Get Going with OVID

Getting Started

A workbook prepared by the Ulster University Library Life & Health Science Subject Team on searching in the Ovid collection of databases.

Life & Health Sciences Library Team
ULSTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
Introduction
The aim of this workbook is to give you an introduction to the medical and healthcare database Medline and the other databases available from Ovid.

What is Ovid?
Ovid is a platform which provides the Ulster University Library with access to a number of bibliographic databases including; Medline, AMED, Embase, Food Science and Technology Abstracts and PsycINFO.

Learning Outcomes:
- Access Ovid from the Library & ICT tab on the Portal
- Keyword searching
- Truncation
- Combining terms
- Planning and carrying out a search within Ovid
- Viewing the results and finding the full text
- Creating a personal account to save searches and articles

Accessing Ovid from the Portal
Go to the Portal Login screen (portal.ulster.ac.uk)
Type in your Student ID and Network password, click on Login.
If you see this screen, enter Ulster and click on the Ulster University link:
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.

Click on the **Library & ICT** tab to access Library resources and services.

To access the Library databases, click on the **Databases** link, displayed under the heading **Key Services**, in the right hand side of the screen.

A new screen will open; search for Ovid using the A-Z list or by typing the name of the database into the search box.
Access the database by clicking on the Ovid link displayed at the top of the box.

Click on **Proceed**

The Ovid welcome page will open: click on **Continue**

You will then need to select an individual database to search.
In this example we have selected Ovid Medline
While the subject content of each database on Ovid is different, the search screen and techniques used to find articles are the same across the platform.

Keyword Search

The database will open at the *Advanced Search* screen.

In order to carry out a keyword search **remove** the tick from the Map Term to Subject Heading box.
You can enter search terms individually or as short phrases, e.g. hypertension, pressure ulcers. Click on Search and Ovid Medline will then search primarily the title and abstract of records to retrieve relevant results.

When keyword searching, it is important to remember that the database will only find the exact terms you enter. So you need to be aware of the following points:

- the same topic may be referred to in more than one way
e.g. paracetamol can also be known as acetaminophen, self-harm as self-injurious behaviour
- variations in British v American spelling
e.g. orthopaedics/orthopedics, behaviour/behavior
- many terms have different endings (including plurals) that may also be useful to search for
e.g. therapy, therapies, therapeutic ulcer, ulcers, ulceration

There are a number of techniques that can be used to search for all of these variations and we will look at those next.

**Truncation**

When searching using keywords, databases will usually only find the exact term you enter and not any plurals or variations. In order to make sure that all variants of a term are retrieved a technique called truncation can be used:

- * is the truncation symbol, use to find all the various different endings of a term
e.g. disorder* will find disorder, disordered, disorders, disorderly
    nurs* will find nurse, nurses, nursing

Ovid will automatically phrase search if you enter 2 terms together e.g. chronic pain or diabetic foot

**Combining Terms**

You will need to combine terms using OR, AND in order to retrieve the most relevant results.

Use **OR** to combine terms which are similar, this will widen a search and increase the number of articles retrieved.

Use **AND** to combine terms which are different, this will narrow and reduce the number of articles retrieved.
Remember to always combine all the similar terms with OR before you combine with AND, the database won’t be able to understand what you are asking it to look for otherwise.

Next we will go on to carry out a worked example search within Ovid Medline

**Planning and carrying out a Search**

In this workbook we are going to use Medline as our example database to answer the following question:

**Does a programme of Pilates improve the management of low back pain?**

As with most databases you should not enter your search statement into the database as one long sentence. Instead break it down into separate search concepts or search terms, this will return more relevant and specific results.

First ask yourself what is the focus of the question? Pilates and low back pain.

Next, think of other words which might help you to find information to answer the question.

For example, low back pain may also be referred to as;
This is not a comprehensive list and you may think of other words or phrases.

You also need to consider which *limits* you will apply to your search. In this search you will limit to *English language articles* published from 2009 onwards.

Enter the first set of search terms using the OR connector; low back pain or sciatica or lumbago

The details of the search and the number of records found will be recorded in the Search History part of the screen, to open the panel click on Search History.

As you progress each search will be recorded in the Search History panel.
Next, we will search for records on the other part of the question: Pilates. Carry out a search as before.

There should now be 2 searches listed in the Search History panel.

To find records which are about Pilates in relation to low back pain, lumbago or sciatica, we must now combine search 1 (our combined search on low back pain, lumbago or sciatica) and search 2 (our search on Pilates). Tick the checkboxes displayed to the left of searches 1 and 2 and click click on **Combine selections with AND.**
A new set of results, search 3 is created.

Each record in search 3 must contain the search term Pilates and at least one of the search terms low back pain, lumbago or sciatica.

**Limits**

Before looking at the results you can apply some limits, find the link to these underneath the main search box, click to open.

Next choose from the list of most commonly used limiters, in this example limit to articles published in the past 5 years and to English Language only. Click on Search to apply.

*NB Never limit to full text as Ovid is not a full text database and we will need to link out to a different supplier to access the full text of articles.*
You will now have the final set of articles.

Viewing results and finding full text

Each record is displayed like so; title of the article is in blue, authors, journal title and publication details - date, volume, part number and the page numbers.

Click on the blue hyperlinked journal article title to view more information including the abstract, if available. The abstract will provide you with a summary of the original article and should help you decide if the journal article is going to be relevant. Please note that not every record will include an abstract.

The UFind it button is displayed on the right hand side of the record. Click on this to check if the Library can link you to the full text of the article.

On the next screen select a supplier by opening one of the hyperlinks, in this example either from ProQuest or Highwire Press.
You will then be linked to the article, where you can read online, download or save/print the pdf.

If the U Find It cannot link you to the full text, the following message will be displayed:
You can check the Library Catalogue and/or Google Scholar for full text. You will need to copy and paste the title of the journal/article into each respective resource. If no full text is available can use the Library Document Delivery Service, for more information go to http://library.ulster.ac.uk/documentdelivery/

**Saving your search history**

In order to save your search history from the current session and re-run it at a later date you must create an Ovid account.

Click on Save Search History; find it at the bottom of the Search History.

Click on Create a new Personal Account and complete the onscreen form. Give the search a name, including the database you searched and click on Save to finish.

Give the search a name and select Saved Search to save a search or Alert to set up an email alert to receive any new results.

If you wish to use both functions, you will need to first save the search and then set up the alert.
Not every article in your results list will be relevant. Select any which are by checking the tick box displayed on each record and clicking on Add to My Projects and create a new project. If you have a personal account and are signed in, these will also be saved permanently.

To retrieve a search go to My Account and login, click on the My Workspace tab and then on My Searches and Alerts. Select the search you want to re-run by ticking the checkbox and then clicking on run.

You should now be able to carry out and save a basic search in Ovid.
If you want to go further take a look at the advanced searching guide; http://library.ulster.ac.uk/electronic/guides/ovidsp_guides.pdf

Ovid itself has an excellent Help section: find it at the top of the search screen.

Don’t worry if you are having difficulties using the database; just contact a member of the Life and Health Sciences subject team who will be happy to help.

For further information please contact your **Subject Librarian**

July 2017