

EMCARE

Search Guide



Searching EMCARE (via Ovid)

Emcare is an international nursing and allied health database indexing over 3,700 journals from 1995 to the present. Areas covered include midwifery, health economics, psychiatry & mental health, traumatology and critical care medicine.

Searching the database

1. Developing a Search Strategy

Before you begin searching you will need to develop a search strategy. This involves analysing the search topic and identifying the main concepts. Each concept may then have a number of different search terms which can describe that concept.

Example Search Topic: The effect of cigarette smoking on birth weight.

Looking at the example search topic, the main concepts are: "Cigarette Smoking" and "Birth Weight". You can sometimes have several search terms for a concept, i.e.: synonyms or alternative descriptions. In this example, the concept of "Cigarette Smoking" has 2 possible terms: Cigarette Smoking and Passive Smoking, as outlined in the table below.

Example of Concepts & Search Terms:

	Concept 1	Concept 2
	CIGARETTE SMOKING	BIRTH WEIGHT
Search Term	Cigarette Smoking	Birth Weight
Search Term	Passive Smoking	

2. Database Search Options

There are two main ways of searching databases: **subject heading search** or **keyword search**.

- ❖ **Subject heading searching** allows you to find articles on a particular subject without having to search for every possible phrase or word that an author may have used to describe that subject. It will usually get you fewer but **more relevant results**, than the keyword option.
- ❖ **Keyword searching** is looking for a word or phrase appearing within a citation, so you will usually retrieve lots of results, however they may include a lot of **irrelevant hits**. You also need to think of different terms and spelling that the author may have used to describe that topic, example: exercise, exercises, exercisers, exercising. (Keyword searching is described on page 11).

3. Access EMCARE via Ovid

Open the Clinicians Health Channel at <https://www.clinicians.vic.gov.au>
Go to the Searchable databases page and click on the **Emcare on Ovid** link, under "Resources".

NB: For University staff and students, access to Emcare may also be available via your University Library's website.

4. Type your first search term (cigarette smoking) into the search box, then click on the search button.

Notice that the “Map Term To Subject Heading” box is ticked, so you are doing a SUBJECT HEADING search. This will map the term **cigarette smoking** to the subject headings within the database.

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Search', 'Journals', 'Books', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'What's New'. Below this is a 'Search History' section. The main search area has a 'Basic Search' tab selected. The search term 'cigarette smoking' is entered in the 'Keyword' field. The 'Map Term To Subject Heading' checkbox is checked. Below the search box, there are various filters like 'Full Text', 'Human', 'Local Holdings', 'Latest Update', 'Cochrane Library', 'COVID-19', 'Abstracts', and 'English Language'. A red arrow points from the text in the previous block to the 'Map Term To Subject Heading' checkbox.

5. Select a subject heading from those suggested and tick the Explode box alongside it.

Note that the system has mapped “cigarette smoking” to the preferred subject of “smoking”. It is underlined and in blue writing, which denotes it as a subject heading from the thesaurus.

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface after the search term 'cigarette smoking' has been entered. The system has mapped the term to the subject heading 'smoking'. The 'Explode' checkbox is checked. A red arrow points from the text in the previous block to the 'Explode' checkbox. Another red arrow points from the text in the previous block to the 'smoking' subject heading.

- ❖ The **Explode** option means that you will search on this subject, plus any more specific subject terms from the thesaurus.
- ❖ The **Focus** option allows you to retrieve only those articles where this subject heading is the major focus of the article. If you wish, you can select both Explode and Focus.

6. Click on the **Continue** button

7. Now you have a set of results for cigarette smoking.

The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface with the search results for 'cigarette smoking'. The search term is 'exp cigarette smoking/'. The results show 23978 results. A red arrow points from the text in the previous block to the search results.

8. You can now enter your next search term (passive smoking) into the search box.

The system will map the term to the preferred subject heading. Tick the Explode box alongside it. If there is no exact match, a list of possible subjects will appear. Select the most appropriate one, if there is one. If not, consider using a keyword option (see page 11 for more details).

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings:

Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms within the thesaurus.

