

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 1

posted on March 9, 2009

Over the next 10 weeks we'll be running a series of informative posts entitled The Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid.

The intent is to highlight a few features and quirks of each interface - things that someone who is familiar with the other interface might not be aware of.

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.1

You *can* do a search that maps to MeSH terms. In Advanced Search, above the three search fields, check the "Suggest Subject Terms". Search one term at a time (i.e. ignore the other 2 search fields) for best results. Use the "Search History/Alerts" link to combine searches with boolean logic.

Click below to see a video demonstration (3 min 21 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/25swSI2h4j>

If you can't find the "Suggest Subject Terms" checkbox, click on the MeSH link in the top blue bar instead.

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 1

For best results, use the Advanced Ovid Search option. Search for each term separately, starting with the relevant disease or disorder (if applicable). Then, use the Search History to combine searches with boolean logic.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 45 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/20cjCi6q0w>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 2
posted on March 16, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.2

“Explode” is available by adding a “plus” sign to a search, as follows: MH “Atrial Fibrillation+”

You can also access “explode” by using the “Suggest Subject Terms” checkbox above the three search boxes, or by clicking on the MeSH link in the blue bar at the top of the page. Search for a MeSH term, and select the term you want from the results. The explode checkbox is available on the right-hand side of the screen. If you do not see an explode checkbox for your term, that means there are no narrower terms.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 24 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/lkuXU7ukYI>

Please note that this only works for Medline and Cinahl - information about exploding in PsycInfo will come later in the Top 10 list.

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 2

If you would like to search Ovid using 3 search fields, as you do in EBSCO, click the “Multi-Field Search” option in the green Search area.

Click below to see a video demonstration (16 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/bctoX2tJeGs>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 3
posted on March 23, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.3

Limits are available to the right of the list of search results. A few are readily available -you can make a select and click the "Update Results" button. A full list of limits is available by clicking on the link: "Search Options".

Click below to see a video demonstration (2 min 13 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/jbNFV7LL>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 3

In the Limits section, click on the "Edit Limits" button to select the limits that you would like readily available.

Click below to see a video demonstration (53 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/1MKULwf5F>

The Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 4
posted on March 30, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.4

The folder is useful for storing articles when doing multiple searches. Underneath each article, click on Add to Folder to store the article information for later.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 53 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/yHfcRYjt>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 4

Instead of using a folder, select the results you want, then use the Results Manager. Be sure to choose Selected Results on the left, then click Display on the right. Use the Search History to combine groups of selected results with OR.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 59 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/IOEoGdbBU>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 5
posted on April 6, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.5

Mouse over the yellow icon beside the title of each article to preview the abstract. If there is no abstract available, it will show you a few subject headings instead.

Click below to see a video demonstration (53 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/2X3cn30G6>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 5

When emailing, displaying, or printing a list of results, you can sort them by a wide variety of options - not just Name (i.e. title) and Date Added (to the folder).

Click below to see a video demonstration (41 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/ieqwTLOsW>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 6
posted on April 15, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.6
"Indexes" is equivalent to "Search Fields".

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/1c2K6d5i>

Customise the menus beside the three search boxes instead of using
"Find Citation".

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 25 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/RTKjdyrHLUQ>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 6
"Search Fields" is equivalent to "Indexes".

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 4 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/R9DJuCVvIaH>

The "Find Citation" tool is an efficient way to find articles by citation -
or verify citations containing an error.

Click below to see a video demonstration (2 min 3 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/42BAWycndb>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 7
posted on April 20, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.7

Creating a myEBSCO account allows you to save lists of articles to access again at a later date. You can also access your myEBSCO account using different proxies if you work at more than one institution.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 25 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/2WvRQC8x>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 7

The Ovid personal account allows you to save and rerun your search strategy. Recently, it has become possible to save your search strategy permanently - in the past, it was only possible to save it for 24 hours.

Click below to see a video demonstration (2 min 13 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/78j4xQ6R0v>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 8
posted on April 27, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.8
Full text searching is available via the Advanced Search link.

Click below to see a video demonstration (48 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/vsul01XrFDf>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 8
The Basic Search option does a natural language search. This is useful for unusual topics that do not map well to MeSH. Click "related terms" if you would like Ovid to search synonyms of the terms that you enter.

Natural Language Searching means that you can enter in a phrase, sentence, or question. Basic Search can also be used by entering in a series of relevant keywords - just like Google.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 5 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/mHUGFIEUO>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 9

posted on May 4, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.9

Each result shows how cite itself in AMA, APA, Chicago/Turabian (Author-Date or Humanities), MLA, and Vancouver citation styles.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 8 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/rsIQYIFI>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 9

When searching for a drug category (such as "anticonvulsants"), Ovid will return more results than EBSCO. This occurs because Ovid's MeSH tree structure includes "non-MeSH drug terms". When you explode a drug category that contains a non-MeSH drug term, you will get additional results.

Click on the following links to see screenshots that illustrate the above description:

- Search results differ between interfaces
 - <http://www.screencast.com/t/mJ2ZeSiV>
- Non-MeSH drug terms example
 - <http://www.screencast.com/t/hy9LpgOh>
- Example showing that non-MeSH drug terms are not included in EBSCO's explode
 - <http://www.screencast.com/t/M5MK3LLIR>

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO and Ovid: No. 10
posted on May 12, 2009

Top 10 Things to Know about EBSCO: No.10

In the PsycInfo database, explode only includes the narrower terms one level below the exploded terms. To perform a complete explode, use the Thesaurus, and build up a list of narrower terms using the Add to search box option, with OR selected.

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 56 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/L8pqRifeM9>

Top 10 Things to Know about Ovid: No. 10

In the Evidence Based Medicine Reviews database, Advanced Ovid Search (.mp. search) does a full text search. This can sometimes return too many irrelevant results. To narrow down your search, use the Search Fields search option to select fields such as: kw (keyword search), hw (heading word search), ab (abstract search), and/or ti (title search).

Click below to see a video demonstration (1 min 45 sec).
<http://screencast.com/t/9amsglVB8>

Also in this database, links to full text are called "EBM Topic Review" or "EBM Article Review".

Click below to see a video demonstration (24 sec).
<http://www.screencast.com/t/x0oEu5NRz>