Searching EMBASE (Ovid)

EMBASE is an international biomedical and pharmaceutical bibliographic database indexing over 6100 journals from 1974 to the present. Areas covered include medicine, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, toxicology, health care systems and public health, drug dependence and psychiatry. EMBASE is updated daily.

Example of a search topic: you are interested in the effect of Warfarin on Pulmonary Embolism.

1. Access Ovid EMBASE via SALUS
2. Decide on your search terms

In this example, the terms you are searching for are Warfarin and Pulmonary Embolism. More complex searches may have several search terms.

For assistance with deciding on search terms, please consult your library staff.

The main ways of searching OVID databases are Keyword searching or Subject heading searching.

Keyword searching looks for a word or phrase within a citation, so you will usually pick up lots of results. However, you will need to think of every different term and spelling the author may have used to describe that topic (eg pregnancy, pregnancies, pregnant, gestation etc.) or use the truncation symbol * eg pregnan*

Subject 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 retrieve fewer results than keyword searching but they will be more relevant results.

3. Type your first search term pulmonary embolism into the search box, then press Search >

Notice that the Map Term to Subject Heading box is ticked, so you are doing a SUBJECT HEADING search.
This will take you to the subject headings used in the database and display the preferred term to use for pulmonary embolism.

In this example the preferred term to use is the subject heading Lung Embolism.

4. Choose a subject heading from those suggested

This next screen shows what happens if you click on the term Lung Embolism. You can see the indexing terms from the thesaurus, and where Lung Embolism is positioned in the Subject Tree.

You can also see the broader and narrower terms associated with the subject heading.

At this point you may wish to Explode or Focus this subject heading.

If you Explode a subject term, you will search on this subject term and any more specific subject terms below.

Note: these results will change as more articles are added to EMBASE.

If you choose Focus, this will only retrieve articles where this subject heading is the major focus of the article.

If you wish, you can select both Explode and Focus to include more specific subject terms (if available) and only those where the subject term is the main focus of the article.

For this example we are going to select ‘Explode’.

When you have made your selection, click CONTINUE >
5. Either select sub-headings for the subject heading, or click CONTINUE > to automatically select All Subheadings (this is generally recommended)

You now have a set of results for your first search on pulmonary embolism, using the ‘exploded’ subject heading lung embolism.

Note: you can ‘Click to expand’ and view, or ‘Click to close’ various search features, eg Limits, Search History to reduce scrolling.

6. Now enter your second search term warfarin into the search box

If you are looking for a particular drug name/ equipment name, it is often best to do a Keyword search but to be comprehensive you could also do a subject search.

To do a keyword search, remove the tick from the box ‘Map Term to Subject Heading’, enter your term and press Search

You now have two search sets: set 1 for pulmonary embolism and set 2 for warfarin.

Note that your latest search results will always be displayed beneath your Search History.
However, these 2 searches are separate searches and are not related to each other. These search sets need to be combined to make the search results more relevant by finding documents that contain both search terms.

7. To Combine searches
   - select the sets by ticking the boxes you want to combine
   - then select **And** to find articles that contain both search terms

Note: if you choose OR you would retrieve articles that deal with either term but not necessarily both terms.

This gives you a new set (**set 3**) with the results for articles that contain both pulmonary embolism *AND* warfarin.

8. You can apply LIMITS to your results
   - Click on **Limits** to expand and display the options if you have previously closed this.

Note that when using Limits, you are applying them to your latest search, ie set 3 in our example.
In this example the limits selected are **English Language** and **Publication Year**.

**Additional Limits** are also available (limit to age groups, clinical queries, publication types, gender etc).

After selecting your limits, press **Search**

You now have a new set of results (**set 4**) all of which are in English and limited to Humans and published between 2007 and the current date.

9. **Viewing your search results**

To save time & scrolling:
- change the number of results displayed from 10 per page to 100 per page
- and click this button to display all Abstracts

Note: your search terms will be highlighted in yellow.

Use the link on the right hand side to view the Abstract Reference or Complete Reference, find other Similar articles or Citing Articles etc.
Note that Complete Reference is not the full-text. It is the citation, all the author affiliations, abstract (if available), subject headings and other information applied to that citation.

You can further limit these results by using Filter By on the left hand side of the screen eg limit to Current year, Subject, Author etc.

If there is no Full Text link displayed, click on the link. Item not available… request it!

Clicking this button will automatically populate a request form. Library staff will obtain the article/s for you from another library and you will be sent an email when the full text item is available, usually as a PDF.

10. Print, Email, Export your Results

Tick to select the results you want to print, email, export or save.
Or tick this box to select ALL results in 1 action, then select the appropriate icon to Print, Email etc.

Use Export to save your results as Microsoft Word or PDF documents, or use programs such as EndNote or RefWorks.

Then select:
- the Fields to Display (Citation or Citation + Abstract, Complete Reference etc)
- the Citation Style (APA, MLA etc)

Include – URL and Search History are automatically selected

11. My Workspace - My Projects, My Searches & Alerts

My Workspace can be used to
- store saved searches, citations, full text, graphics (My Searches and Alerts)
- create projects and folders within projects (My Projects)

Before you can access and use My Workspace, you need to enter your Personal Account Name and Password

If you don’t already have a Personal Account you will need to create a Personal Account
12. More specific searches: Authors, Titles, Journals, Books etc

Author Search:
- Select the Author search button above the search bar
- Enter the author’s last name, a space and the first initial if known eg Smithy J
- Click Search
A list of author name options will appear
- Select the name which you wish to search by clicking in the check box
- Click Search for Selected Terms

Title Search: use when looking for the title of an article
Select the Title search button above the search bar
- Enter the word or phrase which you wish to search, then click Search

Journal Search: allows you to determine if a particular journal is indexed and can be found in the database.
Select the Journal search button above the search bar
- Enter the first few letters of the full title of the journal OR the standard journal abbreviation, if known
- Click the Search button and a journal title index will appear
- Select the name which you wish to search by clicking in the check box, then click Search for Selected Terms

You can also browse, search for or select particular Journals and Books available through Ovid using the tabs on the top navigation bar

In Journals – for more information click on a selected title or its About link or use the filters (by Availability, Title, Subject etc) on the left
For **Books**, use *Search* for a known title, or *Subject* to find books on a particular topic.

Please remember to LOGOFF when you have finished searching EMBASE

For more information or assistance, contact your local SA Health site library -

health.salus@sa.gov.au