

## OvidSP – Starter Guide

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### What is OvidSP?

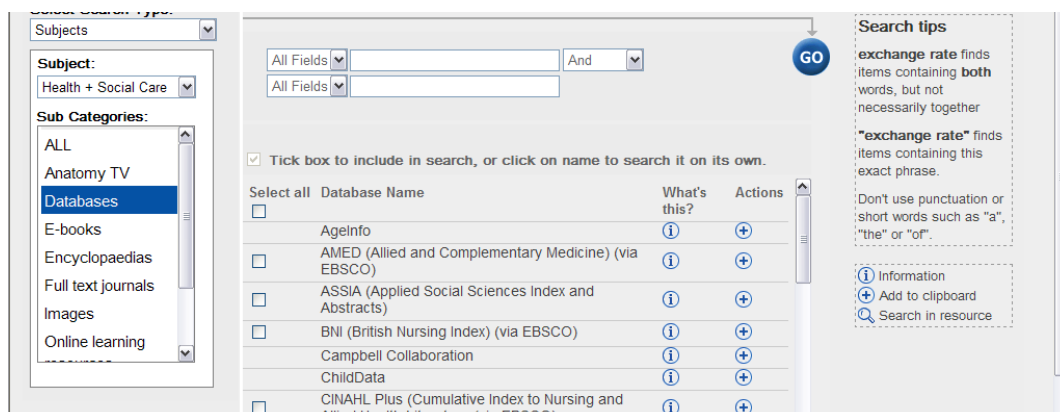
OvidSP will help you find journal articles on a topic. It offers a range of health and social science related databases that contain information about articles published in journals. You can use these to find articles that match your areas of interest and research.

### Accessing OvidSP

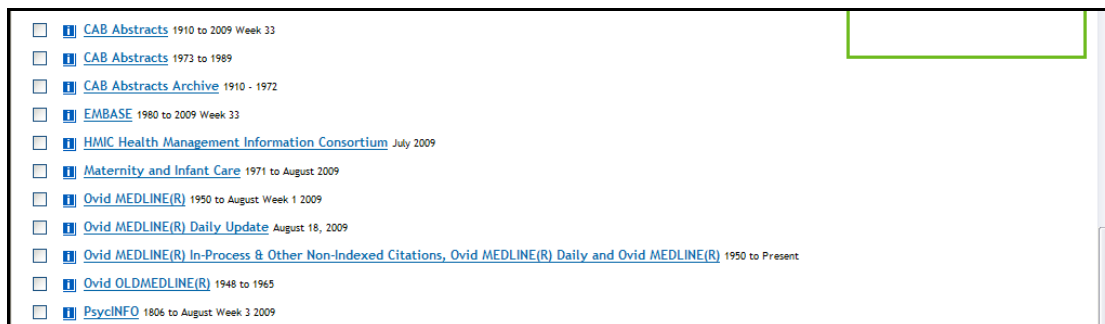
Go to the Library homepage: [www.uwe.ac.uk/library](http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library). Select **Resources by Subject**, then **Health and Social Care** and finally **Databases**. Log in to the **eLibrary** using your UWE username and password.



You will see the alphabetical list of key databases in Health and Social Care that the Library provides access to. Click on the *i* button for more information about a particular database plus links to printable guides and online interactive tutorials.



Select one of the Ovid databases e.g. Embase by **clicking on the title**. This will open in a new window. You will then see the list of OvidSP resources:



Each database covers a different range of journals, so you may need to use more than one to carry out a thorough search. Clicking on the **i** icon next to the title gives you information about that particular database. Each will provide you with complete references of articles that match your search terms, most of which have abstracts (summaries) describing the article content. Some articles are also available in full text.

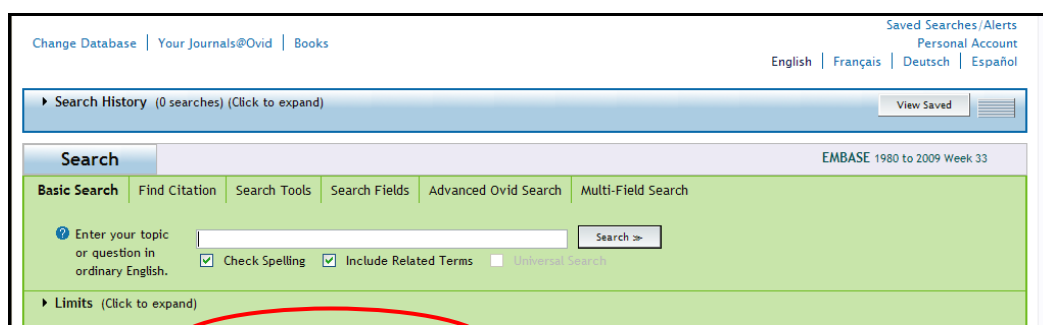
**UWE e-journals@Ovid** is a collection of full-text journals. You can search the full-text collection directly, but it is more thorough to carry out a search in one of the databases in order to retrieve a wider range of articles. **Books@Ovid** is a collection of e-books.