Term is a thesaurus term

Combine with:

OR

Continue

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	passive smoking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	passive smoking.mp, search as Keyword			

9. Click on the Continue button. You will then have results for passive smoking added to the Search History.

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

▼ Search History (2)

View Saved

	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	

Save Remove

Combine with:

AND

OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved

Email All Search History

Copy Search History Link

Copy Search History Details

10. You can now enter your next search term (birth weight) into the search box and repeat steps 5 & 6. You will then have results for birth weight added to the Search History.

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

▼ Search History (3)

View Saved

	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	

Save Remove

Combine with:

AND

OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved

Email All Search History

Copy Search History Link

Copy Search History Details

- You now have three search sets:
- ❖ Sets one and two for the first concept of Cigarette Smoking,
 - ❖ Set three for the second concept of Birth Weight.

These search sets now need to be combined to obtain your final result.

11. To combine your search sets, please refer to the Search History.

We will first work on the **cigarette smoking** concept as there are two terms for this.

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

▼ Search History (3)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced

Save Remove

Combine with: AND OR

Select both sets by clicking the boxes in the first column on the left hand side. A tick will appear once selected.

Combine with: AND OR

At the bottom of the Search History, you will see:

The OR operator is used when combining alternatives

Click on the

OR

 button.

This gives you a set of records that contain either “smoking” or “passive smoking”.

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

▼ Search History (4)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	1 or 2	28096	Advanced

Save Remove

Combine with: AND OR

12. We can now combine the two concepts together.

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

▼ Search History (4)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	1 or 2	28096	Advanced

Save Remove

Combine with: AND OR

Select the relevant sets by ticking the boxes in the left hand column

At the bottom of the Search History, you will see:

Combine with: AND OR

The AND operator is used when putting concepts together.

Click on the

AND

 button.

This gives you a set of records that will contain both concepts. That is, set 5 now has results which will include birth weight and (smoking or passive smoking).

Search History (5)

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
4	1 or 2	28096	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
5	3 and 4	704	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved

Email All Search History Copy Search History Link Copy Search History Details

Note: The search history defaults to display only 4 sets. To see all the sets in the search history, click on the link to Expand.

13. You can limit the last set in the search history by using the Limits below the search box.

For example, in the following screen we have ticked English Language (1) and selected the years 2015 to current in the publication year boxes (2).

After making your selections, click on the search button (3) and the limits will be applied to the last set in the search history. In the example below, the limits will be applied to set 5.

Search History (5)

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
4	1 or 2	28096	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations
5	3 and 4	704	Advanced	Display Results More	Annotations

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved

Email All Search History Copy Search History Link Copy Search History Details

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation)

☒ Keyword ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

Limits (close) ☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

☐ Full Text ☐ Latest Update ☐ Abstracts

☐ Human ☐ Cochrane Library ☒ English Language

☐ Local Holdings ☐ COVID-19

Publication Year: 2015 Current

14. Click on the [Display Results](#) link next to the results you wish to view.

The first lot of results is **displayed**. The results are in citation format, and any links to full text, complete reference or abstract reference are displayed on the right hand side of the screen.

Options

Search Information

You searched:
limit 5 to (english language and ym="2015-Current")

Search terms used:
birth
weight
cigarette
smoking
passive

Search Returned:
123 text results

Sort By:
-

Customize Display

Filter By

Add to Search History

Selected Only (0)

Years

All Years

Current year

Past 3 years

Past 5 years

Specific Year Range

Subject

Author

Journal

Publication Type

Print Email Export + My Projects Keep Selected To search Open Access content on Ovid, go to Basic Search.

