



Using OvidSP databases

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Which databases are available through OvidSP?

The *OvidSP* interface provides access to the following biomedical and health related databases:

- **AMED**: allied health and complementary medicine
- **Biotechnology Abstracts**: Biotechnology literature and patent information
- **EMBASE**: a large biomedical database with a European focus and strengths in drug information
- **Health and Psychosocial Instruments**: information on measurement instruments in health fields
- **HMC**: health management
- **MEDLINE**: the largest biomedical bibliographic database
- **PsycEXTRA**: grey literature in psychological sciences
- **PsycINFO**: psychological, social, behavioral, and health sciences
- **PsycCRITIQUES**: full-text reviews of books, popular films, videos, and software relevant to psychology

In addition OvidSP gives access to a range of electronic journals and electronic books.

Accessing OvidSP

UCL staff and students may access *OvidSP* from any computer. Link to the database of your choice from the UCL Library Services databases list at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/database/>. Off-site access requires a UCL userid.

Basic Search

When you first enter any *OvidSP* database the Basic Search screen is displayed. Basic Search allows for natural language searching, so you can type in an ordinary sentence and *OvidSP* searches only for the relevant concepts. Check the **Include Related Terms** box to make *OvidSP* to include synonyms in its search.

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | Advanced Ovid Search | SilverPlatter Se

Enter your topic or question in ordinary English.

Check Spelling Include Related Terms

Basic search displays only the results it feels are most relevant, with a maximum of around 500, so is not comprehensive. It is useful for quick searches to find a few results but do NOT use Basic Search for comprehensive literature searching.

Subject Searching: Advanced Ovid Search

Click on the **Advanced Ovid Search** option if you wish to carry out a comprehensive search for a subject. This option has additional functionality to enable more effective searching.

When carrying out a search for a subject it is best to search for each concept individually and then combine your searches together at the end.

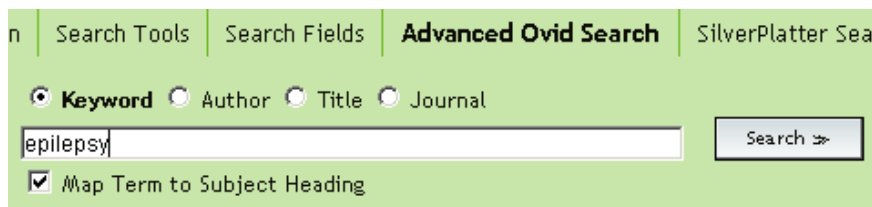
We are interested in finding articles on the adverse effects of phenytoin in the treatment of pregnant women with epilepsy. Our main concepts in this search are **epilepsy**, **phenytoin** (particularly **adverse effects**) and **pregnancy**.

- Enter your first search term in the search box.

In most databases, by default the **Map Term to Subject Heading** box is ticked. If you search using subject headings

you should retrieve all records on that subject regardless of the exact wording used by the author.

- Click on **Search**. A list of relevant subject headings will now be displayed.

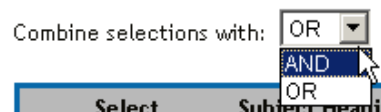


Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epilepsy, Generalized	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

- Click on a term to see how it relates to other subject headings, with broader and narrower terms displayed.
- Explode:** checking this box will search for your selected subject heading plus any narrower terms. Eg. Exploding **Epilepsy** when searching Medline will also retrieve records which have the subject headings **Epilepsies, Myoclonic; Epilepsies, Partial**, etc.
- Focus:** checking this box limits your results to records for which your subject heading is a main topic of the article. This is useful for retrieving a few key papers on a subject, but is not recommended if you want to do a comprehensive search.
- Scope:** click on the icon to see a definition and additional information about the term.

Note: The last item in the list always gives you the option of performing a text word search, instead of, or in combination with, the subject heading search. As this is not a subject heading it has no **Explode** or **Focus** options, and no button.

