Guide to searching OVID databases

Library Services – www.uwe.ac.uk/library



Guide to searching OVID databases

- EMBASE
- Maternity and Infant Care
- MEDLINE
- Social Policy and Practice

What is OVID?

OVID offers a range of different databases that can help you find articles and information for your research. The databases provide access to abstracts, reports, conference proceedings and often full-text articles published in health and social science journals.

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 1 icon next to its title gives you more information about that particular database.

OVID journals is a collection of full text journals. You can search these 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.

Accessing OVID

https://www.uwe.ac.uk/study/library/browse-databases

Select one of the OVID databases e.g. **EMBASE** by clicking on the database record. Click on the direct link and you will be prompted to log in using your UWE Bristol username and password if you have not already logged in during your session.

You will now be on the advanced search page of the database you chose, within the OVID website:

Ovid	®					My Account	Support & Training	UWE Bristol	Help	 Wolters Feedback 	Kluwer Logoff
Search	Journals	Books	Multimedia	My Workspace	Links 🔻	Mobile					
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This allows you to carry out a thorough subject search and develop an effective search strategy.

Searching the database

When using Advanced Search, it is best to search for each concept one at a time. The database will look for your keywords in the title, abstract and subject heading fields of the references.

Example search: What are the challenges of communicating with older people living with dementia?

In this example, we can search for each concept separately (i.e. three distinct searches) and then combine the three sets of results with an AND search. Don't worry if you can't see your previous searches, they are all under the **Search History** tab.

Tips:

- Ovid automatically searches for multiple words as a phrase e.g. older people, so there is no need to type "older people".
- truncation: the asterisk symbol [*] represents any number of characters at the end of a word e.g. communicat* finds communication, communicates, communicating, etc.
- It is always advisable to use a range of synonyms to describe each concept rather than relying on just one search term. These can be combined with OR on each separate line e.g. communicat* OR talk* OR speak* OR conversation

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Combining searches

When you have searched for each concept, click on Search History and you will see the results of each individual search. In order to find articles which match all the search criteria, tick the box to the left of each row and click AND.

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~	2	(dementia or alzheimer*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]	180233	Advanced	Display Results More 👻	Ç
~	3	(older adult* or elder* or aged or ageing).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]	4838510	Advanced	Display Results More 👻	Ç

You will then see the results for your combined search in a new row, which should show fewer results.

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	2	(dementia or alzheimer*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]	180233	Advanced	Display Results More -	Ç
	3	(older adult* or elder* or aged or ageing).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]	4838510	Advanced	Display Results More 👻	₽
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Viewing your results

The first 10 results of your search are displayed automatically. Use the Next link to see more results. You can change the number of results shown and the format by using the drop-down menu.

Coptions -	G To search Open Access co	ontent on Ovid, go to Basic Search
Search Information	All Range Clear 25 Per Page V 10 Go	+ My Projects 😻 Keep Selected
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Search terms used: adult* aged	10. Professionals' Use of a Multidisciplinary Communication Tool for Patients With Dementia in Primary Care. de Jong CC; Ros WJG; van Leeuwen M; Witkamp L; Schrijvers G.	Abstract Reference Complete Reference
ageing alzheimer* communicat* conversation	CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing, 36(4):193-198, 2018 Apr. [Journal Article] UI: 29360700	G Find Similar Find Citing Articles
dementia elder* nurs*	Authors Full Name de Jong, Catharina C; Ros, Wynand J G; van Leeuwen, Mia; Witkamp, Leonard; Schrijvers, Guus.	Full Text
older older adult* speak*	Abstract T Article as PDF (532KB) + My Projects + Annotate	

To view further details of a record either click on the title of the article, Abstract Reference or Complete Reference. To access the full text, click on 'Check for full text' to see whether the article is available in full text.

Limiting your search

You can refine your search by clicking the Limits link under the search box. You can limit by publication year, language or publication type, but options vary depending on the

Basic Search Find C	Citation Search Tools Search Fields Advanced Search Multi-Field Search	-
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Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation)	Keyword O Author O Title O Journal Search Include Multimedia Map Term to Subject Heading	
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	Status NLM Status - Article-in-Press Status Conference Abstract Status In-Process Status - In-Data-Review PubMed-not-MEDLINE PubMed-not-MEDLINE PubMed/MEDLINE Publisher -	

database(s) you are using.

Multi-Field Search

You may prefer to use Multi-Field Search, which allows you to search using multiple search terms, in multiple fields, in a single step. You may need to select the most appropriate database fields from the drop-down menu rather than searching within All Fields (default).

Ī	Basic Search Find Citation Search Tools Search Fields Advanced	I Search Multi-Field Search	
	1 Resource selected <u>Hide</u> <u>Change</u> Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to June Week 3 2018		
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		+ Add New Row	
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Printing and emailing your results

You can select particular references to print, save or email by ticking the box to the left of each one. Then go to the top of the results and select the appropriate action.

Options +		0	
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ageing alzheimer* communicat* conversation		Computers, informatics, nursing : CIN. 36 (4) (pp 193-198), 2018. Date of Publication: 01 Apr 2018. [Article]	Find Similar Find Citing Articles
dementia elder* nurs*		► Abstract 🥪 + My Projects 🤯 + Annotate	Check for full text
older			

Exporting search results

You can export references to RefWorks. It is useful to already have <u>RefWorks</u> open in another window before you export your results.

In Ovid, select the references you want to export by ticking the box to the left of each one. You can also select a range of results e.g. 1-50 by typing in the number. Then click on **Export** at the top of the results. Choose Export to RefWorks from the drop-down menu.

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aged		de Jong C.C., Ros W.J.G., van Lee	uwen M., Witkamp L., Schrijvers	G.		

Saving searches

To save a search, click on My Account at the top of the screen. This will prompt you to Create an Account within Ovid if you haven't already done so.

Search Journals B	looks Multimedia My Workspace Links ▼	Mobile
	Personal Account Login Personal Account Name: Password:	Don't have an Account? Use a Personal Account to save searches, create alerts and manage research. Create Account
	Remember my credentials Login Forgot Account Name or Password?	

Then select the search you want to save, or click on Save All at the bottom of the Search History, to save your search strategy.

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Sav	/e	Remove Combine with: AND OR					

Give your search a relevant name and save it as a permanent search. You will see a message telling you that your search has been saved. You will then be able to log into your personal account to re-run this search at a later date.

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Search Journals	Books Multimedia	My Workspace	Links 🔻 Mobile				
Search Name	Comment (Optional)	Type Permanent	✓ Save				
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Permanent Searches <u>(Back t</u> 1.	<u>o Top)</u>						

My Projects

My Projects is a space within the My Workspace area of Ovid where you can store your citations and organise them into distinct projects. Your saved searches and alerts appear next to My Projects. You will need to create an account in order to access this area.

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Changing databases

You may want to search a different database within Ovid. To change databases, click Change on the main search page. Then select the new database and click Run Search to repeat your previous search. If you choose OK, this starts a brand new search and clears your previous search.

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Further help is available from within Ovid, via the help button.

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

Updated September 2020.