

Top Ten Advanced Ovid Search Tips

1. Review MeSH terms before selecting them for searches.

Don't trust MeSH blindly--read scope notes and understand tree structure.

2. Use the Permuted Index to find MeSH terms.

For single-word lookup, not phrases.

3. Use Search Field Tags.

Syntax: **.in**=institution (e.g., **Jefferson.in** or **Kimmel.in**)
.au=author (last name first)
.ti=title
.ab=abstract

4. Find out when a MeSH term was introduced into the database.

This will help you to search for a topic retrospectively.

Example: **Personal Digital Assistant**

YEAR of ENTRY: 2003

PREVIOUS INDEXING: Microcomputers (1992-2002)

From 1995 to 2002 best to use search field for searching for:

PDA OR personal digital assistant\$.mp

5. Try reverse engineering a search.

Work backwards by clicking on the MeSH headings within the complete reference of a good citation to locate similar citations.

6. Use the MEDLINE In Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations database to locate the most recent articles.

- Only keyword searching--Articles are not assigned MeSH headings yet
- In PubMed you can search MEDLINE and **In Process** records together.

7. Don't use the Ovid multiple database search tab for subject searching.

Each database has unique subject headings and vocabulary.

8. Do a caption field search to find graphics and images in Journals@OVIDfulltext.

Syntax = **.ct** (e.g., **pneumothorax.ct**)

9. Use the truncation symbol to search multiple words with the same root.

Example: **toxic\$** will retrieve toxicology, toxicity, toxicologist, etc

10. Use Frequency and Adjacency operators.

See reverse for details

Frequency and Adjacency Operators

Frequency Operator

The Frequency Operator will ensure that documents containing your search term or phrase will be retrieved only if the word or phrase occurs at least the number of times that you specify. In general, documents that contain many instances of your query text will be more relevant to you than documents that contain few instances of your query text.

Syntax for this operator is as follows: "**x.fd/freq=n**", where **x** is the query, **fd** is the 2-letter field name, and **n** is the threshold frequency. There are no spaces in this command.

Adjacency Operator

If your search term consists of two or more words (e.g., "blood pressure"), OVID assumes a relationship between those words and the search will return records where the words occur next (or, adjacent) to one another.

Advanced searchers may use command line syntax, the "Adjacency Operator", to instruct OVID to search for two or more words within a specified number of words of each other in either direction.

Syntax:	Action:	Search Statement Examples:
ADJ <i>NOTE: case-sensitive (must be entered in upper case letters).</i>	Proximity -- searches words as a phrase	blood ADJ pressure (same as: blood pressure) <i>Not necessary to use this syntax (ADJ) since OVID assumes this relationship if terms are separated by a space.</i>
ADJ[n] <i>n = any number from 1 through 99, immediately following ADJ without a space (e.g., ADJ7 or ADJ3).</i>	Proximity -- finds the words within a specified number of words from each other.	teenage ADJ5 pregnancy or fullterm ADJ6 pregnancy

A search for **teenage ADJ5 pregnancy** will retrieve records where the word **pregnancy** occurs within 5 words of the word **teenage**. The order of the words doesn't count

For help with Ovid searching or JEFFLINE resources,
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or,
email: Askalibrarian@jefferson.edu

