OvidSP Databases

Which databases are available through OvidSP?

UCL has access to a number of databases through *OvidSP*, including the following biomedical and health related databases:

- **AMED:** allied health and complementary medicine.
- **EMBASE:** a large biomedical database with a European focus and strengths in drug information.
- **HMIC:** health management.
- **MEDLINE**: the largest biomedical bibliographic database.
- **PsycINFO:** psychological, social, behavioural, and health sciences.

In addition, OvidSP gives access to a range of electronic journals and electronic books.

Accessing OvidSP

UCL staff and students may access *OvidSP* from any computer. Link to the database of your choice from the ICH Library databases list at https://www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library/databases

Off-site access requires a UCL userid.

Advanced Search

When you first enter any *OvidSP* database the Advanced Search screen is displayed.

When carrying out a search for a subject it is best to search for each concept individually and then combine your searches together at the end.
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 all records on that subject regardless of the exact wording used by the author.

• Click on **Search**. A list of relevant subject headings will now be displayed. (This list of subject headings will vary from database to database.). Tick the relevant subject heading.

Select	Subject Heading	Explode	Focus	Scope
☐	benign childhood epilepsy	☐	☐	ⓘ
☐	catamenial epilepsy	☐	☐	ⓘ
☐	childhood absence epilepsy	☐	☐	ⓘ
☐	drug resistant epilepsy	☐	☐	ⓘ
☑	epilepsy	☐	☐	ⓘ

• Click on a term (e.g. on 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 **Audiogenic seizure; 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 headings as you wish from this list and combine them using AND or OR
from the drop-down menu.

☐ **Include Al[AND]gs**
Combine with[✓ OR]

Then click on [Continue »]

If you have selected only one subject heading, a page of subheadings is now displayed. These can be applied to your subject heading to search for a particular aspect of your subject. E.g., 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 [Continue »]
• 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. E.g. searching for **phenytoin and epilepsy** will retrieve articles that mention both of these terms. **AND** narrows your search down
OR retrieves records which contain **any** of your concepts. E.g. 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 Selected** button.

	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	Actions	Annotations
☑	1	epilepsy/	133640	Advanced	Display Results | More ▾	💬
☑	2	phenytoin/ae [Adverse Drug Reaction]	7796	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 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 and click on: [Limit A Search]

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UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health Library
E-mail: ich.library@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/support-services/library

Viewing results

Results are displayed below your search history. To view results from any previous search, click on **Display Results** for that search line. Results are displayed 10 to a page with the most recently added references first. To change these options, use the drop-down menus at the top of the list of results.

• To view all your results with abstracts displayed, click the box at the tp of 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, regardless of whether UCL has a subscription to these titles or not. This can be used as another way to broaden a search for relevant articles.

Linking to the full text of articles

• Click on the findit@UCL button (UCL) or the Check Full Text availability via NHS Evidence 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

Great Ormond Street NHS Hospital for Children NHS Trust

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UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health Library
E-mail: ich.library@ucl.ac.uk
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Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity

- 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   📁 + My Projects   🔖 Keep Selected

- To **print** your results, click on **Print** and select how much information you need (the default is citation + 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 ⬚ Save All   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 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, a temporary search (removed from the server after 24 hours) or an alert If you choose an alert, a box will appear allowing you to enter an email address and choose from many other options.
- Click on **Save**

- **To run a saved search:**
- Click on ⬚ View Saved   at the top right of the search history table, select a search, and click on **Run**.

- **To edit a saved search:**
- Click on ⬚ View Saved   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 re-number search lines as necessary where they appear in your search history.

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