

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:

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.

PsycINFO 1806 - present

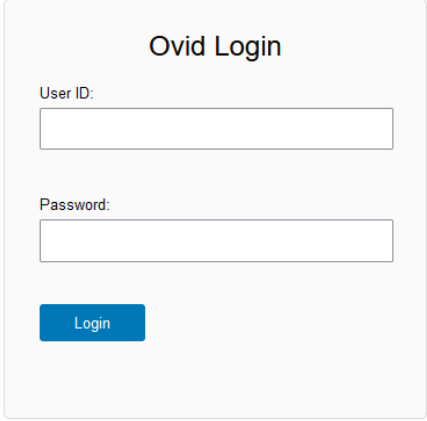
Subjects covered relate to clinical, social and biological areas of psychology, including addiction, pharmacology, anthropology and law. The database indexes over 3000 international periodicals.

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.org.uk)
2. Click the '**OpenAthens/Institutional**' link, specify '**Torbay & South Devon NHS FT**' and log in with your Trust PC log-in details



Ovid Login

User ID:

Password:

Login

Buy Articles

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

[Browse Articles](#)

OpenAthens | Institutional Ovid > SO

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

Select Resource(s) to search:

<input type="checkbox"/>	All Resources	^
<input type="checkbox"/>	Journals@Ovid Full Text January 22, 2025	①
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Journals@Ovid	①
<input type="checkbox"/>	Embase 1974 to 2025 January 22	①
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ovid Emcare 1995 to 2025 Week 02	①
<input type="checkbox"/>	HMIC Health Management Information Consortium 1979 to November 2024	①
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to January 22, 2025	①
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Policy and Practice 202501	①

Delete Group

Add Group

Continue

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 concepts and formulate search terms/keywords for each concept. 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
<i>Concept 1</i>	<i>Concept 2</i>	<i>Concept 3</i>
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 concept, then use AND to combine the results from each concept.

Searching

1. Ensure '**Advanced Search**' is selected
2. Begin with the first concept of your question (column 1 above). Enter the first search term/keyword in the search box ('Septic shock' in our example) and click '**Search**'. **With Ovid you don't need to use quote marks to indicate a phrase, it knows you mean 'septic shock'.**

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

1 resource selected [Hide](#) [Change](#)

i Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to January 22, 2025

☒ Keyword ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

Limits [v](#)

[Search](#) [Term Finder](#)

- Ovid defaults to mapping the search term to subject headings (see **Map Term to Subject Heading** tick box in the screenshot above) which gives your search a wider catchment. These headings are used to group related articles in the database.
- 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, and if you click on the subject heading (**Shock, Septic** in the example below), you can see where the subject heading appears in the subject headings tree and choose a broader or a narrower subject. **Note:** You can disable '**Map Term to Subject Heading**' by unchecking 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	septic shock.mp. search as Keyword			

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

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

Search History (2) ^


View Saved


<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲ Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 septic shock.mp. or exp Shock, Septic/	42874	Advanced	Display Results More	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 exp Sepsis/ or sepsis.mp.	226394	Advanced	Display Results More	




Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved Share Search History


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


Search History (3) 















[View Saved](#) 

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲ Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 septic shock.mp. or exp Shock, Septic/	42874	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 exp Sepsis/ or sepsis.mp.	226394	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 1 or 2	234943	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	


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

Search History (14) 


[View Saved](#) 

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲ Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 septic shock.mp. or exp Shock, Septic/	42874	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 exp Sepsis/ or sepsis.mp.	226394	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 1 or 2	234943	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 children.mp.	1316086	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 child.mp.	2483464	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 infant.mp.	1367186	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 paediatric.mp.	83443	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 pediatric.mp.	431394	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8	3454901	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 early recognition.mp.	21763	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 early signs.mp.	6499	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 alerts.mp.	9346	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 screening.mp.	840616	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	14 10 or 11 or 12 or 13	875569	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	

Combine with:

 **Contract**

[Save All](#)
[Edit](#)
[Create RSS](#)
[Create Auto-Alert](#)
[View Saved](#)

 [Share Search History](#)

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).

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲ Searches	Results
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 septic shock.mp. or exp Shock, Septic/	42921
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 exp Sepsis/ or sepsis.mp.	226619
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3 1 or 2	235180
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 children.mp.	1317438
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 child.mp.	2485087
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 infant.mp.	1368026
<input type="checkbox"/>	7 paediatric.mp.	83584
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 pediatric.mp.	432096
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8	3457447
<input type="checkbox"/>	10 early recognition.mp.	21810
<input type="checkbox"/>	11 early signs.mp.	6511
<input type="checkbox"/>	12 alerts.mp.	9357
<input type="checkbox"/>	13 screening.mp.	841859
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14 10 or 11 or 12 or 13	876877
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15 3 and 9 and 14	1836

Combine with:

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 15 has been limited to English language papers published from 2020 – current.

