OTDBase – Quick Guide

COVERAGE

OTDBase is a collection of over 10,000 abstracts from 20 key occupational therapy journals starting from 1970. Titles indexed include the American Journal of Occupational Therapy, British Journal of Occupational Therapy and Occupation Therapy Practice.

OTDBase does not contain any full text. To read/download the full article you will need to check if the University subscribes to the journal. Check this in the Library’s journal collections. Find the links to the print and electronic catalogues on the Library & ICT tab of the Portal.

OTDBase is available on and off-campus with a username and password (ask library staff for details) or click on the password & access information.

- Log on to the Portal at portal.ulster.ac.uk.
- Select the Library & ICT tab.
- Select the Databases link, displayed under Key Services, on the right hand side of the screen. The A-Z listing of Library Databases is displayed on the screen.
- Click on O and scroll down to select OTDBase.
- If you see this screen, enter Ulster and click on the Ulster University link:

![Authentication Screen](image)

AUTHENTICATION

You will need to identify yourself as an Ulster University user to gain access to the database. On the screen showing an artist’s impression of the new Belfast campus, enter your student email address and Ulster Network password. This will authenticate you for the current browsing session.
SEARCHING

From the OTDBase homepage select the Search button at the top of the screen.

There are three ways to search;

**Keyword Search**
This allows you to search within the title and abstract of articles. If searching for a phrase e.g. sensory integration use double quotation marks “sensory integration” to find more relevant results.

You can also combine terms using the connectors AND, OR
For example;
stroke AND music
autism OR “autistic spectrum disorders”

Advanced searching techniques can also be used
Truncation e.g. child* will find child, children, childhood
Wildcards e.g. behavio?r will find behaviour, behavior

**Topic Search**
Abstracts are organised into topics and subtopics.
Select a topic that matches the subject you wish to find articles on then choose a subtopic from the drop down menu and click on Go. In this example the main topic is MH (mental health) and the sub topic community-based.
Advanced Search
Allows you to narrow a search by journal title, article title, abstract, author and or year
For example below we have searched in the American Journal of Occupational Therapy for articles on early intervention.

VIEWING RESULTS
The search results will then appear.
All the details required to find the article are supplied – title, authors, journal, vol and year, along with the assigned Topics and Subtopics.
Click on the title of the article for more information including the abstract.
Don’t worry if you are having problems using the database; just contact a member of the Life and Health Sciences subject team who will be happy to help.

If you are having difficulty accessing full text off campus take a look at the off campus guide http://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/offcampus

For further information please contact your Subject Librarian

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July 2017