Welcome to this tutorial on Ovid Medline. Ovid MEDLINE covers international literature on biomedicine, including the allied health fields and the biological and physical sciences, humanities, and information science as they relate to medicine and health care. Records start in the early 1800's and go all the way to current daily updates. Ovid MEDLINE is produced by the National Library of Medicine.

We also have a database called Ovid Emcare. Ovid Emcare covers some different resources, and most times you need to search in several databases to find the information you need. With the exception of the variety of limiters, the interfaces of Ovid Medline and Ovid Emcare are essentially the same. So, rather than create two separate videos, I will be recording this one tutorial using Ovid Medline. But the same techniques discussed here can be used in Ovid Emcare.

A quick way to access Ovid Medline or Ovid Emcare is through the Nursing Subject Guide, located at https://library.uncw.edu/guides/nursing. When you click on this link from off campus, you will be asked to log in with your uncw e-mail login and password.

The first thing that I like to do is choose which type of search to conduct. In this case, the database defaulted to what Ovid refers to as their Advanced Search. Let’s go from left to right and look at the various ways to search. There is no best way to search, only the best way to search to meet your research needs.

Starting all the way on the left is the Basic Search mode. With the Basic Search mode, you can use just keywords, or, you can enter a complete topic or even a question. In other words, in Basic Search mode you can use more natural sounding language. Let’s start with the question, “How do I prevent infections in catheter patients?” If you’re interested in also getting multimedia sources such as video clips or images, check the “Include Multimedia” box. Checking the “Include Related Terms” box broadens your search. You should see several limiting options below this text box. If you don’t see these options, click on the drop down arrow on the left. I’m presented with several limiters such as Humans, Full Text, English Language, Publication Year, etc. To change the list of limiters, click on the Edit Limits button. By checking and unchecking these boxes, you can add or delete these limiters from the search page. There are several boxes that contain multiple options. To add these to the search page, put a check mark next to the descriptor above the limiter box. Then hit the “Customize Limits” button. If you want to add any limits before performing the search, choose the limiters here. With the multi-option boxes, to select more than one option, click on your first choice, then hold down the control key when you click on any additional choices.

Now, run the search by hitting the Search button. A summary of your search results and some action options appear across the top of the page. The actual search results appear below the search box and limiters. If you want to add some additional limits, click the “Additional Limits” button. Choose your limits, then click limit a search. Now look across the top. The first time you ran the search, it was assigned the number one. After selecting additional limits and running the search again, this shows that it limited search number one with the limits that you just specified. Scroll down for the new results.

As you scroll down the results list, you’ll see that some of the articles are available in full text within Ovid Medline. You can click here, here, or here to access the full text. Other articles are indexed in Ovid Medline, but Ovid doesn’t have the full-text licensing rights. In that case, you click on Get It From UNCW. That button activates a search for that specific article in the library’s other databases. If we
have it, you will get a link for the full-text. If we don’t have a subscription for that article, you will be given the option to order the article for free through interlibrary loan.

Moving to the next search mode, Find Citation would be used if you already had a whole or partial citation. You could use this to search for any combination of title, journal, author, volume, issue, page, publication year, publisher, or DOI.

Search Tools searches the database vocabulary. You would enter a subject word or phrase, select a dropdown tool, then click Search. Map Term suggests subject terms within the database tree or thesaurus. Tree or Thesaurus locates a subject within the thesaurus structure. Permuted index allows you to enter a single term and view an index of multi-word terms that include the word as well as associated “see” and “see related” terms. Other search tools offer insights into subheadings, subjects, subject classifications or publications, depending on the database(s) selected.

Search Fields searches or browses within resource fields. Enter a word or phrase, select one or more fields, and choose Search to search entries or Display Indexes to browse entries. Clear Selected cancels your choices. When displaying indexes, a two-letter field label appears next to each term. Select all relevant entries and click Search for Selected Terms.

The Advanced Search searches by keyword, author name, title, or journal title. The natural sounding language that works in a Basic search won’t work in the Advanced Search mode. Watch what happens if we use the same question that we used in Basic Search. “How do I prevent infections in catheter patients?” This time we get zero results. That’s because if we have keyword selected, then the best strategy is to only use the keywords from your search query. So in this case I would enter infections and catheter. The same information about limiting options and full-text availability that we covered in the Basic Search mode segment also apply here.

The one thing you have to be careful of in Advanced Search mode is to make sure the “Map Term to Subject Heading” box is not checked, unless you actually want to map to the subject heading. If this box is checked, instead of searching the database for resources, it will take me to the link to the subject heading for my search term. In some cases when you open Ovid Medline it will open directly to Advanced Search mode and the Map Term to Subject Heading box will already be checked by default. So watch out for that.

Finally, there is the Multi-Field Search mode, which looks similar to what most other databases call their Advanced Search mode. You are presented with a series of boxes. You enter your search terms in the empty text boxes. You use the drop down box after the text box if you want to specify where you want the database to look for your search term. For example you may want to search for the term in the article’s abstract, or in the field for the author’s last name. You can add additional rows if needed. You can also choose the connectors or as they are also known, Boolean operators. Generally, you would leave these on AND, for example if you were searching for infections AND catheters. You might change this to OR, if you were using the terms Physicians OR Doctors. An example of when you might use NOT, would be if you were searching for articles about surfing the web, not surfing the ocean, you would put Surfing in one box, change the connector to NOT, and then put Ocean in the next box. And just as there were in the Basic and Advanced search modes, there are limiters on the left side. They may be hidden, but you can open them by clicking on Limits.
I want to point out a tool in Ovid Medline and Emcare called Search Builder. The link for Search Builder is located in the header bar across the top of the page. Click here to open Search Builder. The first thing you’ll have to do is select a database. You can select Ovid Medline, Ovid Emcare, or both. A check mark appears next to the selected databases. Click outside of this box to lock in your selection.

Next, type your keyword. I’ll enter atrial fibrillation. You can choose whether you want a multi-purpose wide search. Or, you can choose to search for your keywords in specific fields such as just the title or abstract.

Click Map Keywords. That searches the database for the controlled vocabulary subject headings for your keywords. If you select any of the subject headings, Search Builder will search for your keywords plus the subject headings, using the connector OR. After you’ve made your selections, hit the Close button.

Then click the Synonyms button. The synonyms are all selected by default. You can unselect any if you choose. Search Builder will search for your keywords, plus any synonyms that you’ve selected, using the connector OR. After you’ve made your selections, hit the Close button.

Hit the plus sign to add another row. I’ll enter the keyword diet. Select a wide search or limit your keywords to specific fields. Map your keywords to the controlled subject headings and select the ones that you want. Then add synonyms. Remember all the synonyms are selected by default and you have to unselect the ones that you don’t want.

Finally, add any limits as a wide, focused, or if available, a balanced search filter. Select an option then click on the adjacent information button to see how Search Builder applies that particular filter.

Click Launch Search.

The search strategy appears here along with the number of results. Below that will be the search with any limits you have applied. If you choose to add additional limits, you can do that here by clicking on additional limits. Any additional limits you select will be added to the search indicated above. When you’ve selected your additional limits, hit limit search. Once again, the results appear below the search boxes. You can see how Search Builder may be useful when formulating or refining a PICO question.

Thank you for joining me for this tutorial for Ovid Medline and Emcare.