The screenshot shows the Ovid MEDLINE search interface. At the top, a search history bar shows '15 3 and 9 and 14' with a checkbox selected. Below this are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', 'Combine with: AND OR', and 'Contract'. Further down are 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', 'Create Auto-Alert', 'View Saved', and 'Share Search History'.

The main search area has tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', 'Advanced Search' (selected), and 'Multi-Field Search'. It shows '1 resource selected' and a search filter 'Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to January 27, 2025'. Search options include 'Keyword' (selected), 'Author', 'Title', and 'Journal'. A search box contains the text 'Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation)' and a 'Search' button is circled in red. A 'Term Finder' button is also visible.

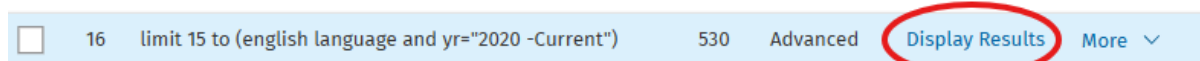
Below the search box, there are checkboxes for 'Include Multimedia' and 'Map Term to Subject Heading' (checked). A 'Limits' section is expanded, showing various filters. Red arrows point to the 'Limits' section and the 'English Language' checkbox. Other filters include 'Male', 'Female', 'Review Articles', 'Humans', and 'Remove Preprint Records'. The 'Publication Year' filter is set to '2020' to 'Current'. The 'Age Groups' filter is set to '-'. At the bottom of the limits section, the 'Additional Limits' button is circled in red, along with the 'Edit Limits' button.

4. A new search line shows results (530) based on the applied limits

The screenshot shows the updated search results. The search history bar now shows '16 limit 15 to (english language and yr="2020 -Current")' with a checkbox selected. The number of results is '530'. Below this are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', 'Combine with: AND OR', and 'Contract'. Further down are 'Advanced', 'Display Results', 'More', and a comment icon.

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.



2. 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.



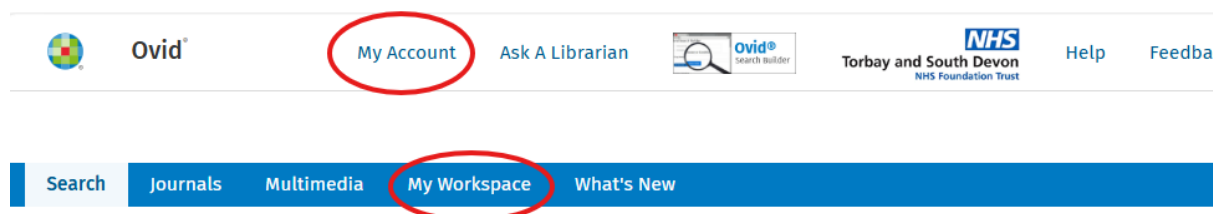
3. In Citation View you can view abstracts of individual results by clicking '**Abstract**' below each citation. In Citation View and Abstract View, you can also check for links to full texts.

A screenshot of the search results page with several annotations. On the left, a 'Filter By' panel is visible with a red arrow pointing to it. At the top, the 'View' options (single, double, triple lines) are circled in red. Below the first result, the 'Abstract' link is circled in red. To the right of the first result, the 'Get Full Text' button is circled in red. The first result is titled 'Comparison of Random Forest and Stepwise Regression for Variable Selection Using Low Prevalence Predictors: A case Study in Paediatric Sepsis'. The second result is titled 'Modeling the Mottled Child: Evaluating a Pediatric Septic Shock Predictive Modeling Screening Tool: February 2025'.