All Range Clear 10 Per Page 11 Go Previous Next

11. **Dual use of cigarettes and electronic nicotine delivery systems during pregnancy and the risk of small for gestational age neonates.**
Cardenas VM, Ali M M, Fischbach LA, Nembhard WN.
Annals of Epidemiology. 52 (pp 86-92.e2). 2020. Date of Publication: December 2020.
[Article]
AN: 2007878630
DOI
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ann...>
Abstract Cite + My Projects Annotate

Abstract Reference Complete Reference

12. **Antenatal and early postnatal antecedents of parent-reported attention problems at 2 years of age.**
Downey L C, O'Shea T M, Allred E N, Kuban K, McElrath T F, Warner D D, Ware J, Hecht J L, Onderdonk A, Leviton A.
Journal of Pediatrics. 166 (1) (pp 20-25.e1). 2015. Date of Publication: 01 Jan 2015.
[Article]
AN: 601986512
DOI
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jped...>
Abstract Cite + My Projects Annotate

Abstract Reference Complete Reference Full Text

13. **Trends in maternal use of snus and smoking tobacco in pregnancy. A register study in southern Norway.**
Rygh E, Gallefoss F, Grovtedt L.
BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. 19 (1) (no pagination). 2019. Article Number: 500. Date of Publication: 16 Dec 2019.
[Article]
AN: 630285025

Abstract Reference Complete Reference Full Text

Note: the Complete Reference is not the Full Text - it is a link to all the fields contained in the record for that reference. These fields include the citation, as well as a list of all the **subject headings** that have been applied to that citation. This can be a useful feature when searching for alternative terms for a concept.

Hint: To display the abstracts on your results page, click on this button (just above your first citation)

All Range Clear 10 Per Page 1 Go

15. To select a citation for printing, saving etc., tick the box next to it.

At the bottom of the page, use the [Next >](#) and [< Previous](#) links to go forwards and backwards through the results list.

16. When you've finished selecting your citations, click on the [Keep Selected](#) link.

Print Email Export + My Projects Keep Selected To search Open Access content on Ovid, go to Basic Search.

This allows you to make a new set in the search history of the results that you selected.

Ovid®

Wolters Kluwer

My Account Support & Training Help Feedback Logout

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

Search History (7)

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced	Display Results More	Contract
2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced	Display Results More	
3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced	Display Results More	
4	1 or 2	28096	Advanced	Display Results More	
5	3 and 4	704	Advanced	Display Results More	
6	limit 5 to (english language and ym="2015-Current")	123	Advanced	Display Results More	
7	from 6 keep 1, 3, 10-11, 13	5	Advanced	Display Results More	

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved

Email All Search History Copy Search History Link Copy Search History Details

17. Output Choices



Output choices, **Print**, **Email**, **Export**, or **+ My Projects (Add to My Projects)** are at the top and bottom of each results page. Choose from the following:

Print:

- **Select Fields to Display:** Choose from preset options or create a custom list
- **Select Citation Style:** Choose from **Ovid Labeled Citation** or choose another style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.)
- **Include:** Tick **Search History** to include the search history.

Email:

To: type in address.

Add **Subject** title and Message (if required)

Consider also: Select Fields to Display, Select Citation Style, and Include Search History as mentioned above

Export:

- Use **Microsoft® Word** format for word processing
- Use **Citavi/EndNote®/ProCite®/Reference Manager®** for local reference management
- Use **Reprint/Medlars** for importing .txt files into EndNote

My Projects:

My Projects is a research organization area containing projects and folders where you may store searches, text, results, citations, full text, graphics and many other items. **My Projects** also offers the output options (**Print**, **Email** or **Export**) and the option to **Remove** (delete) saved items if required.

To use My Projects, you will need to set up an account (see next section on Personal Account).

Select items using the checkboxes and choose the **+ My Projects** link at the top and bottom of each page and follow any prompts. You will need to create a project or select an existing project or folder.

Or click the **My Projects** link next to each individual result or item.



18. Personal Account

A Personal Account provides access to **My Workspace** that contains **My Projects**, **My Searches & Alerts** and **My eTocs**. Your account also stores your annotations and any interface settings. If you wish to add to, or access any of these areas, you must login with your Personal Account ID and password.

Ovid displays a My Account link on the session



You will need to login to your personal account to access selected functions. Functions which require personal account login are:

- Saved Searches and Alerts
- My Projects
- Annotate items
- Retention of customized displays and settings

Click on the [My Account](#) link to login.

If you haven't created an account yet, you can create one using the "Create Account" link.


