing will return results which contain the words critical AND care AND nursing in any order anywhere in the search field; " critical care nursing " will only return results that contain that specific phrase (words in order and in conjunction)	"....."