SPORTDiscus – EBSCO – Quick Guide

COVERAGE
SPORTDiscus is the main database for all topics related to sport including; coaching, exercise, management, nutrition, psychology, sports medicine and science, as well as sports culture, society and politics. It contains over 1.7 million records drawn from journals, books, dissertations, conference proceedings and more dating back to 1800.

ACCESS
SPORTDiscus is available on and off-campus.
- 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 S and scroll down to select SPORTDiscus.
- If you see this screen, enter Ulster and click on the Ulster University link:

![Authenticaton Screen]

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
SPORTDiscus will open at the Advanced Search screen.
You can add and remove rows by using the + and – symbols.

You can combine terms using the connectors AND, OR, NOT from the drop down menu or by typing them directly into the box.

**COMBINING SEARCHES**

**OR** – use OR to combine terms that are similar, this will increase the number of articles found e.g. social media OR Facebook OR Twitter

**AND** – use AND to combine terms that are different. This will reduce the number of articles found e.g. physical education AND obesity AND children

**NOT** - use NOT to exclude terms but *use with caution as it may exclude relevant results*

  e.g. children NOT adolescents

**Advanced searching techniques** can also be used:

**Truncation** - placing an * at the natural end of a word (the stem) will find all variations  
  e.g. injur* will find injury, injuries, injured, injurious

**Phrase searching** – Placing double quotation marks around terms will search for them as an exact phrase.  
  e.g. “physical activity”

**Example search**
You can refine a search by using filters; find the most frequently used on the column on the left hand side of the screen beside the results.

**VIEWING RESULTS**
Your results will be displayed as a list of references, with the total number of results found at the top of the results box. Click on the article for more information including the abstract (if available).

If full text is available it will be clearly marked with PDF Full Text or HTML Full Text icons.

In no full text is available click on the U Find it button to check if the article is available full-text from the Library's journal collection.

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

**HELP**
For further help take a look at our comprehensive video guide available at http://library.ulster.ac.uk/training/videoguides/sportdiscus/

And the Advanced SPORTDiscus workbook http://library.ulster.ac.uk/electronic/guides/sportdiscuswb.pdf

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

For further information please contact your Subject Librarian

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July 2017