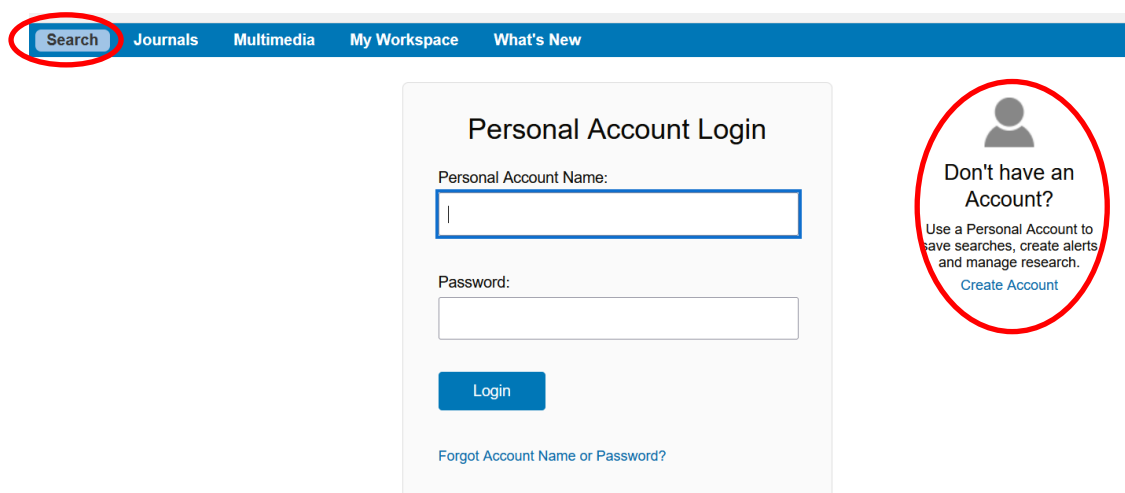
Saving searches and results

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

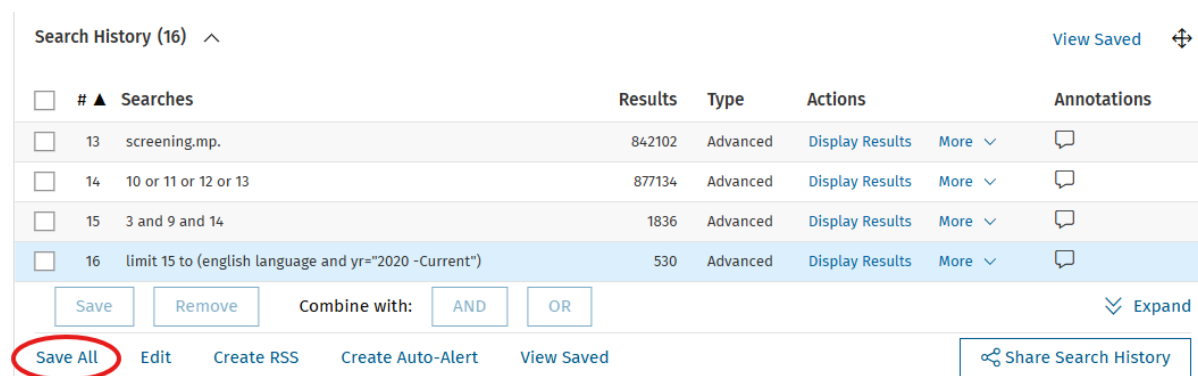
1. Create or log into an account by clicking '**My Account**' at the top of the page or '**My Workspace**' on the blue menu bar.



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



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



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.

Save Your Search or Create an Alert

Cancel **Save**

⚠ There is already a search named Sepsis training
To overwrite the current saved search, select "Ignore Warning" and press Save Search. Otherwise, you may edit the name and/or search type below, then press Save Search.

☒ Ignore Warning

Search name
Sepsis training

Type
Permanent

Comment
Optional
Add a description, you can change it later.

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.

Search Journals Multimedia My Workspace What's New

My Projects **My Searches & Alerts** My eTocs [Send us your feedback](#)

PERMANENT SEARCHES 195

☐ Favorites Only

Run Copy Delete

Permanent Searches 195

<input type="checkbox"/> Robotic surgery accuracy Medline and Embase 20 June	Permanent	☆	✉	✎	👁
<input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis in children test	Permanent	☆	✉	✎	👁
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sepsis training Medline 10/10	Permanent	☆	✉	✎	👁
<input type="checkbox"/> Sepsis training 2 Medline 1 Nov 24	Permanent	☆	✉	✎	👁

6. You can save individual articles to a folder (called a Project in Ovid) to read or export later. Either:
 - a. select those you wish to save and click **'+My Projects'** at the top of your results screen; or
 - b. save articles one by one using **'+My Projects'** underneath the citation.

Print Email Export **+ My Projects**

All Range: Ex: 1-4, 7 Clear View: Results per page: 100 Go to result: 1 Go

1. **Comparison of Random Forest and Stepwise Regression for Variable Selection Using Low Prevalence Predictors: A case Study in Paediatric Sepsis.**
 Gilholm P, Lister P, Irwin A, Harley A, Raman S, Schlapbach LJ, Gibbons KS
Maternal & Child Health Journal. 2025 Jan 15.
 [Journal Article]
 UI: 39812888
 Digital Object Identifier
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s1099...>
 Authors Full Name
 Gilholm, Patricia, Lister, Paula, Irwin, Adam, Harley, Amanda, Raman, Sainath, Schlapbach, Luregn J, Gibbons, Kristen S
 Abstract Cite **+ My Projects** + Annotate

2. **Modeling the Mottled Child: Evaluating a Pediatric Septic Shock Predictive Modeling Screening Tool: February 2025 Annals of Emergency Medicine Journal Club.**
 Gmora FL, Hynes AM
Annals of Emergency Medicine. 85(2):193-195, 2025 Feb.
 [Journal Article]
 UI: 39843154
 Digital Object Identifier
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ann...>
 Authors Full Name
 Gmora, Frederick L, Hynes, Allyson M
 Cite **+ My Projects** + Annotate

Abstract Reference
 Complete Reference
 Find Similar
 Find Citing Articles
 Get Full Text
 Bibliographic Links

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.

