

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).

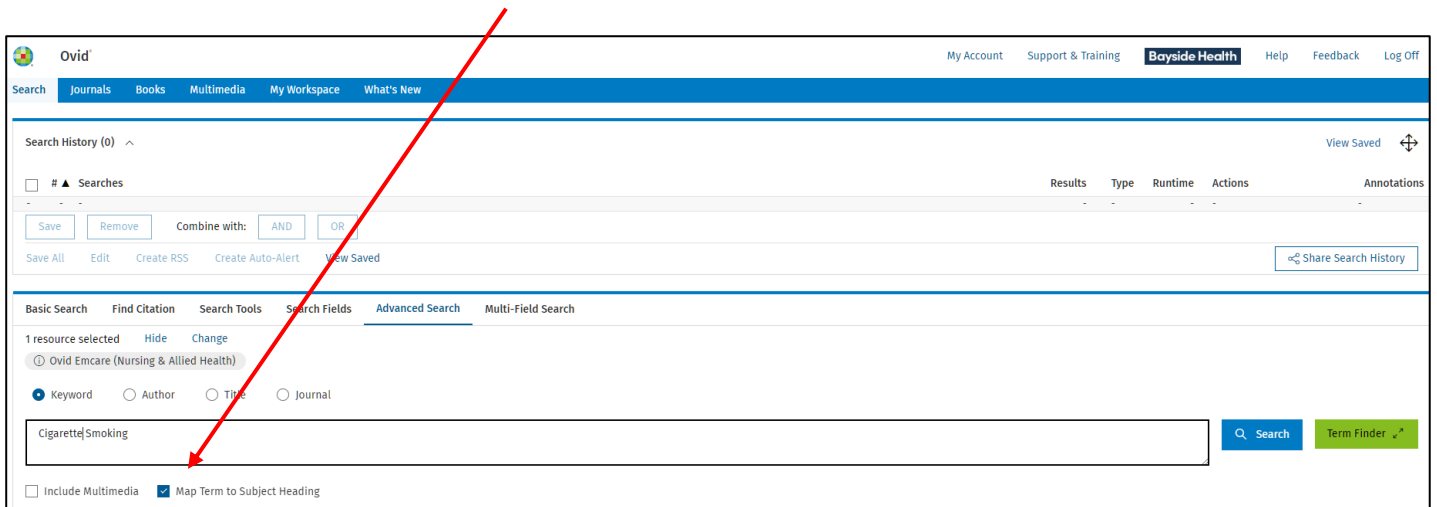
3. Access EMCARE via Ovid

Open the Library's Website at <http://www.alfredlibrary.org>
Go to the Resources page and click on the **Emcare (Ovid Nursing & Allied Health)** link, under "Databases".

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

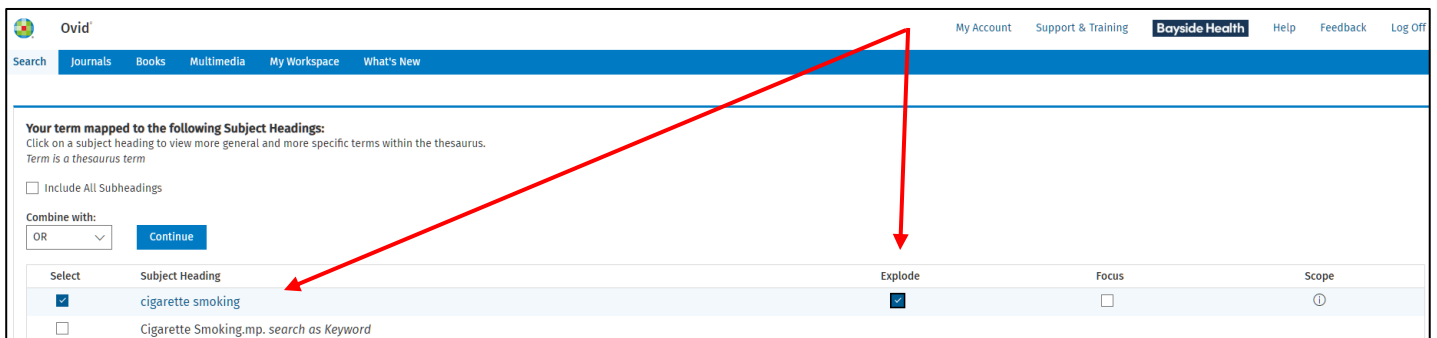
4. Type your first search term (cigarette smoking) into the search box, then click on the search button.

