

Welcome to this tutorial on Subject searching using Ovid research databases. First, a brief word about keywords and subject headings. Typically, when you perform a keyword search, the database will search for your word or phrase in the title, abstract, and subject fields. So usually the keyword is a relevant part of the article. Subject headings are more likely to be a major part of the article, with the results being more specific. When a professional indexer, such as a librarian at the National Library of Medicine, reads an article, they determine the major points of the article, in other words, what the article is about. They then assign subject headings from a controlled vocabulary to that article. You might think of subjects as tags. And in using a controlled vocabulary, all indexers are working with the same subject headings. So, for example, if an article is about heart attack patients, you wouldn't have one indexer assign the subject heading heart attack, and another indexer assign a different term. All indexers would use the term myocardial infarction, which is the controlled vocabulary for heart attack.

At the time I recorded this video, Randall Library had subscriptions to two research databases from Ovid, Ovid Medline and Ovid Emtree. Except for some of the optional limiters, the interfaces of these two databases are essentially the same. So, I'm recording just one video using Ovid Medline. But note that you can perform the same searches using Ovid Emtree.

Both databases are linked to the Nursing Subject Guide, located at library.uncw.edu/guides/nursing. If you are off campus, you will be asked to log in with your UNCW e-mail login and password. When I click on the link for Ovid Medline, it defaults to the advanced search, with the Map Term to Subject Heading already selected. If your page does not look like this, click on Advanced Search and put a check in the box next to Map Term to Subject Heading.

I'll start with the words high blood pressure. I am taken to the controlled vocabulary term for high blood pressure which is hypertension. I hit the continue button. These are the subheadings for hypertension. I can choose to select any of these or simply include them all by hitting the continue button again. In my personal experience, I've found it best to just hit continue, and then add limiters after you get your initial results.

Next I'll search for diet. I see that Diet is an official controlled vocabulary subject heading, but I'm really interested in the Mediterranean diet, and I see that that is also a subject heading, listed as Diet, Mediterranean. So I'll choose that instead, and hit continue. And once again, I'll hit continue, keeping all the subheadings, rather than selecting individual ones.

And finally, I'll search for aerobic exercise. I see that aerobic exercise does not have its own controlled vocabulary subject heading. This shows me that the subject heading is exercise. So once again, I'll hit continue.

Here are the results of my 3 subject searches. I can view them individually, but I want to combine all three. So, I put a check in front of each line, and click AND where it says "Combine with."

This line shows me the results of my combined search, with the links to the articles appearing below the search box and limiters. If I wanted to use any limiters at this point, I would click on Additional Limits, select the limits I wanted, and then click the Limit a Search button.

Some articles will be immediately available with full text links. Others will say "Get it from UNCW." This means the article is indexed in Ovid, but Ovid does not have the full text rights. So clicking on this link searches the other Randall Library databases for the full-text article. If we have it, you'll be given a link

to the full-text. If we don't have it, you will be presented with the opportunity to order the article for free through interlibrary loan. Thank you for joining me for this tutorial on subject searching in the Ovid research databases.