Search Journals Multimedia My Workspace What's New

Add item(s) to

☐ An existing project
 Colorectal resection risk

☒ A new project
 Project name
 Sepsis

Project description
 Up to 256 characters
 Enter project description

Cancel Add Item(s)

8. 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

Search Journals Multimedia **My Workspace** What's New

My Projects My Searches & Alerts My eTocs

Search terms entered All Projects Search

Name	Items	Modified
Sepsis	2	2025-Jan-29
Ref-152 discha...	10	2025-Jan-22
Ref-149 Hyper...	31	2025-Jan-07
Torbay research	10	2025-Jan-03
Ref-146 SGLT2is	33	2024-Dec-19
Ref-145 urgent ...	67	2024-Dec-06
Ref-143 nail ab...	47	2024-Nov-28
Ref-140 furose...	29	2024-Nov-21
Ref-141 fetal gr...	35	2024-Nov-08

Sepsis (Edit | Delete)

0 Folder(s) 2 Item(s)

☐ Select All

Sort By: 10 Per Page

☐ 1. Comparison of Random Forest and Step Regression for Variable Selection Using |

9. To export results from a project folder, select the results you wish to export and click on the '**Export**' icon.

Sepsis (Edit | Delete)

0 Folder(s) 2 Item(s)

☒ Select All Print Email **Export** Remove

Sort By: 10 Per Page 1

☒ 1. Comparison of Random Forest and Stepwise Regression for Variable Selection Using Low Prevalence Predictors: A case Study in Paediatric Sepsis.

Gilholm P, Lister P, Irwin A, Harley A, Raman S, Schlapbach LJ, Gibbons KS
Maternal & Child Health Journal. 2025 Jan 15.
[Journal Article]
UI: 39812888
Digital Object Identifier
<https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s1099...>
Authors Full Name
Gilholm, Patricia, Lister, Paula, Irwin, Adam, Harley, Amanda, Raman, Sainath, Schlapbach, Luregn J, Gibbons, Kristen S

Abstract Cite Annotate

Abstract Reference
Complete Reference
Find Similar
Find Citing Articles
Get Full Text
Bibliographic Links

☒ 2. Modeling the Mottled Child: Evaluating a Pediatric Septic Shock Predictive Modeling Screening Tool: February 2025 Annals of Emergency Medicine Journal Club.

Gmora FL, Hynes AM
Annals of Emergency Medicine. 85(2):193-195, 2025 Feb.
[Journal Article]
UI: 39843154

Complete Reference
Find Similar
Find Citing Articles
Get Full Text
Bibliographic Links

Select the format (e.g. MS Word, PDF etc), fields (citation only, citation & abstract etc), and citation 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

2. Select a database (e.g. Emcare) and click '**Run Search**'. **WARNING:: If you select 'Continue', this will clear your existing search and start a new search!**

Select Resource(s) to search:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AMED and Emcare	^
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ovid Emcare 1995 to 2025 Week 03	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Embase and Medline	^
<input type="checkbox"/>	Embase 1974 to 2025 January 28	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to January 28, 2025	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Resources	^
<input type="checkbox"/>	Journals@Ovid Full Text January 28, 2025	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your Journals@Ovid	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Embase 1974 to 2025 January 28	i

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.

Note: Subject headings in Emcare (Emtree headings) are different from those in Medline (MESH headings). If you have used subject headings in your search, Ovid tries to map your selected Medline subject heading to the equivalent Emcare heading. However the mapping does not always work. Sometimes you may find you have a search line with zero results which may indicate that there is no equivalent subject heading in the second database (in this case Emcare) that maps to the Medline heading. In this case you will need to search again for the specific Emcare heading (if there is one) and use that instead.

Online resources to help you

There is more help available, including online training videos on the Ovid NHS Resource Centre website, linked below:

<https://tools.ovid.com/nhs/resourcecenter/>

Syntax Operators

The following table of syntax operators and wildcards can be used to facilitate searching in all the Ovid 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	
The ADJ operator finds two terms next to each other in the specified order . Eg community adj care will find ' <i>community care</i> ' but not ' <i>care in the community</i> .' The ADJ1 operator finds two terms next to each other in any order . The ADJ2 operator finds terms in any order and with one word (or none) between them. The ADJ3 operator finds terms in any order with two words (or fewer) between them, and so on. 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>
Ovid recognises phrases without the need to use quotation marks, however you can use them if you wish. When you enter terms with a space between, Ovid presumes them to be adjacent to one another in the order specified. Example: Critical care nursing will only return results that contain that specific phrase (words in order and in conjunction).	"....."