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.



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

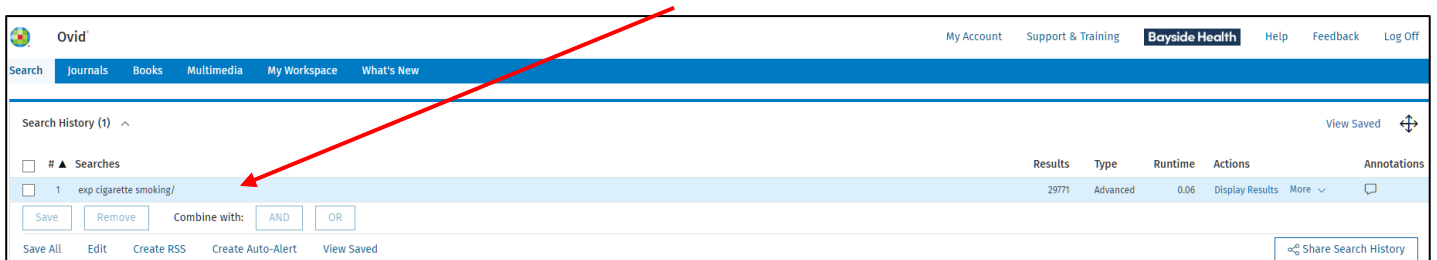
Note that the system has mapped “cigarette smoking” to the preferred subject of “cigarette smoking”. It is in blue writing, which denotes it as a subject heading from the thesaurus.



- ❖ 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.

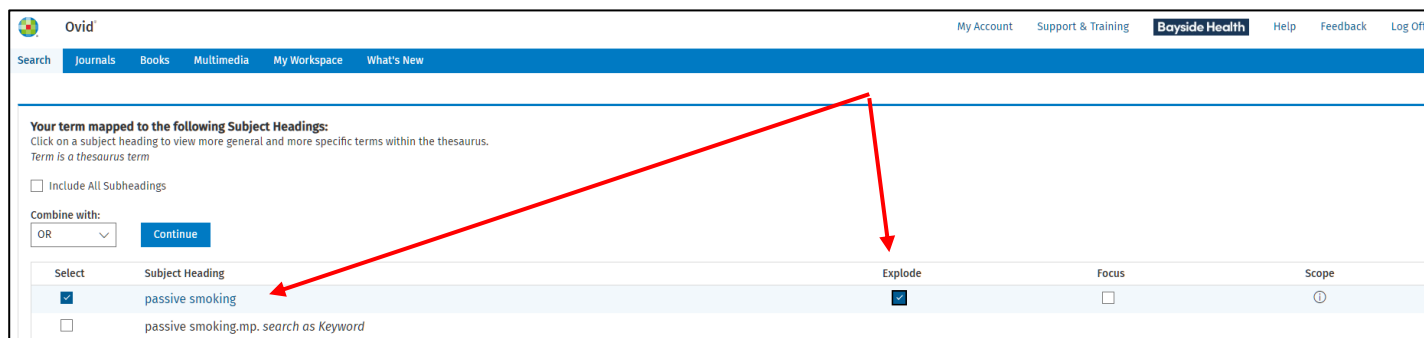
6. Click on the **Continue** button

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



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).