## Searching OvidSP

To start searching, either click on the name of a database or to search several at once, tick the boxes to the left of the required databases and click **Open Selected Resources**.

## Basic Search

Basic Search is useful for finding a few articles simply and quickly. Firstly, it is best to identify the main concepts in your question e.g. if we were looking for some journal articles on interprofessional working with children, the main concepts are: *interprofessional* and *children*. Type in the keywords and click **Search**. OvidSP searches for these terms in the title and abstract fields of all references. There is no need to use quotation marks or other special search techniques.



Basic Search also automatically checks your spelling and will display a warning if something is misspelt. If you tick the “Include Related Terms” box, Ovid will expand your search terms by including synonyms and word variants to retrieve more results.

## Other search options:

**Find citation:** useful if you are looking for a specific article when you only know part of the reference such as author, journal name or date.

**Search tools:** specialised database search tools e.g. thesaurus, tree, permuted index, etc to discover additional concepts for your term.

**Search fields:** enables you to search within a particular field of any database e.g. abstract, title or subject headings.

**Multi-field search:** enables you to search using multiple search terms in different fields.

## Advanced Ovid Search

In Advanced Ovid Search, you can carry out more thorough or complex searches than in Basic Search. You can choose to search by keyword, author, title or journal. The keyword option is the default and searches for your terms in the title, abstract and subject heading fields of the references.

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top, there are links for 'Change Database', 'Your Journals@Ovid', and 'Books'. On the right, there are links for 'Saved Searches/Alerts', 'Personal Account', and language options: 'English', 'Français', 'Deutsch', and 'Español'. Below this is a 'Search History' section with '(0 searches) (Click to expand)' and a 'View Saved' button. The main search area has tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', 'Advanced Ovid Search', and 'Multi-Field Search'. The 'Advanced Ovid Search' tab is active. It contains radio buttons for 'Enter Keyword or phrase (use "" or ""S" for truncation):', 'Keyword', 'Author', 'Title', and 'Journal'. There is a search input field and a 'Search >' button. Below the input field are checkboxes for 'Map Terms to Subject Heading' and 'Universal Search'. At the bottom of the search area, there is a 'Limits (Click to expand)' link, which is circled in red.

Before you start searching, identify the main concepts in your question.

e.g. If we were looking for journal articles on “*Effective exercise intervention for preventing childhood obesity*”, this can be broken down into the following three key concepts: 1. exercise 2. children 3. obesity

Carry out a separate search for each concept and then combine each set of results with AND in order to find articles which match all of your search criteria. Don't worry if you can't see your searches, they are all under the Search History tab.

## Combining Searches

When you have searched for each concept, click on the **Search History** link. You will see the results of each individual search in the drop-down box.

The screenshot shows the 'Search History' table with 3 searches. The table has columns for checkboxes, search numbers, search terms, results, search types, and display options. Below the table is a 'Combine selections with' dropdown menu set to 'And', which is circled in red. There are also 'Remove Selected', 'Save Search History', and 'RSS' buttons.

<input type="checkbox"/>	#	Searches	Results	Search Type	Display
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exercise.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	1236	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	children.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	9628	Advanced	DISPLAY
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	obesity.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	1058	Advanced	DISPLAY

To combine your searches, tick the box to the left of the each term and click **AND**. You will then see the results for your combined search in line 4. You can also delete individual searches by clicking on **Remove Selected** and selecting the appropriate set.

▼ Search History (4 searches) (Click to close)					
<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Search Type	Display
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exercise.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	1236	Advanced	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	children.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	9628	Advanced	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	obesity.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading words]	1058	Advanced	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	1 and 3 and 2	46	Advanced	

Remove Selected    Combine selections with:    And    Or   

### Too few results?

Think about alternative terms or words with similar meanings for your concepts in order to broaden your search and not miss any potentially relevant articles. You can combine alternative terms with **OR** to retrieve results where any of your search terms are included, e.g. for children we can search for children or infants or boys or girls.

**Search**
EMBASE 1980 to 2009 Week 33

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

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "" or "S" for truncation):

Keyword    Author    Title    Journal

Map Term to Subject Heading    Universal Search

▶ Limits (Click to expand)

Truncation: type in the word stem plus the truncation symbol \* to include all variant endings of that word, e.g. "obes\*" will include obesity and obese; child\* will include child, children and childbirth.

### Too many results?

You can refine your search either by using more specific keywords or by adding further search terms and then combining these with **AND** e.g. exercise AND children AND obesity AND prevention. Alternatively, use the Search Aid called **Narrow Search** on the left of the screen to add a suggested term to your last search.

