

## Searching multiple databases in Ovid

This advanced guide assumes you know how to build a search for a single database in Ovid. For more information on searching using the Ovid interface, please see our '[Ovid user guide](#)'.

Advice on how search skills more generally, can be found in our '[A step-by-step guide to searching for literature](#)' guide available on our website: [www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/training](http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/training)

1. Go to the UHL Libraries & Information Services website databases page ([www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/databases](http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/databases)) and under the column headed 'Supplier: Ovid', use the link for the database that you want to search. Then sign in using your OpenAthens account.

You should be taken to the database you selected, but you can change the database using the 'Change' link above the database name. **Only search one database at a time.**

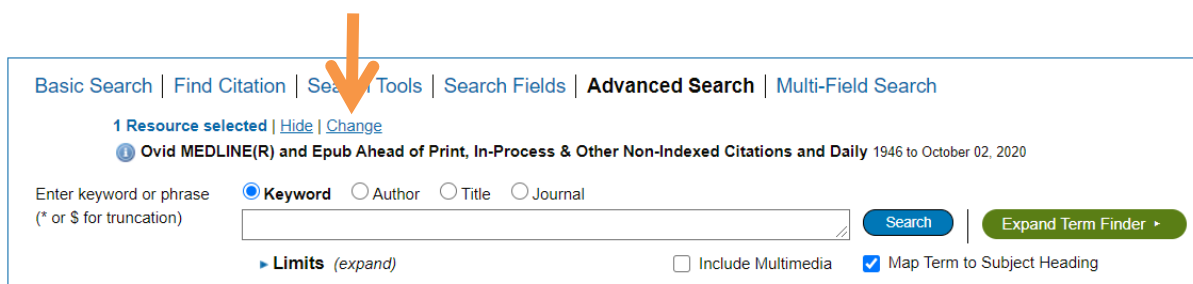
2. Build your search in database 1.

| <input type="checkbox"/> | # ▲ | Searches              | Results |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1   | chocolate*.ti,ab.     | 5808    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2   | cacao.ti,ab.          | 1262    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3   | cocoa.ti,ab.          | 3410    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4   | Chocolate/            | 655     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5   | Cacao/                | 3473    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6   | 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 | 9542    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7   | happy.ti,ab.          | 10663   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8   | happiness.ti,ab.      | 8008    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9   | Happiness/            | 4950    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 10  | 7 or 8 or 9           | 19256   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11  | 6 and 10              | 25      |

3. Add the line 'X use medall', where 'X' is the last combined line of the strategy for the first database. **The text in red is a database name code, and it changes depending on the database you have used.** In this case it was Medline ALL. For a full list of database name codes, please see the [end of the guide](#).

|                          |    |               |    |
|--------------------------|----|---------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 11 | 6 and 10      | 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | 11 use medall | 25 |

4. Go to the search bar and click "Change".



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

1 Resource selected | Hide | Change

Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily 1946 to October 02, 2020