- You may select as many headings as you wish from this list and combine them using AND or OR from the drop-down menu. Then click on



A page of subheadings is now displayed. These can be applied to your subject heading to search for a particular aspect of your subject. Eg. In our search for phenytoin we might choose to select the subheading **Adverse Effects**.

- Select the subheading(s) which interest you. If you wish to include all subheadings then you do not need to select any, or can check the **Include All Subheadings** box.
- Click on
- Now carry out searches for any other concepts.

AND and OR explained

The words **AND** and **OR** are used in searching to combine search terms together.

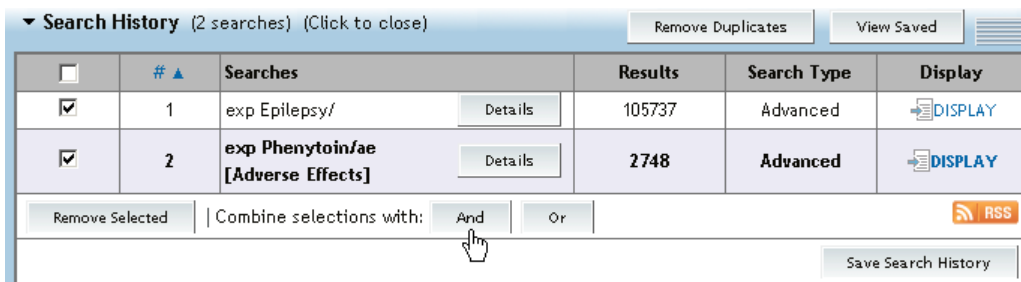
AND retrieves articles which contain **all** of your concepts. Eg. searching for **phenytoin and epilepsy** will retrieve articles that mention both of these terms.

OR retrieves records which contain **any** of your concepts. Eg. You might search for **epilepsy OR seizures** to retrieve all articles on the topic.

Search History and combining searches

Your results are displayed in the **Search History** screen.

To combine searches together, select the searches and click on **And** or **Or**. You may remove searches from the **Search History** by checking the search you no longer require and clicking on the **Remove Selected** button.



Search Tips

If you wish to carry out a comprehensive search you should search for words that occur in the title or abstract of articles as well as for subject headings. This is textword searching. You can simply enter your search terms into the search box and uncheck the **Map term to subject heading** option. The following tips can help with textword searching:

Truncation

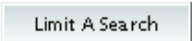
Use an asterisk * or dollar \$ at the end of the stem of a word to retrieve all words that start with that stem. Eg. **epilep*** will retrieve **epilepsy**, **epileptic**, etc.

Phrase searching


OvidSP searches for multiple words as a phrase. Eg. a search for **cot death** will retrieve records only where the two words appear next to each other. If you wish to enter more than one search term, but not as a phrase, you can do so by separating them with **and** or **or**. Eg. **epilep* or seizure**.

Applying Limits

Limits refine your search according to criteria such as the type of article, publication date, age group, language of publication, etc.

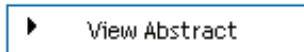
- Click on the **Limits** link below the search box to view selected Limit options. To apply these limits, select the ones that interest you, enter the search line number in the search box and click on **Search**. Your limited search will appear as an additional line in your search history.
- To view all Limit options, click on the **Additional Limits** button. From the following screen select the limits of your choice, click the radio button for the search you wish to limit and click on 

Viewing results

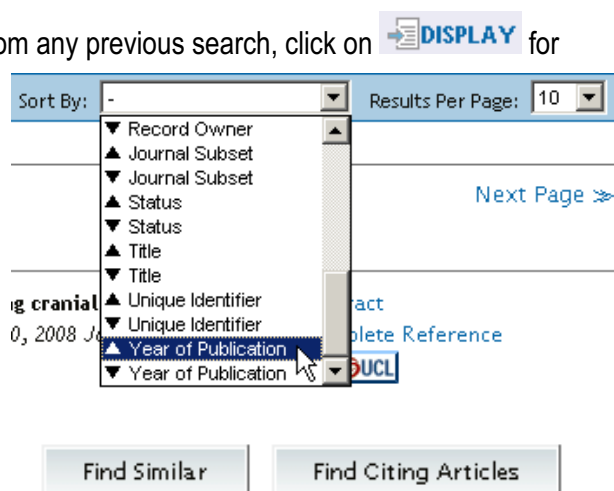
Results are displayed below your search history. To view results from any previous search, click on  for that search line.