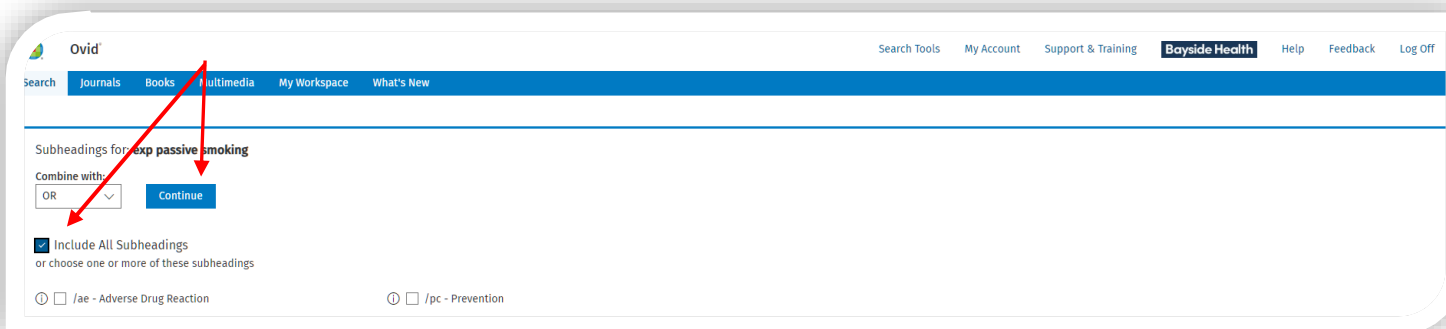


9. Click on the button

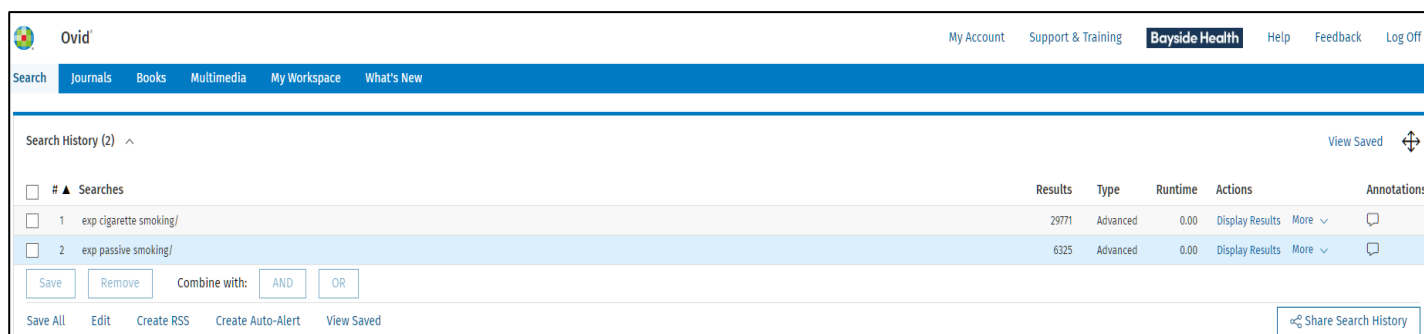
10. Subheading Display.

Tick "Include All Subheadings" (this is also the default option).

If required, you could select those subheadings that are most appropriate. However, beware of reducing your results too soon. Then, click on the Continue button.



11. Now you have a set of results for Passive Smoking.



12. 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.

The screenshot shows the Ovid Search History page with three search sets listed in a table. The table has columns for # Searches, Searches, Results, Type, Runtime, Actions, and Annotations. Search set 1 is 'exp cigarette smoking/' with 29771 results. Search set 2 is 'exp passive smoking/' with 6325 results. Search set 3 is 'exp birth weight/' with 60261 results. Below the table are buttons for Save, Remove, and Combine with (AND/OR). At the bottom, there are buttons for Save All, Edit, Create RSS, Create Auto-Alert, View Saved, and Share Search History.

# Searches	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
1	exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
2	exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
3	exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	

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.

13. 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.

The screenshot shows the Ovid Search History page with search sets 1 and 2 selected. Red arrows point to the checkboxes in the first column of the table. The 'Combine with' buttons (AND/OR) are visible below the table.

# Searches	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	

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

Combine with:

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

The OR operator is used when combining alternatives

Click on the button.

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

The screenshot shows the Ovid Search History page with a new search set 4 created, labeled '1 or 2'. A red arrow points to this new entry. The 'Combine with' buttons (AND/OR) are visible below the table.

# Searches	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 1 or 2	35236	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	

14. We can now combine the two concepts together.

The screenshot shows a 'Search History (4)' interface with a table of search sets. Two red arrows point to the checkboxes for sets 3 and 4. Below the table are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. At the bottom are buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', 'Create Auto-Alert', 'View Saved', and 'Share Search History'.

#	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
1	exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
2	exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
3	exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	
4	1 or 2	35236	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	

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:

The AND operator is used when putting concepts together.

Click on the 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).

The screenshot shows a 'Search History (5)' interface. A red arrow points to the checkbox for set 5. Another red arrow points to an 'Expand' link on the right side of the table. Below the table are buttons for 'Save', 'Remove', and 'Combine with: AND OR'. At the bottom are buttons for 'Save All', 'Edit', 'Create RSS', 'Create Auto-Alert', 'View Saved', 'Email All Search History', 'Copy Search History Link', 'Copy Search History Details'.

#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
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	

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.

