NUT815 Nutrition Research Project
Learning Outcomes

By the end of today’s session, you will be able to:

• Formulate a search strategy for a research proposal

• Search for a Journal Article using a reference

• Execute a keyword search in USearch using advanced searching techniques such as truncation, phrases and other search tools

• Execute a keyword search in Medline and become familiar with other databases

• Access the Life and Health Sciences Harvard Referencing guidelines; access short video recordings demonstrating LHS referencing

• Export citations to RefWorks
Search Strategy
Scoping searches

Preparing for your search
Before you start it is important to find out what is already written on your topic
Carrying out a broad scoping search of the literature will:

- give you an overview of the current body of research
- help identify appropriate study types
- identify key authors
- identify key interventions/tools/models etc.
- identify any gaps in the research.

All of which will help to focus your research topic into a research question.
Why do we use databases?

Never Google

• It is important to look for research in peer-reviewed journals. This means that the articles published have passed through peer critiquing before they are accepted for publication.

• This ensures that the articles have had some quality control.

• Our databases hold the most credible, scholarly and timely material on your topic.

• However, databases use unique searching tools that we need to be aware of.
Plan before you Search

Search Strategy

• When searching the databases it is important to remember that the database will only search what you ask it to search
• What are the key concepts in your topic question?
• The same topic may be referred to/described by an author in more than one way e.g. high blood pressure as hypertension
• Think about author terminology- consider synonyms, plurals, different spellings and abbreviations
The management of weight gain in pregnant women
Identifying Key Concepts
What are the key concepts? Pick out at least two:

The management of weight gain in pregnant women
Are there alternative ways to describe your keywords?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Gain</th>
<th>Pregnant</th>
<th>Woman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>Pregnancy</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese, obesity, obeseness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat(ness)</td>
<td>Pregnancies</td>
<td>Female(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gestation(al)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Expectant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analyse your statement

Remember Americanisms
Spelling variations and terminology

Tumor  OR  VOUR
Odor
Color
Organize

Tumour
Odour
Colour
Organise
Advance Search Techniques

Combining search concepts

Using AND and OR

Use OR to search for alternative ways to describe your search concept:

  e.g. weight gain OR overweight

This will INCREASE the number of results found
Combining search concepts
Using AND and OR

Use **AND** to combine all of your search concepts in your results:

e.g. **Pregnancy AND Older Woman**

This will **DECREASE** the number of results found
Search terms explained

Truncation and phrase searching

Use an **asterisk** * to find different endings for a word root

e.g. * will find all the variants of gestation from the stem

gestat* will find

- gestate
- gestates
- gestation
- gestating
- gestated,

etc.

Use **double quotation marks** “” to find results where your terms appear together e.g. “weight gain”
Search terms explained
Parentheses (brackets)

Use parenthesis ( ) to define the relationship between two terms

e.g. women and (pregnant or gestating)

will find results containing

- pregnant women
- women who are pregnant
- gestating women
Search Terms Explained

Wildcards ? #

Use a question mark to replace a character in your search words
e.g. wom?n will find
woman  women

*Wildcards can vary between databases – always check the HELP section
Where to look?

Getting started

Books
Journals
Databases
Grey Literature

https://guides.library.ulster.ac.uk/food
Searching for a journal article using a reference

Contact Details

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