Results are displayed 10 to a page with the most recently added references first. To change these options use the drop-down menus at the top of the list of results



- To view the abstract for an individual article click on



- To view all your results with abstracts displayed, check the **View all abstracts** box at the top of the list of results.
- Clicking on the **Find Similar** option for an article will carry out a new search for articles on a similar topic.
- Clicking on the **Find Citing Articles** option will retrieve records of articles that cite this article, where they are included in the journals available via OvidSP, regardless of whether UCL has a subscription to these titles or not. This can be used as another way to broaden a search for relevant articles.



Linking to the full text of articles

- Click on the  button for a particular article to link to the full text (where available) or to check whether UCL holds the journal in printed form. A new window will appear.
- Where the full text is available, the details of the publisher are displayed. Click on the  button.
- Where the full text is not available, options are available in this window to search the **UCL Library Catalogue (eUCLid)** or other library catalogues to locate the journal in printed form.

Printing, emailing, saving and exporting your results

- Check the boxes next to the articles you wish to keep from all pages.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page of results to view the **Results Manager** table.
- Select from options from the following columns:
 - Results:** Choose to output your selected results, all results from that page or all in the set.
 - Fields:** By default the citation and abstract of each record is outputted. You may select to include

more information from this column.

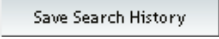
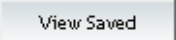
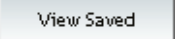

Result format: In most cases you are advised to leave the format as **Ovid**. If you wish to export your results to bibliographic software, such as Reference Manager, you must select **Direct Export**.

Actions: From the Actions column:

- To **print** your results, click on **Print Preview** and then use the print option from your Web browser
- To **email** results to yourself click on **Email** and follow the on-screen instructions
- To **save** your results to your computer or flashdrive, click on **Save**
- To export references to bibliographic software, click on **Save**. (The **Direct Export** option must be selected in the **Result format** column.

Saving searches and creating alerts

You can save your search strategy to re-run it at a later date. You can also set up alerts, so that you are emailed when new articles that match your search criteria are added to the database.

- Click on  at the bottom of the search history table.
- Log in with your personal account details. If you have not yet created a personal account for *OvidSP*, click on **Create a new personal account**
- Enter a name for your search or alert. Optionally, you can add comments.
- Use the pull-down menu to choose whether to create a permanent search, a temporary search (removed from the server after 24 hours) or an alert. If you choose an alert, a box will appear allowing you to enter an email address and choose from many other options..
- Click on **Save**
- To run a saved search:
 - Click on  at the top right of the search history table, select a search, and click on **Run**.
- To edit a saved search:
 - Click on  at the top right of the search history table.
 - Click on the Edit icon  for the search you wish to edit.
 - Insert or delete search lines using the appropriate icons to the right of the screen. *OvidSP* will renumber search lines as necessary where they appear in your search history.

Changing databases

- If you are doing a comprehensive search, you may wish to carry out your search in more than one database. To change database:
 - Click **Change Database** at the top of the main search page.
 - Select the database or databases of your choice and click **Open selected resources**
 - To re-run your previous searches in the new database(s), click **Open and re-execute**.
 - To erase your old searches and start with a new search in the new database(s), click **Open & Clear**.

Further information and support

Online help is available from the **Help** link at the top right of the *OvidSP* screen.

Please contact your local UCL library for further support.