### Limiting your search

**Search**
EMBASE 1980 to 2009 Week 33

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

Enter Keyword or phrase (use "" or "S" for truncation):

Keyword    Author    Title    Journal

Map Term to Subject Heading    Universal Search

▼ Limits (Click to close)

Full Text

Human

Latest Update

English Language

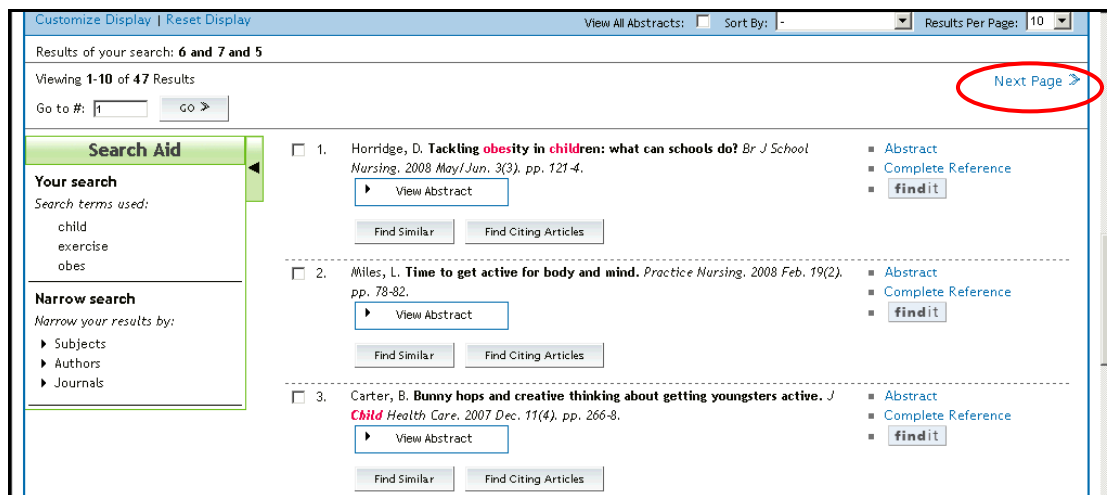
Abstracts

Publication Year -  -

Limit your search by clicking the **Limits** button. You can limit by publication year by selecting the date range you require. Additional limits include language or document type, but options vary depending on the database you are using.

### Displaying your Search Results

The first 10 results of your search are displayed automatically. Use the **Next Page** and **Previous Page** buttons to see more results.

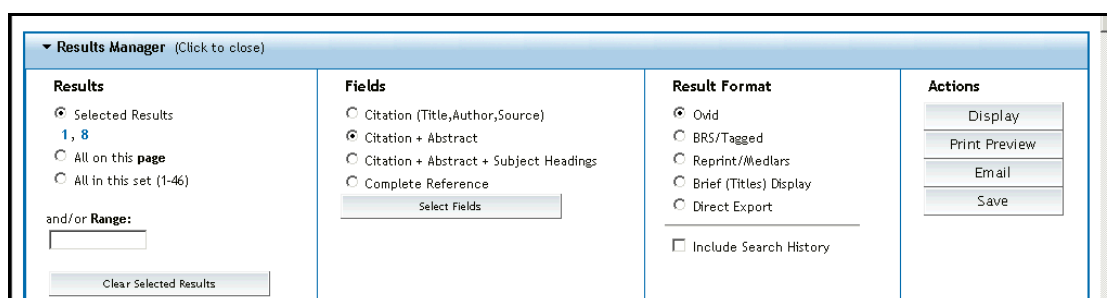


To view further details of the records, click on **View Abstract** or **Complete Reference**. Some articles are available in full text; click on **Full Text** on the right of the screen where available. If full text isn't available through OvidSP, click on the **findit** button to check the Library Catalogue to see if the journal is available through the Library.

Alternatively, open the Library Catalogue in a new window and choose **Journal Title Search** from the right-hand menu. Type the name of the journal in the search box. The catalogue record will tell you if the Library subscribes to that journal, which years we have access to and whether it is print or electronic. If it is an electronic journal, you can link to it by clicking on the **Details** button and then **Connect**. For further details, see this guide: <http://www.uwe.ac.uk/library/resources/hea/docs/accessjournals.pdf>

## Managing your results

You can select particular references to print, save or email by ticking the box to the left of each reference. Then go to the **Results Manager** section. Select the option you want from the Actions table and follow the on-screen instructions.



## Printing full-text articles

To print a full-text article, go to the Results display box on the right of the page and select the **Full Text (PDF)** option if available. This will open in a new window and the article will look like the original printed version. Then click on the browser's **Print** icon.

**This guide can be made available in alternative formats on request.**

August 2008  
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