15. 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 2020 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) View Saved

#	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
1	exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
2	exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
3	exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	
4	1 or 2	35236	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
5	3 and 4	818	Advanced	0.01	Display Results More	

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR Contract

Save All Edit Create RSS Create Auto-Alert View Saved Share Search History

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

1 resource selected Hide Change

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

Keyword Author Title Journal

Enter keyword or phrase (* or \$ for truncation) Search Term Finder

Include Multimedia Map Term to Subject Heading

Limits

Full Text Latest Update Abstracts English Language ← 1

Human Cochrane Library

Local Holdings COVID-19

Publication Year: 2020 - Current ← 2

EBM-Evidence Based Medicine: -

Additional Limits Edit Limits

16. 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.

Search Information Previous | Next

All Range: Ex: 1-4, 7 Clear View: Results per page: 10 Go to result: 11 Go

You searched: 3 and 4

Search terms used: birth weight cigarette smoking passive

Search Returned: 818 text results

Sort By: -

Customize Display

Filter By

Add to Search History

Selected Only (5)

Years

All Years Current year Past 3 years Past 5 years

Specific Year Range

Subject Author Journal Publication Type

11. **Association between household second-hand smoke and low birth weight in sub-Saharan Africa.** Abstract Reference Complete Reference **Full Text**

Yaya S., Odusina E.K.
PLOS ONE. 20 (8 August) (no pagination), 2025. Article Number: e0330214. Date of Publication: August 2025.
[Article]
AN: 2040116391
DOI
https://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journ...

Abstract Cite + My Projects + Annotate

12. **Maternal smoking during pregnancy and nicotine and cotinine concentrations in maternal and neonatal hair.** Abstract Reference Complete Reference **Full Text**

Jacqz-Algrain E., Zhang D., Maillard G., Luton D., Andre J., Oury J.F.
BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 109 (8) (pp 909-911), 2002. Date of Publication: August 2002.
[Article]
AN: 37337971
DOI
https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/s1470...

Abstract Cite + My Projects + Annotate

13. **The contribution of assisted conception, chorionicity and other risk factors to very low birthweight in a twin cohort.** Abstract Reference Complete Reference Full Text

Lynch A., McDuffie R., Stephens J., Murphy J., Faber K., Orleans M.
BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. 110 (4) (pp 405-410), 2003. Date of Publication: 01 Apr 2003.
[Article]
AN: 36423216

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)

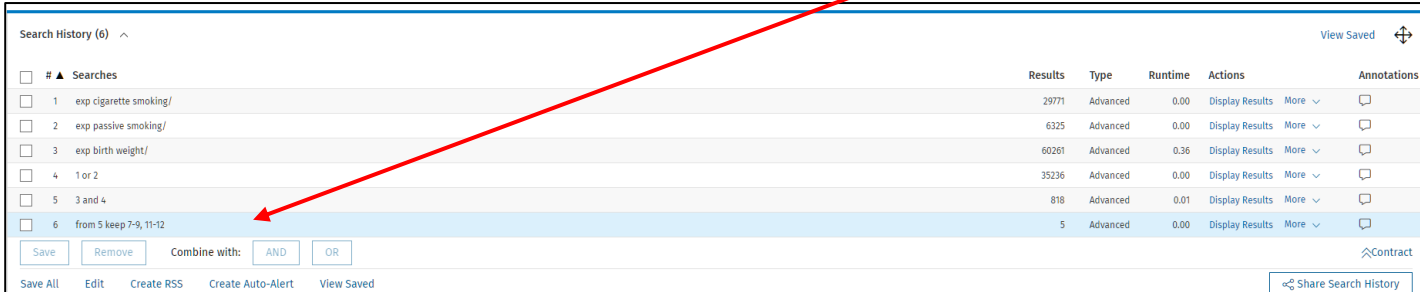
All Range: Ex: 1-4, 7 Clear View: Results per page: 10

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

At the bottom of the page, use the  links to go forwards and backwards through the results list.

18. When you've finished selecting your citations, click on the **Keep Selected** link.


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



#	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2 exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 1 or 2	35236	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 3 and 4	818	Advanced	0.01	Display Results More	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 from 5 keep 7-9, 11-12	5	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	<input type="checkbox"/>

Buttons: Save, Remove, Combine with: AND, OR, Save All, Edit, Create RSS, Create Auto-Alert, View Saved, Share Search History

19. 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 at the bottom of each individual result or item.