Personal Account Login

Personal Account Name:

Password:

Login

[Forgot Account Name or Password?](#)



Don't have an Account?

Use a Personal Account to save searches, create alerts and manage research.








Create Account

19. Saved Searches and Alerts

As you develop search strategies, you may want to save them for later use. Ovid lets you store search sets created during any search session, log off and return at a later time without having to retype each search set manually.

Save your searches by clicking the [Save All](#) button at the bottom of the *Search History* window.

▼ Search History (7) [View Saved](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	exp cigarette smoking/	23978	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	exp passive smoking/	4843	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	exp birth weight/	42033	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	1 or 2	28096	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	3 and 4	704	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	limit 5 to (english language and yr=2015 -Current)	123	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	from 6 keep 1, 3, 10-11, 13	5	Advanced	Display Results More ▼	

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

Save All

Edit

Create RSS

Create Auto-Alert

[View Saved](#)

Email All Search History

Copy Search History Link

Copy Search History Details

After logging in, fill in the boxes to save your search:

Save Your Search or Create an Alert

Cancel

Save

Search name

Enter an easy to find title for this search

Type

Permanent

Comment

Add a description, you can change it later.

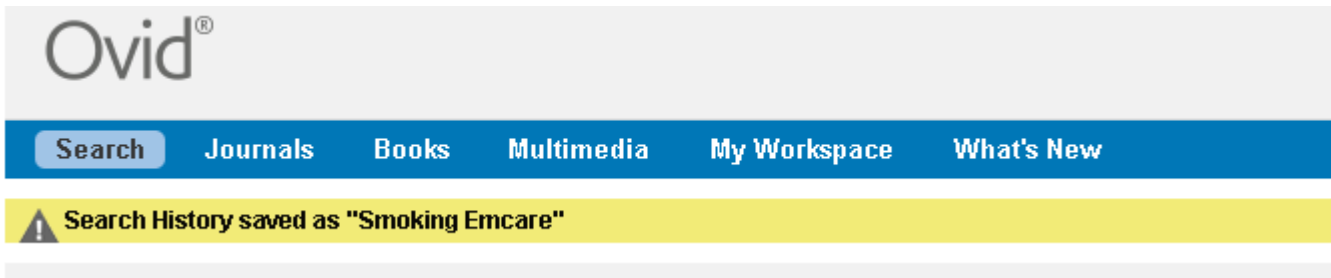
Optional

- 1. Type a search name in the text box. (search name must not exceed 80 characters)
- 2. Type comments in the Comment box. (This is OPTIONAL)
- 3. The default search type is Permanent.
- 4. Click the Save button.

The different types of saved searches are:

- ◆ **Permanent** - Saves the search for as long as your site maintains a valid subscription. Use this option to save and rerun at another time.
- ◆ **Temporary** - Saves the search for a period of twenty-four hours, then deletes it.
- ◆ **AutoAlert** - Creates a search that runs automatically on a regular basis and emails results to designated recipients.

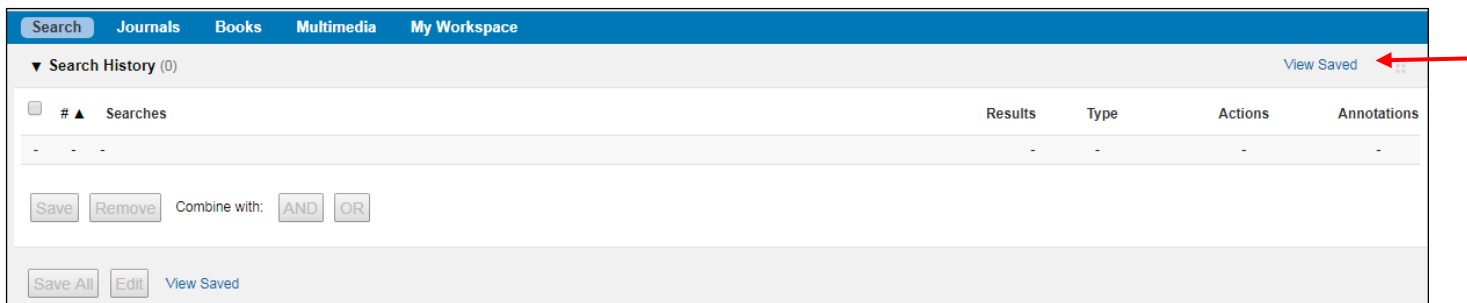
Ovid displays a confirmation message at the top of the Search page once you have saved your search. For example:



20. Accessing Saved Searches

You may view and access your Saved Searches and alerts by clicking on [View Saved](#).