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

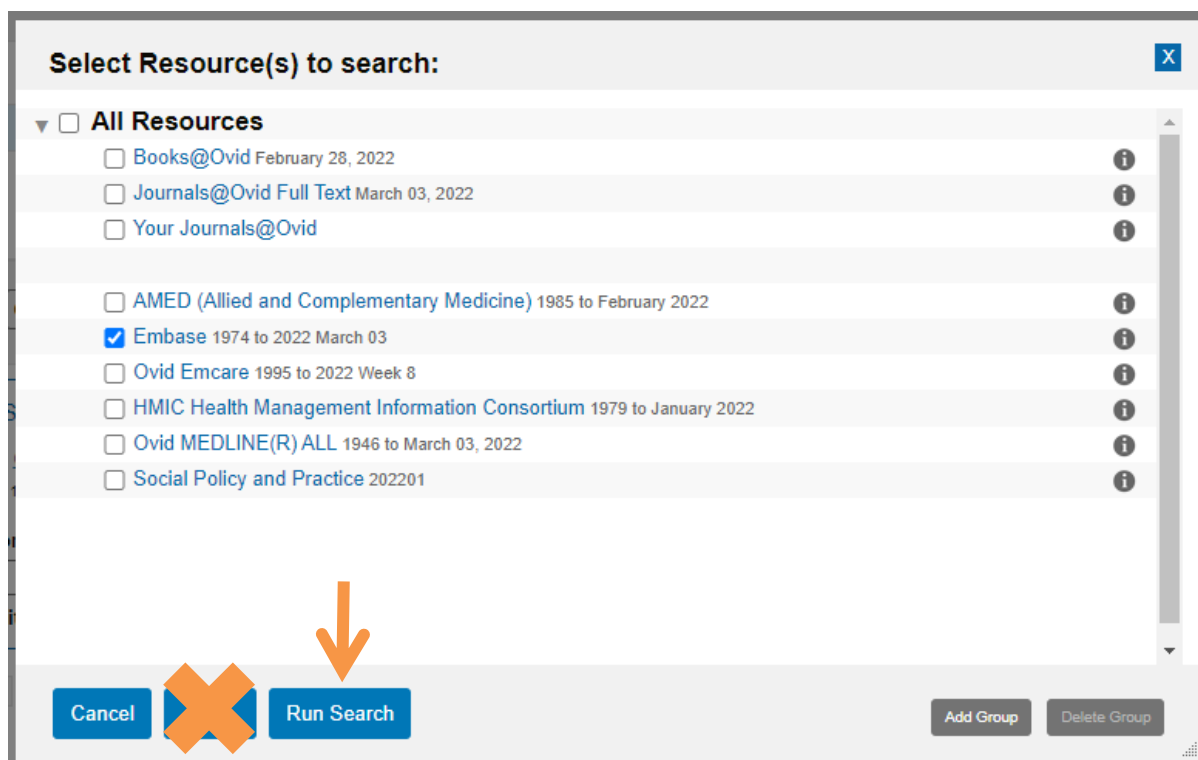
Keyword  Author  Title  Journal

Search Expand Term Finder >

Limits (expand)  Include Multimedia  Map Term to Subject Heading

5. Select your next chosen database (again, just one). Click "Run Search". **DO NOT CLICK "OK"**.

If you do, it will wipe your strategy. If you click back in your browser, it should return to the last step, but don't rely on it. You can save before this step if you think it's a risk.



Select Resource(s) to search:

All Resources

- Books@Ovid February 28, 2022
- Journals@Ovid Full Text March 03, 2022
- Your Journals@Ovid
- AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine) 1985 to February 2022
- Embase 1974 to 2022 March 03
- Ovid Emcare 1995 to 2022 Week 8
- HMIC Health Management Information Consortium 1979 to January 2022
- Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to March 03, 2022
- Social Policy and Practice 202201

Cancel  Run Search Add Group Delete Group

Your final line will now show 0 results – do not panic! This is because it is ‘fixed’ to database 1 and you’ve just run it in database 2. It will come back in a few steps.

6. Translate the search for the second database below the existing search lines. You can copy and paste the keyword lines as they are, **but you will need to search for subject headings again**. This is because different databases use different subject headings (the only exception is Embase and Emcare).

|                          |    |  |       |
|--------------------------|----|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 12 | [11 use medall]                        | 0     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 13 | chocolate*.ti,ab.                      | 7655  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14 | cacao.ti,ab.                           | 1320  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 | cocoa.ti,ab.                           | 3967  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 16 | chocolate/                             | 1945  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 17 | cocoa bean/                            | 132   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | exp cocoa beverage/                    | 120   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | cacao/                                 | 6852  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 | 12929 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | happy.ti,ab.                           | 14823 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | happiness.ti,ab.                       | 9426  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | happiness/                             | 10566 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 21 or 22 or 23                         | 25958 |

7. Repeat step 3, but for the second strategy in database 2. In this case we are using Embase (1974 to yesterday), but remember to change the code as needed in the line ‘**X use oomezd**’.

