OvidSP – A Basic User Guide

**COVERAGE**

OvidSP gives access to the main health and medical databases. Each database indexes hundreds of journals and allows for subject searching of journal literature.

**All EBM Reviews** – allows you to search the seven Evidence Based Medicine Review databases, including Cochrane, simultaneously.


**EMBASE (1980 – present)** – the major biomedical and pharmaceutical database but also covers the Allied Health Professions.

**Food Science and Technology Abstracts (1969 – present)** – covers food science, food technology, and human nutrition.

**Ovid MEDLINE (1950 – present)** – leading medical and biomedical database.

**PsycCRITIQUES (1956 – present)** – contains full-text reviews of books, popular films, videos, and software relevant to psychology.

**PsycINFO (1806 to present)** – covers psychological, social, behavioural, and health sciences.

OvidSP also provides access to:

**Environmental Science (1973 - )** covers all aspects of Environmental Science

**Transport** – covers transportation research and economic information

**Elsevier World Textiles (1970 - )** – covers the textile industry and textile technology

**ICONDA (1976 - )** – a planning and construction database

**ACCESS**

OvidSP is accessible on and off-campus

- Log on to the Portal at portal.ulster.ac.uk.
- Click on the Learning Resources tab.
- Click on the Databases link, displayed under Key Services, on the right hand side of the screen. The listing of Library Databases, sorted alphabetically by title, is displayed on the screen.
• Click on O from the alphabetical list of titles and scroll down to select OvidSP.
• You will then have to select an individual database to search from within the collection (if you are unsure which database to search click on 🔄 for more information).

**BASIC SEARCHING**

This is what the Ovid Basic Search form looks like.

![Ovid Basic Search Form](image)

The Search form will remain the same regardless of which database you are searching.

The Basic Search is designed for people who are new to searching. It allows you to enter queries using everyday language and displays your results in order of relevancy.

To perform a basic search, follow these steps:

• Type a subject, phrase, topic, or question e.g. treatments for childhood obesity
• OPTIONAL: Apply a limit(s) e.g. published between 2005 and 2009, English Language only.
• If you tag the box to ‘Include Related Terms’ OvidSP will search for related words and alternative spellings.
• Click the Search button.
VIEWING RESULTS

Each result will look like the one below.

Remember – the databases on OvidSP are not full-text. Therefore your results will be a list of journal citations not the actual articles themselves.

Relevance: The score indicates how relevant the article is to your search from one to five stars.

View Abstract Click here to see a summary of the article

Find It Click here to check if the article is available full-text.
PRINTING AND SAVING RESULTS

As you look at your list of results, tag any which you think may be useful by ticking the boxes on the left as shown below.

To print, email, export to Refworks or use the ‘Add to my Projects’ facility choose an option from the toolbar at the top of the display screen.
CHANGING DATABASES

If you wish to search on another database, click on Ovid Resources lick just above the search box.

ADVANCED SEARCHING ON OVIDSP

There are more advanced ways to search on OvidSP. If you require more advanced searching techniques please refer to our advanced guide which can be found at http://library.ulster.ac.uk/electronic/guides/ovidsp2.pdf.

HELP

OvidSP has an excellent help section which you can access at any time by clicking Help at the top right of the screen.

Do not worry if you are having problems finding information on OvidSP – just contact a member of the Life and Health Sciences subject team who will be happy to help.

EXITING FROM DATABASE

To exit from the database, click on Logoff at the top right of the screen.

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