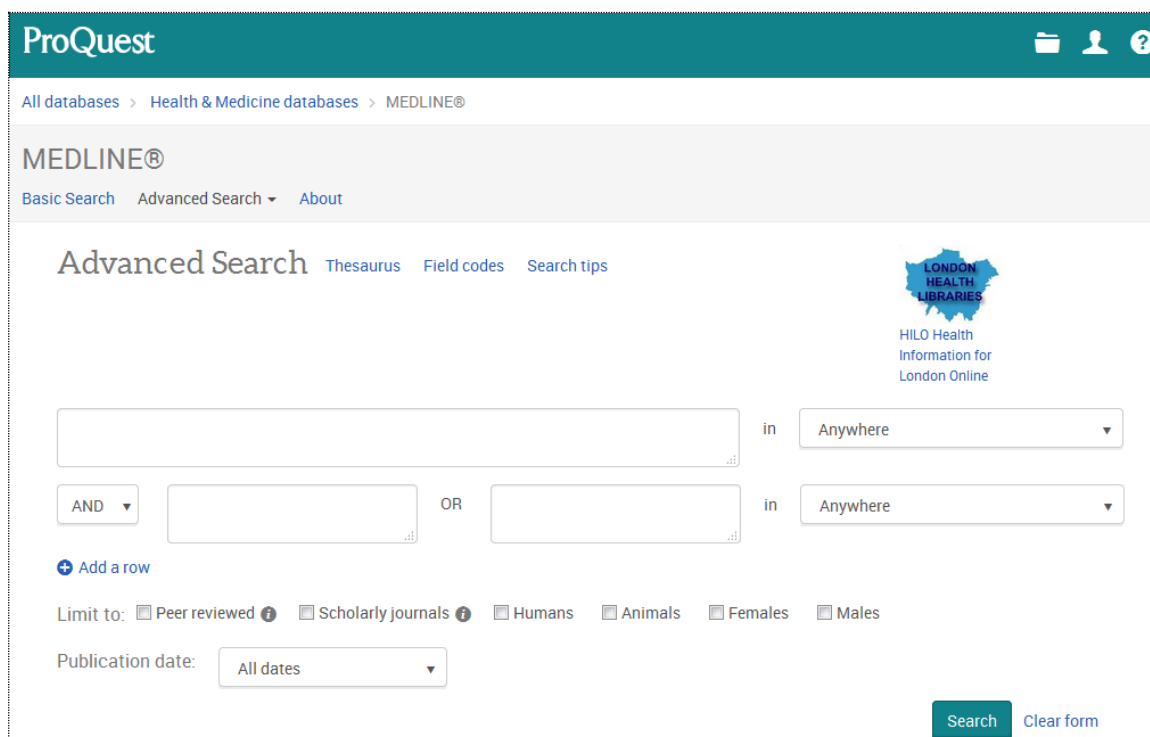


Queen Square Library
UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology &
National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (UCLH)

Quick guide: Proquest databases

Proquest provides access to a range of databases and e-journals. This guide aims to help you to use Proquest **databases** to search for articles published on your topic. Access to Proquest databases varies, depending on which organization you work for.

NHS users can use an NHS OpenAthens account to access the Proquest versions of: **British Nursing Index, Medline & PsycInfo**. UCL users' mostly have access to humanities databases via Proquest, for biomedical topics, please refer to other services.



First, **select a database** from the list at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/library/databases, being careful to select the correct link for UCL or NHS access. Log in when prompted.

Can I search multiple databases together?

You can search more than one database at a time but it is more effective to search each database individually. This allows you to access the full range of search tools, including the correct thesaurus and the most useful limits.

The default search mode is **Advanced Search** and this is usually the recommended option because it allows you to build a full search strategy & to produce comprehensive results.

Other search modes include *Basic Search* (for a quick search) or *Look Up Citation* (to search for a single known article).

When building a search, consider including both a **subject heading** search AND a **keyword** search to make sure your search is as comprehensive as possible – more details on the next page.