Alternatively you can click on [My Workspace](#). You may need to log in again if you have previously logged off.



When you select either of these options, the system will display all your saved searches organized by search type.

To access your saved search, tick the box next to it and then click on the [Run](#) button.

Search Journals Books Multimedia **My Workspace** What's New

My Projects | My Searches & Alerts | My eTocs

PERMANENT SEARCHES 1 AUTOALERT (SDI) SEARCHES 1 ☐ Favorites Only

Run Copy Delete

Permanent Searches 1

☐ Smoking Emcare Permanent ☆ ✉ 👁

21. Keyword (Textword) Searching

If your subject heading search does not map to a suitable term, try searching with keywords (also known as textwords). Textword searching lets you search for the exact word or phrase in a chosen field such as title or abstract. It is useful for finding information about a concept that:

- has no appropriate subject heading
- might be very new to the literature
- has a very specific name, such as the GUSTO Trials

❖ Textword field searching

The textword command **.mp.** tells Ovid that you are looking for a textword and therefore bypasses the subject mapping system. The **.mp.** command will look for the word in the title, abstract, and as a subject heading word.

❖ Truncation & Wildcards

Textwords can be truncated to pick up various forms of a word. Truncation is useful if the textword or phrase can be expressed in a variety of ways. Use the asterisk ***** to indicate where the word should be truncated, followed by the **.mp.** command, to indicate that you want to search a textword, not a subject heading.

Wildcards can be used to find word/spelling variations.

- Use ***** at the end of a word or part of a word to retrieve unlimited suffix variations eg. disease* for diseases or diseased.
- Use **#** inside or at the end of a word to replace exactly one character eg. wom#n.
- Use **?** inside or at the end of a word to replace zero or one character eg. robot? or flavo?r.

Truncation example:

The following screen shows a textword search for **hypno*.mp.**

This will retrieve words such as hypnosis, hypnotic, hypnotism, hypnotise etc.

Basic Search | Find Citation | Search Tools | Search Fields | **Advanced Search** | Multi-Field Search

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation)

☒ **Keyword** ☐ Author ☐ Title ☐ Journal

hypno*.mp.

▼ Limits (close) ☐ Include Multimedia ☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

Search

❖ Title Field

If the textword field option is too broad, that is, too many results are retrieved; you can choose to search for a word in the title field. To perform a Title field search, select the radio button next to Title. Remember to use truncation for word variations.

For example:

The following screen shows a title field search for the truncated word **exercis***.

This will retrieve words such as exercise, exercised, exercises, exercising etc. in the title.

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

Enter title word or phrase to search.

☐ Keyword ☐ Author ☒ **Title** ☐ Journal

Search

▼ Limits (close)

☐ Include Multimedia

☒ Map Term to Subject Heading

❖ Multi-Field Search

To access the **Multi-Field Search** area, click on the tab located next to Advanced Search.



1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

You can use **Multi-Field Search** to search multiple terms in specific fields, and combine your terms using your choice of **AND** or **OR** Boolean operators.

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

Operators: Search field N°1:
 Operators: Search field N°2:
 Search field N°3:

Fields:
 Fields:
 Fields:

Search

+ Add New Row

► Limits (expand)

Enter a word or phrase in the search box. Select a field to search from the adjacent pull down menu. Search a single term in a specific field, or enter a second or third term to be searched in specific fields in the search boxes provided. Remember to use truncation or wildcard symbols where appropriate.

Please ask a Librarian for any assistance with database searching.

22. Accessing the full text of your citations.

For those citations that do not have a full text link available, you will have to check with any supporting library service you can access.