### Search Operators for Different Databases - PubMed, Ovid databases (Medline, Embase, PsycInfo), Cochrane, CINAHL, Web of Science, Scopus

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<th>Database</th>
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<th>Truncation/Wildcard</th>
<th>Phrase searching</th>
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<td>PubMed</td>
<td>MeSH</td>
<td>AND, OR, NOT</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>“... ...”</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>To search for all terms that begin with a word, enter the word followed by an asterisk (*).</td>
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<td>Truncation turns off automatic term mapping and the process that includes the MeSH term and any specific terms indented under that term in the MeSH hierarchy.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>To search for a phrase including a truncated term, search</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– “breast feed”**</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>– or use a search tag: breast feed*[tiab]</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovid databases</td>
<td>MeSH (Medline), Emtree (Embase), PsycInfo Thesaurus (PsycInfo)</td>
<td>AND, OR, NOT FREQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ or * unlimited right-hand truncation searches for variations on a word that are formed with different suffixes.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>e.g. gene* finds gene, genes, genetics, generation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>$n or *n Limited right-hand truncation restricts the number of characters following the word.</td>
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<td>e.g. dög$1 finds dög or dogs but not dogma</td>
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</tbody>
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#### PubMed
- **MeSH**: Default is exploded heading
  - Exploded: "Dementia"[Mesh]
  - Not exploded (not include headings found below this term in MeSH hierarchy): "Dementia"[Mesh:NoExp]
- **Major Topic - Exploded**: "Dementia"[Majr]
- **Major Topic – Not exploded**: "Dementia"[Majr:NoExp]

#### Ovid databases
- **Medline**, **Embase**, **PsycInfo**
- **MeSH (Medline), Emtree (Embase), PsycInfo Thesaurus (PsycInfo)**: Default is unexploded heading
  - Exploded: exp Dementia/
  - Not exploded: Dementia/
- **Major Topic (Focus) - Exploded**: exp *Dementia/

#### Ovid:
- **Adjn**: Adjn is a positional operator that lets you retrieve records that contain your terms (in any order) within a specified number (n) of words of each other. To apply adjacency, separate your search terms with the ADJ operator and a number from 1 to 99.
  - E.g. bloodpressure.tx./freq=10 retrieves only records in which the phrase blood pressure appears ten or more times.

#### Ovid:
- **$ or ***: unlimited right-hand truncation searches for variations on a word that are formed with different suffixes.
  - E.g. bone* finds bone, bones, bony
- **$n or *n**: Limited right-hand truncation restricts the number of characters following the word.
  - E.g. dog$1 finds dog or dogs but not dogma

#### Ovid:
- **#**: When multiple words are entered into the search box, Ovid searches them as a phrase automatically.
  - E.g. skin cancer
- **If you do not want to search as a phrase, you need to use Boolean operators between them.**
  - E.g. skin AND cancer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cochrane</th>
<th>MeSH</th>
<th>AND, OR, NOT</th>
<th>NEAR</th>
<th>NEXT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
MeSH descriptor:  
[mh Dementia]  
[mh "Diabetes mellitus"]  
Not exploded (unexploded):  
MeSH descriptor:  
[mh*Dementia]  
[mh**Diabetes mellitus**]  
Major Topic - Exploded:  
Not available  
Major Topic – Not exploded:  
Not available | E.g.  
(OR #1-#4,#9) searches #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #9 | Finds the terms when they are within 6 words of each other. Terms can appear in either order.  
e.g. cancer near lung | Finds the terms when they appear next to each other. Terms must appear in the order specified. Use the NEXT operator for phrase searching with wildcards.  
e.g. hearing NEXT aid* (find hearing aid and hearing aids) | A wildcard can be added to the right (end of term), left (beginning of term) and internal (within) a term, however the word root must be at least 3 characters.  
*  
Retrieves variations of the search term and replaces **one or more** characters  
e.g. transplant* finds transplant, transplants, transplanting, transplantation, transplantable  
e.g. *glycemia finds hyperglycemia or hypoglycaemia  
e.g. leuk*mia finds leukemia or leukaemia |

The mandated wild card character stands for **one** character within a word or at the end of a word.  
e.g. wom#n finds woman and women  
?  
The optional wild card character stands for **zero or one** characters within a word or at the end of a word.  
e.g. colo?r finds color and colour  