When thinking about your topic, first identify the main **CONCEPTS**, as well as any **limits** you need to include. For example:

What has been written in the last **5 years** about the use of **NEUROLEPTIC DRUGS** to treat **female** patients suffering from **DEMENTIA** who are aged between **35 and 65** years old?

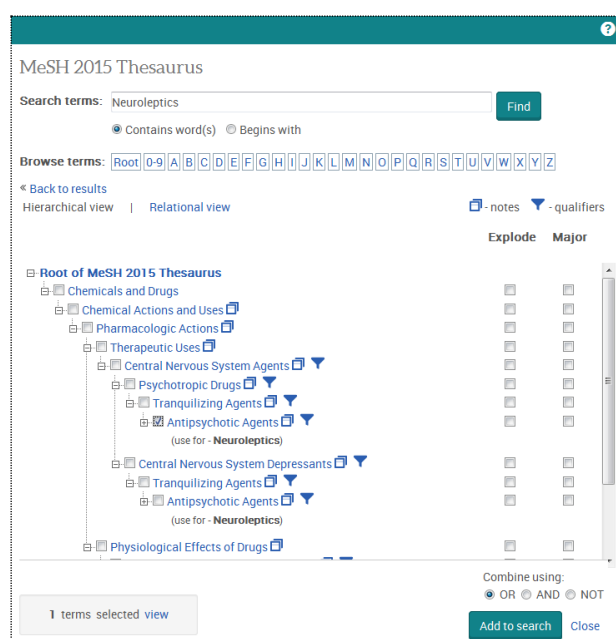
If you would like more information or a training session, please contact the Library.
1st Floor 23 Queen Square – extn.84144 – neurolibrary@ucl.ac.uk
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/library/>




Subject heading search

Some Proquest databases, e.g. Medline & PsycINFO, offer a subject heading search. This allows you to explore synonymous terms and broader / narrower terms. Using a subject heading in your search strategy will usually help you to identify more results and therefore to explore a topic in more depth.

Click **Thesaurus** above the search box to access the list of subject headings for the database you are using. Type in a concept and click **Find** to view related subject headings. E.g. in Medline, search for the term **neuroleptics** to find the synonymous Medical Subject Heading (MeSH) **Antipsychotic Agents**.



To select one or more MeSH for your search, tick the box(es). You can also use the options: *Qualifiers*, *Explode* or *Major*.

- **Qualifiers**  click the icon to select sub-categories, allowing you to focus on an aspect of the topic, noting that this restricts your results.
- **Explode** – tick the Explode box to include articles covering your main concept and those covering related, but more specific, concepts.
- **Major** – tick the Major box to search only for articles where your concept is the major topic.

Click **Add to search** to transfer your selections to the search screen and then click **Search**.

Keyword search

When you have done a subject heading search, you can add a keyword search to your search strategy to expand your results even more. Type a search word into the **Advanced search** and the system will search for it *Anywhere* (i.e. in the citation, keywords, abstract, etc.). Or you can restrict the search, using the menu on the right, to find your word only in the *Title*, etc.

You can truncate your word using * if you need to find variant endings – e.g. type **dement*** to find dementia, dementias, dementing, etc.

To add a second concept, simply add a new search row. Connect the rows using the dropdown menu:

- **AND** to narrow your search & find **all** of the concepts you entered.
- **OR** to broaden your search & find **any** of the concepts.
- **NOT** to find the concept from the first row, but to reject the concept from the second row.

Use the **limits** underneath the search box to further focus your search, e.g. to find items published in the last **5 years** and dealing with **female** patients, aged between **35 and 65**.

Combining search sets

Click the folder icon at the top right of the screen to access **Recent searches** and use the search numbers next to each search set to combine them – e.g. type **1 AND 2** to find articles that appear in search set 1 and also in search set 2.

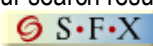
Handling results



In the list of results, use the tick-boxes to select items and then use the action icons at the top of the list.

Cite generates a formatted list (e.g. in Harvard style) for use in your documents. Link to **...More** for:

- **Save to My Research** – set up a (free) Proquest account to save searches and set up email alerts.
- **Export/Save** – in various formats, including Endnote, Word, Excel, etc.

To link from your search results to a full article, click the SFX icon. 

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