|                          |    |                |       |
|--------------------------|----|----------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | happiness/     | 10566 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 21 or 22 or 23 | 25958 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 20 and 24      | 35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 25 use oomezd  | 35    |

8. Create one final OR line, which combines the final line from both strategies (**the lines starting 'use'**).

|                          |    |                |       |
|--------------------------|----|----------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | happiness/     | 10566 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | 21 or 22 or 23 | 25958 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 20 and 24      | 35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | 25 use oemezd  | 35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | 12 or 26       | 35    |

9. Go to the search bar again and click **“Change”** (as in step 4). Select **both** databases you have searched. Click **“Run Search”**. **DO NOT CLICK ‘OK’**.

10. Your search will now run on both databases, and some arrows will appear next to each search line. A deduplicate link will also appear. Click **“Deduplicate”**.

|                          |    |  |       |          |
|--------------------------|----|--|-------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 18 | ▶ exp cocoa beverage/                    | 120   | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 19 | ▶ cacao/                                 | 10325 | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | ▶ 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 | 22471 | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 21 | ▶ happy.ti.ab.                           | 25486 | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 22 | ▶ happiness.ti.ab.                       | 17434 | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 23 | ▶ happiness/                             | 15516 | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 24 | ▶ 21 or 22 or 23                         | 45214 | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | ▶ 20 and 24                              | 60    | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 26 | ▶ 25 use oemezd                          | 35    | Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | ▶ 12 or 26                               | 60    | Advanced |

Combine with:

Scroll to the bottom of the new screen and **select your final OR line**. It defaults to preferring records with an abstract, and the last database searched. You can change this if you want at the bottom of the screen.

|                                  |    |                |       |          |
|----------------------------------|----|----------------|-------|----------|
| -                                | 24 | 21 or 22 or 23 | 45214 | Advanced |
| <input type="radio"/>            | 25 | 20 and 24      | 60    | Advanced |
| <input type="radio"/>            | 26 | 25 use oemezd  | 35    | Advanced |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> | 27 | 12 or 26       | 60    | Advanced |

### Edit Deduping Preferences

| Field Preferences                             | Database Preferences                            |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Has Abstract | 1. <input type="text" value="Embase"/>          |
| <input type="radio"/> Has Full Text           | 2. <input type="text" value="Ovid MEDLINE(R)"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Has Index Terms         |   |
| <input type="radio"/> No Field Preference     |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Has Abstract            |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Has Full Text           |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Has Index Terms         |   |

12. Scroll to the top and click “Continue”. It will show a new deduplicated line.

|                          |    |                             |    |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 27 | ▶ 12 or 26                  | 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 28 | ▶ remove duplicates from 27 | 40 |

### Ovid Database Codes

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Medline ALL (1046 to daily update)  | MEDALL |
| Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process, In-Data-Review & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily (1946 to present) | PPEZ   |
| Embase (1974 to yesterday)  | OEMEZD |
| AMED (1985 to present)  | AMED   |
| HMIC 1979   | HMIC   |
| Social Policy and Practice  | SOPP   |
| Emcare (1995 to last week)  | EMCR   |

### Contact the libraries

If you have any questions on anything contained in this guide, specific queries on the individual databases, or anything else on searching for information or using our resources, please don't hesitate to get it touch with one of the libraries.

#### LRI Library

Odames Library, Level 1, Victoria Building  
Email: [odameslibrary@nhs.net](mailto:odameslibrary@nhs.net)  
Phone: 0116 258 5558

#### Glenfield Library

Ground floor, Education Centre  
Email: [glenfieldlibrary@nhs.net](mailto:glenfieldlibrary@nhs.net)  
Phone: 0116 256 3672

#### LGH Library

First floor, Education Centre  
Email: [leicestergenerallibrary@nhs.net](mailto:leicestergenerallibrary@nhs.net)  
Phone: 0116 258 8124

Training courses, guides and e-learning can also be found on our website, which is available from home, work or on mobile: [www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/training](http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/training)