20. 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

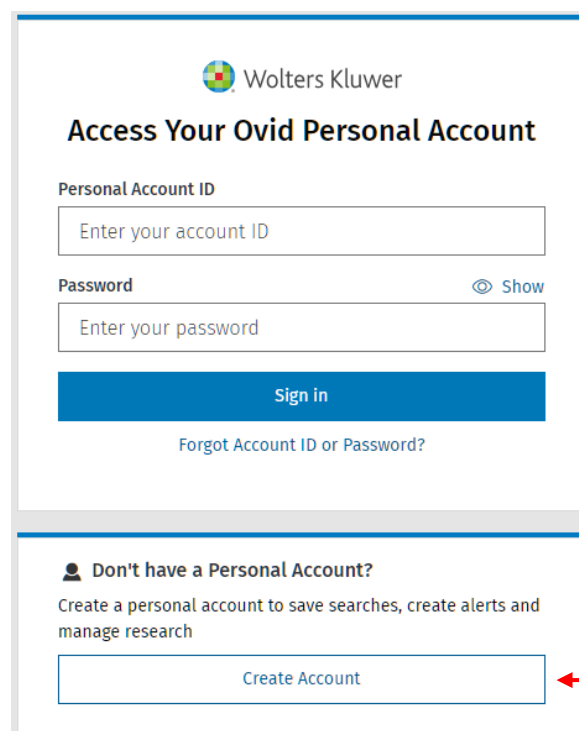


You will need to login to your personal account to access selected functions. Functions which require personal account login are:

- 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.

A screenshot of the Ovid Personal Account page. The page features the Wolters Kluwer logo at the top. Below the logo is the heading 'Access Your Ovid Personal Account'. There are two input fields: 'Personal Account ID' with the placeholder text 'Enter your account ID' and 'Password' with the placeholder text 'Enter your password' and a 'Show' toggle. A blue 'Sign in' button is positioned below the password field. Below the button is a link for 'Forgot Account ID or Password?'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section titled 'Don't have a Personal Account?' with a sub-heading 'Create a personal account to save searches, create alerts and manage research'. A 'Create Account' button is located at the bottom of this section, with a red arrow pointing to it from the right.

21. 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 (6) View Saved

#	Searches	Results	Type	Runtime	Actions	Annotations
1	exp cigarette smoking/	29771	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
2	exp passive smoking/	6325	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
3	exp birth weight/	60261	Advanced	0.36	Display Results More	
4	1 or 2	35236	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	
5	3 and 4	818	Advanced	0.01	Display Results More	
6	from 5 keep 7-9, 11-12	5	Advanced	0.00	Display Results More	

Combine with:

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

Ovid My Account Support & Training Bayside Health

Search Journals Books Multimedia My Workspace What's New

Save Your Search or Create an Alert

Search name

Type

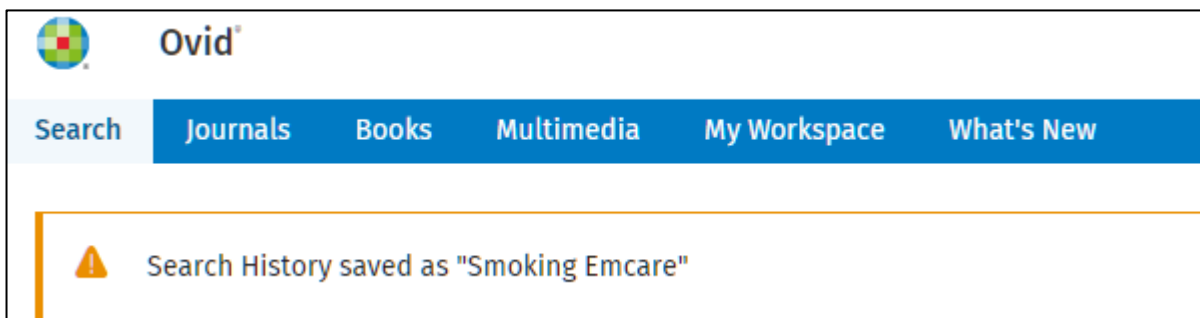
Comment

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.

