



## Accessing Embase

- Go to the GOS-ICH Library website: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library>
- Under the Electronic Resources heading, click on **Databases**
- Click on **Embase** in the alphabetical list
- Click on the **UCL or NHS logo**

UCL off-site access requires a UCL computer username and password.

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## Subject Searching: Advanced Ovid Search

You will automatically be taken to the **Advanced Ovid Search** screen.

Imagine 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 the majority of records on that subject regardless of the exact terminology used by the author.



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

Selected Resources

Ovid Resources:  EMBASE 1980 to 2010 Week 34

Keyword  Author  Title  Journal


epilepsy  Search


Limits (Click to expand)  Map Term to Subject Heading

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

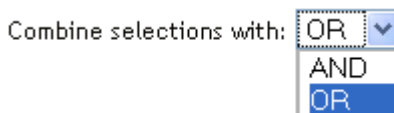
Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">benign childhood epilepsy</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">catamenial epilepsy</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">childhood absence epilepsy</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">epilepsy</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Click on the word *epilepsy* 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. E.g. Exploding **Epilepsy** when searching Embase will also retrieve records which have the subject headings **reflex epilepsy, startle epilepsy, nocturnal seizure**, 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 subject headings as you wish from this list and combine them using AND or OR from the drop-down menu.



Then click on 

If you have selected only one heading, a page of subheadings is now displayed. These can be used to search for a particular aspect of your subject. For example, in our search for phenytoin we might choose to select the subheading **Adverse Drug Reaction**.

- 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.

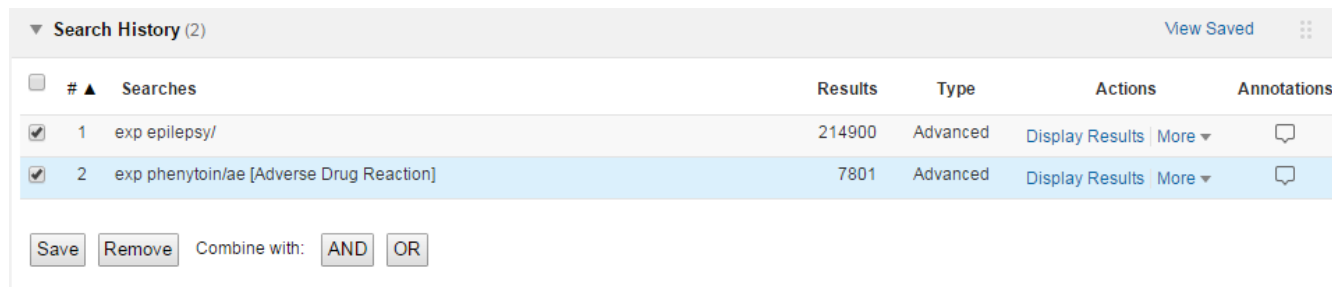
**AND** retrieves articles which contain **all** of your concepts. Eg., a search for **phenytoin and epilepsy** will retrieve articles that mention both of these terms. **And** narrows your search.

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

## 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** button.



#	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
1	exp epilepsy/	214900	Advanced	Display Results   More ▾	🗨
2	exp phenytoin/ae [Adverse Drug Reaction]	7801	Advanced	Display Results   More ▾	🗨

Save Remove Combine with: AND OR

## 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 **Limit a Search**

### 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 keyword 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 keyword searching:


#### Truncation

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

#### Phrase searching


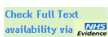
OvidSP searches for multiple words as a phrase. Eg., a search for **cot death** will retrieve records only where the two words appear next to each other. If you wish to enter more than one search term, but not as a phrase, you can do so by separating them with **and** or **or**. E.g., **epilep\* or seizure\***.

## Viewing results

Results are displayed below your search history. To view results from any previous search, click on  [Display](#) for that search line.

- To view all your results with abstracts displayed, click on **View: Abstract** above 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. This can be used as another way to broaden a search for relevant articles.

## Accessing the full text of articles

- Click on the  button (UCL) or the  button (GOSH) for a particular article to link to the full text, where available.
- If you have selected the findit@UCL button, a UCL Explore catalogue screen will appear. If the full text is available, the details of the publisher are displayed in the 'View It' section
- Sign in to your library account and click on the publisher to access the article.
- Library account access to GOSH staff is via their barcode and password.
- UCL staff and students should use their IT login.

## Printing, emailing, saving and exporting your results


- Check the boxes next to the articles you wish to keep from all pages.
- Select from the options above the list of search results.

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)  [Export](#)  [Add to My Projects](#)  [Keep Selected](#)

- To **print** your results, click on **Print** and select the information you need (the default is Citation – you may wish to include the abstract). Then click on **Print Preview** and print this screen.
- To **email** results to yourself click on **Email** and complete the on-screen form
- To **export** references to bibliographic software or to Word, click on **Export**. Select the software you wish to export to (e.g. Reference Manager) and the amount of information you need, then click on **Export Citation(s)**.
- To save your results within Ovid SP, click on **Add to My Projects** and create a free account.
- To access any results you have saved to My Projects, make sure you are logged in, then click on **My Workspace**, towards the top of the screen.

## 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 or an alert. If you choose an alert, a box will appear allowing you to enter an email address and choose other options.
- Click on **Save**

### To run a saved search:

- Click on **My Workspace**, at the top right of the search screen, then click on **My Searches & Alerts**. Tick the box next to the search that you want and click on **Run**. Once you see the message '**Search results are on the Main Search Page**', click on **Search** on the horizontal menu above to view the search.

### 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.

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## Further information

If you would like more information, or help using Embase, please contact the GOS-ICH Library:

E-mail: [ich.library@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ich.library@ucl.ac.uk)

Tel: 020 7905 2847 (internal ext. 42847)