"... ..."  
To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks.  
Phrase search does NOT support the use of wildcards.
<p>| CINAHL | CINAHL Headings | AND, OR, NOT | N x (near) | Web of Science | AND, OR, NOT | NEAR/x | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [<a href="http://support.ebsco.com/help/?int=ehost&amp;lang=en&amp;feature_id=Guided&amp;TOC_ID=Alwayss&amp;sl=0&amp;bu=0&amp;gU=1&amp;ps=0&amp;ver=">http://support.ebsco.com/help/?int=ehost&amp;lang=en&amp;feature_id=Guided&amp;TOC_ID=Alwayss&amp;sl=0&amp;bu=0&amp;gU=1&amp;ps=0&amp;ver=</a> &amp;dbs=ccm](<a href="http://support.ebsco.com/help/?int=ehost&amp;lang=en&amp;feature_id=Guided&amp;TOC_ID=Alwayss&amp;sl=0&amp;bu=0&amp;gU=1&amp;ps=0&amp;ver=">http://support.ebsco.com/help/?int=ehost&amp;lang=en&amp;feature_id=Guided&amp;TOC_ID=Alwayss&amp;sl=0&amp;bu=0&amp;gU=1&amp;ps=0&amp;ver=</a> &amp;dbs=ccm) | Exploded: (MH &quot;Dementia+&quot;) Not exploded: (MH &quot;Dementia&quot;) Major Topic (Major Concept) - Exploded: (MM &quot;Dementia+&quot;) Major Topic – Not exploded: (MM &quot;Dementia&quot;) | When Boolean operators are contained within a phrase that is enclosed in quotation marks, the operator is treated as a stop word. When this is the case, any single word will be searched for in its place. | Finds words if they are within x words of one another regardless of the order in which they appear. e.g. tax N 5 reform finds tax reform and reform of income tax | Not available | Use NEAR/x to find records where the terms joined by the operator are x words of each other. e.g. Brown NEAR “spider bite” If you use NEAR without /x, the system will find records where the terms joined by NEAR are within 15 words of each other. | Represents any group of characters, including no character. e.g. hydro*power finds hydropower or hydroelectricpower | To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks. This applies only to Topic and Title searches. e.g. &quot;energy conserv**&quot; finds energy conservation or energy conserving |
| e.g. system? finds system or systems but not systematic | &quot;... ...&quot; | To search for an exact phrase, enclose the phrase in double quotation marks. If a phrase contains stop words the stop words will not be searched, but the searchable words will be searched in the order as entered. If you enter hyphenated words in a search, the search engine automatically searches for the word in both hyphenated and non-hyphenated forms e.g. animal-assisted finds animal assisted and animal-assisted |
| | “... ...” | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scopus</th>
<th>IndexTerms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scopus does not carry out its own indexing. However, it is possible to search controlled vocabulary terms that had been assigned to the document.</td>
<td>e.g. INDEXTERMS(&quot;Dementia&quot;) returns documents where dementia is an index term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND, OR, AND NOT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W/n (within) Where the terms in the search must be within a specified number of terms (n). n can be a number from 0 to 255. Either word may appear first. e.g. pain W/15 morphine would find articles in which &quot;pain&quot; and &quot;morphine&quot; are no more than 15 terms apart.</td>
<td>! To search for a variable number of characters. e.g. locom! finds locomotive, locomotives or locomotion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>? Replaces one character anywhere in a word. e.g. wom?n finds women or woman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>* Replaces a fixed number of characters e.g. dog finds dogs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scopus finds common American/British English variant spellings. Using the singular form of a word in your search retrieves the singular, plural, and possessive forms of most words. e.g. criterion finds criteria or criterion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>{… …} To find documents that contain an exact phrase, including any stop words, spaces, and punctuation, enclose the phrase in braces. &quot;… &quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>{... ...} To find documents that contain a loose/approximate phrase (your search terms appear adjacent to each other), enclose the terms in double quotation marks.</td>
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<td>Searching for &quot;criminal* insan*&quot; finds criminally insane and criminal insanity.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Searching for &quot;heart attack&quot; finds heart attack and heart attacks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e.g. &quot;patient undergoing radiation&quot; will find patient undergoing radiation, patient receiving radiation, patient failing radiation, and so on (undergoing is a stopword)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you enter hyphenated words in a search, the search engine automatically searches for the word in both hyphenated and non-hyphenated forms e.g. waste-water finds waste water and waste-water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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