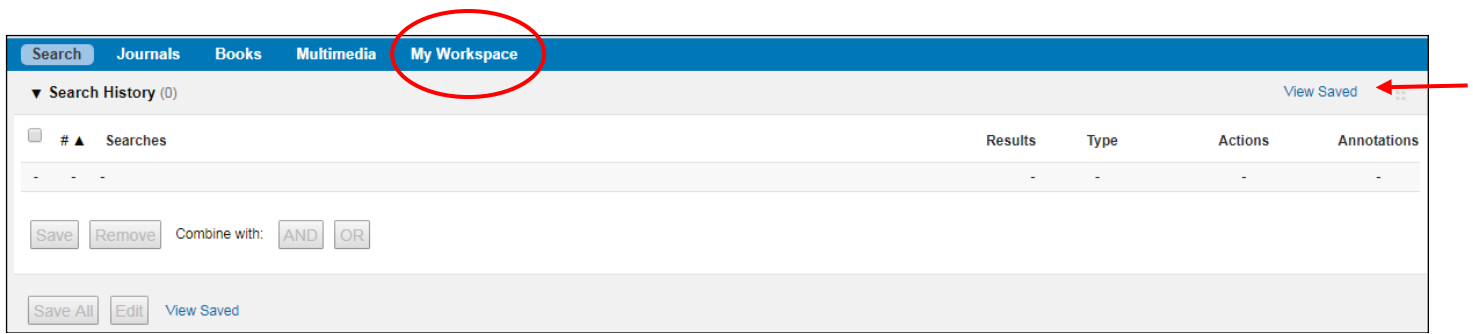
Ovid displays a confirmation message at the top of the Search page once you have saved your search. For example:



22. Accessing Saved Searches

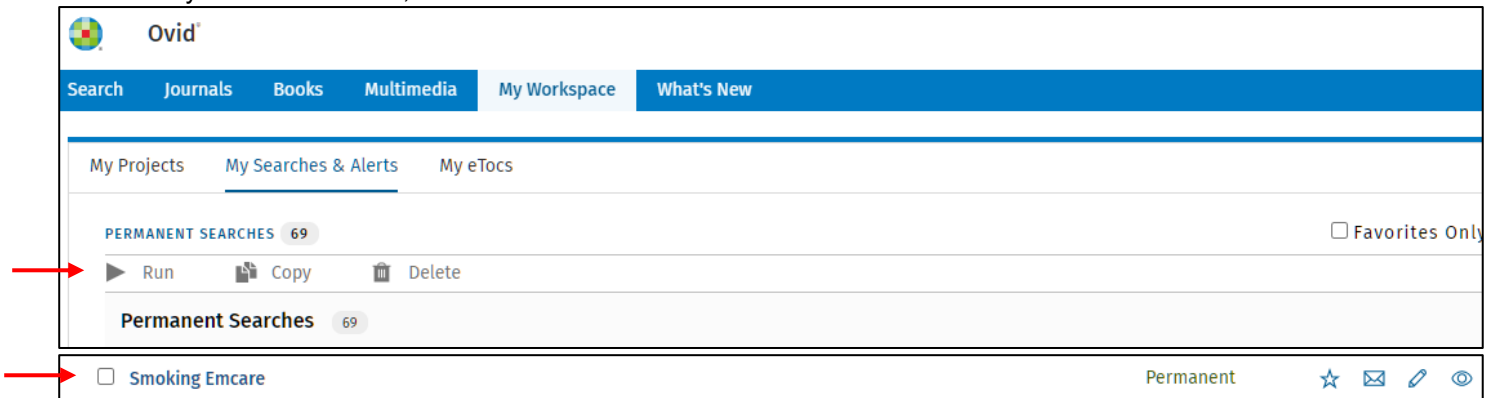
You may view and access your Saved Searches and alerts by clicking on [View Saved](#).

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.



23. 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)

Keyword Author Title Journal

hypno*.mp.

Include Multimedia Map Term to Subject Heading

❖ 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.

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

1 resource selected Hide Change

Ovid Emcare (Nursing & Allied Health)

Keyword Author Title Journal

exercis*

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.

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

Field	Term
Title	autism or autisitc
Abstract	hypno* or exercis*
All Fields	Enter a term and select a field

Operator

AND	Remove
AND	Remove
AND	Remove

+ Add New Row

Search

Limits

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.

24. Accessing the full text of your citations.

For those citations that do not have a full text link available, you will have to check the library's holdings. There is a listing for the online journals on the library webpage: <http://www.alfredlibrary.org>

For articles that are not held by The Ian Potter Library, a document delivery service may be available. Please check with the library to see what document delivery services are available to you.

For further information please contact the library on 90763042 or library@alfred.org.au

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