MEDLINE (OVID)
Advanced Search
What is Medline (OVID)

- Major medical and biomedical databases from the U.S. National Library of Medicine
- Coverage from 1948 onwards includes, clinical medicine, nursing, public health, allied health disciplines, health promotion and wellbeing.
- Available through the OvidSP platform which enables advanced searching using the MeSH controlled vocabulary thesaurus as well as keyword searching.
- Updated daily
Controlled Vocabulary Indexing

• A keyword search will find articles on whatever you type into the search box, wherever it appears in the text and in no context.

• In order to make sure that only the most relevant articles are retrieved medical databases have developed specialised controlled vocabularies. The first, developed by Medline (OvidSP), is known as MeSH (medical subject headings).

• CINAHL Plus, AMED, EMBASE and PsycINFO have all devised their own indexing systems based on the principles of MeSH.
What are the benefits of using controlled vocabularies?

• Databases use the principle of preferred terms to classify topics, making them easier to find e.g. search for **high blood pressure** and Medline (Ovid) will suggest you use their preferred term **hypertension**

• Subject headings give terms specific definitions and help remove ambiguity as the context of articles are used as the base for indexing rather than the terminology used e.g. using the preferred term **stroke** will also find articles that refer to cerebral stroke, apoplexy and cva but not articles on heat stroke or swimming techniques
Example Question

- We are going to search for information on the topic ‘young people’s self management of type 2 diabetes’

Before you start a search, think about any alternative terms for your keywords;

**self management** can also be described as self-care

**type 2 diabetes** is also known as diabetes mellitus type 2

**young people** may also be young adults or adolescents
MeSH headings example in Medline(OvidSP)

Enter your search term and click on Search

Go to the Library guide to MeSH for more information
Medline (Ovid) will then suggest their preferred indexing term to use.

Click on the Scope Note for more information about Medline’s indexing of the term.
Clicking on the term will open up the Medline Subject Tree. This shows you where the term sits in the overall index and if it has any narrower more specific headings.
In this example you can see that Self Care has 3 narrower more specific headings.

If a term has narrower headings you can click the Explode box to include all in your search.
A new page - Subheadings- open up. You can now choose to limit to a specific aspect of your term but do so with caution as it can removed many useful results.

It is best practice to include all subheadings. Click on Continue to include all.
The search results will appear on the next page. Click on the Search History to open up the search results.
exp before a term means that you have used the Explode function
If your term doesn’t have a Subject Heading or you want to make sure you are not missing any articles with your term, scroll down to the bottom of the screen and select search as Keyword.
To combine, select the relevant terms and click on OR, this will increase the number of articles found.

Use OR to combine similar or like terms
In this example we have found extra articles by using a keyword search.
Continue with the remaining search terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Searches</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>exp Self Care /</td>
<td>38688</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>self management.mp.</td>
<td>6977</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>41433</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus, Type 2/</td>
<td>81653</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Display</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remove Selected  | Save Selected  | Combine selections with:  | And  | Or  | Save Search History
Combine by selecting the relevant terms and click on AND.
You now have 2692 articles containing both terms

Click on Expand to see all your searches
Click on Limits to open up and then Additional Limits for more options.
In this example we will limit to the specific population of Adolescents and Young Adults between and to articles published between 2003-2014.

Scroll up the screen and slick on Limit a Search to apply the limits.
The search is now complete.

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<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 and 4</td>
<td>2692</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>limit 5 to (yr=&quot;2003 -Current&quot; and (&quot;adolescent (13 to 18 years)&quot; or &quot;young adult (19 to 24 years)&quot;))</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To view more details about an article, including the abstract (if available) click on Complete Reference.
Accessing Full Text

• Most academic databases contain only bibliographic records, in order to access and read the full text we need to link out to another supplier.

• If full text from the databases is available it will be clearly marked e.g. [PDF Full Text]

• If no full text link is available use the UU Find It button to link out to one of our other suppliers [Find It]
Learning needs of youth with type 2 diabetes.

Richards D. Larkin M. Milaszewski K. Javier E. Casey T. Grey M.


[Journal Article]

UI: 23589327

**Authors Full Name**


- View Abstract

- Abstract Reference
- Complete Reference
- Find Similar
- Find Citing Articles
- Bibliographic Links
- Internet Resources
Click on the name of the supplier to access. In this example, EBSCO.
Most suppliers will link directly to the article but some, like EBSCO, will link you to the Journal Website. You will then have to look up the article.

Click on All Issues to access the archive
You can now click to read the full text online or go straight to the PDF.
Most databases have a function that enables you to save your search. Look on the screen for the option to save. In Medline(OvidSP) it looks like this;

The first time you will be prompted to create a personal account within the database. On your next visit you will then need to sign in.
Help with searching

• All databases have online Help screens
• Most Help screens are in context or specific to the stage of the search
• Many databases have online tutorials.
• Guides to the databases are available online from the [Database](#) page on the Nursing and Midwifery subject guide
• Ask Mary Rose for help
My Contact Details

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  Assistant Life and Health Sciences Librarian
  Room 13E13
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