INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE SEARCHING USING PsycINFO via OVID

Our OVID suite of databases provides extensive coverage of literature relating to health and social care. Titles include: Embase, Medline, HMIC (Health Management Information Consortium), PsycINFO and AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine).

To access the databases:
Log on at www.athensams.net/myathens
Enter your NHS Athens username and password

and then click on Resources tab
Click on **Local Resources** tab

Scroll down and click on **OVID Online**.
Select the database you wish to search. Take a closer look at coverage of each database and choose the appropriate one.

Think about your search. What are the important subject areas and words that will need to be in your search?

In basic search mode you are allowed to use natural language and type in a phrase as you would say it (like in google).

Click search.
In the Search Results Display, Ovid ranks Basic Search results records by relevancy to the query that produced them.

Results are displayed providing, the title of the article, author and journal details. If you see *Full Text* within the record details (as above) that means you can download the article from the screen, just click on the Full Text link and follow the steps.

Please be aware that publishers may place an embargo on the article, even though it says full text is available it may not be available until after 6 months has elapsed for example or however long the embargo is for.

You may get too many results or maybe they are not specific enough so try limiting your search.
Applying limits focuses your search and reduces the number of records in your results set. Eg. choosing limit years will only retrieve those records that were published between your chosen dates.

If you want to be more specific then try using **Additional Limits**. Make your choices then click **Search**. With limits you are reducing your hits and getting more precise results.
When you find results that match your search exactly try using the **find similar** button.
Tick any item you want to keep as below.

When your search is complete and items have been ticked you can choose from the following output options:

- Print
- Email
- Export to a bibliographic database like RefWorks (storing your references for future use).
Below is a screen shot of the email selection. Enter the recipients email address then choose how you want your results to be displayed, ie. citation only, citation and abstract. Then click send email.

You will then be taken back to the Main Search Page.
Ovid posts and tracks result sets in a search history window.

Click **search history** tab to open or close this section and revisit any of your searches as shown below.

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**TIPS FOR SEARCHING**

**Boolean**

Boolean operators include: **AND** **OR** **NOT**

**AND** will reduce the number of hits we retrieve because we are looking for both search concepts in our results, i.e., hits with both **psychosis** and **cognitive behavioural therapy**.

**NOT** needs to be used with caution. If I want articles on psychosis not **cognitive behavioural therapy**, I am restricting my results.

**OR** will increase my results because I will receive hits that contain either **cognitive behavioural approach** or **cognitive behavioural therapy**.
If you want to increase the number of hits you retrieve try unlimited truncation using $ (dollar sign) or : (colon). Eg. Type in psych$ and OVID retrieves the word psychosis, psychotic, psychomotor and more. To be used with care!

The optional wild card can be used to substitute for one or no characters. This is useful for retrieving documents with British and American word variants ie. the optional wild card search behavio?ral retrieves results that contain the words behavioural or behavioral.

We hope you found this guide useful. Please take a moment to complete this short survey to enable us to gather feedback:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B2MN556

Thank you – Keyll Darree Library team