

Searching multiple databases in Ovid

This advanced guide assumes you know how to build a search for a single database in Ovid. For more information on searching using the Ovid interface, please see our '[Ovid user guide](#)'.

Advice on how search skills more generally, can be found in our '[A step-by-step guide to searching for literature](#)' guide available on our website: www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/training

1. Go to the UHL Libraries & Information Services website databases page (www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/databases) and under the column headed 'Supplier: Ovid', use the link for the database that you want to search. Then sign in using your OpenAthens account.

You should be taken to the database they you selected, but you can change the database using the 'Change' link above the database name. **Only search one database at a time.**

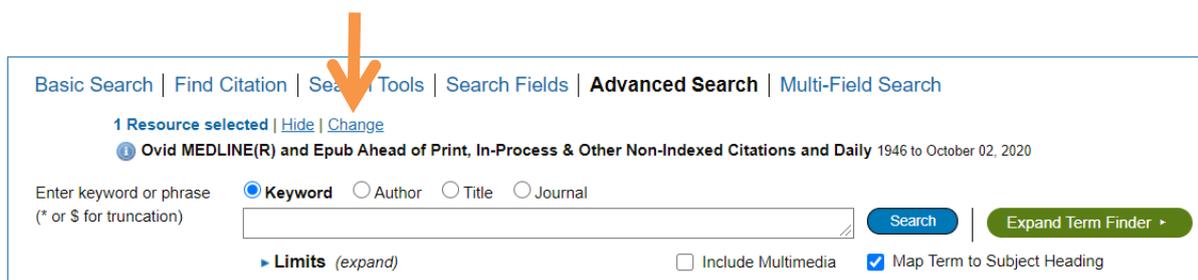
2. Build your search in database 1.

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	chocolate*.ti,ab.	5808
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	cacao.ti,ab.	1262
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	cocoa.ti,ab.	3410
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Chocolate/	655
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Cacao/	3473
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5	9542
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	happy.ti,ab.	10663
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	happiness.ti,ab.	8008
<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Happiness/	4950
<input type="checkbox"/>	10	7 or 8 or 9	19256
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	6 and 10	25

3. Add the line 'X use medall', where 'X' is the last combined line of the strategy for the first database. **The text in red is a database name code, and it changes depending on the database you have used.** In this case it was Medline ALL. For a full list of database name codes, please see the [end of the guide](#).

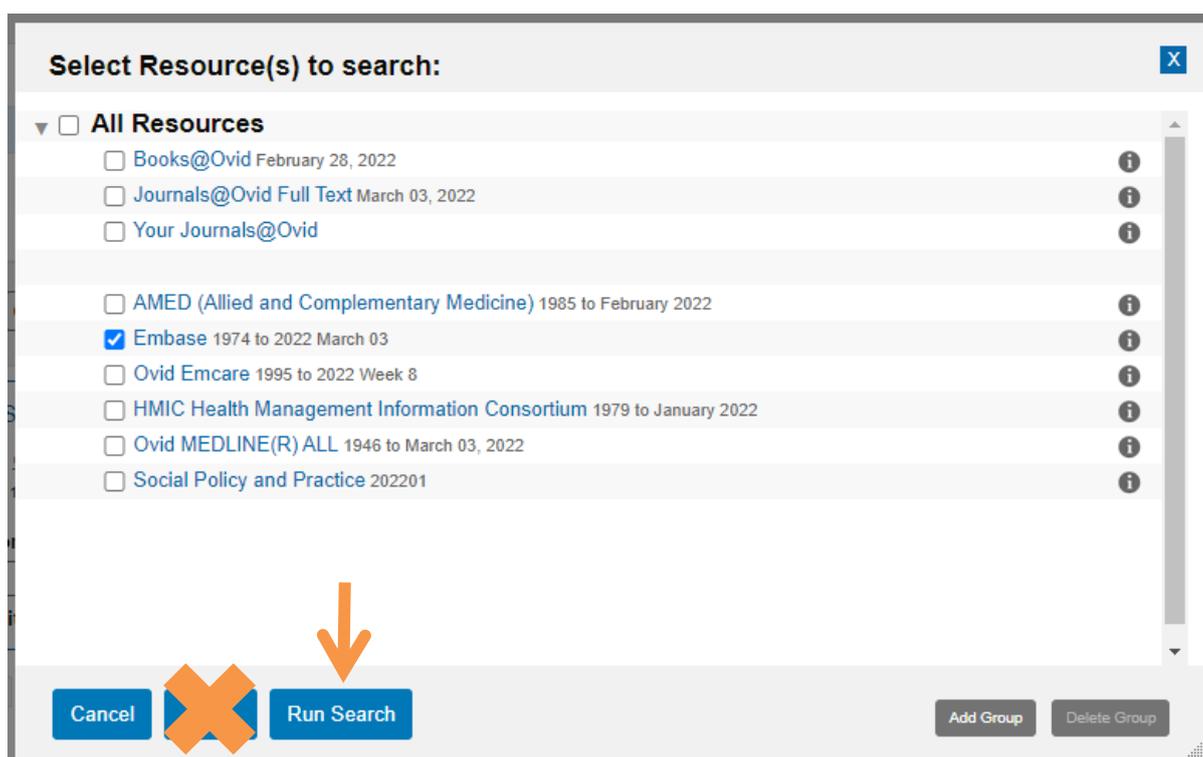
<input type="checkbox"/>	11	6 and 10	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	12	11 use medall	25

4. Go to the search bar and click "Change".



5. Select your next chosen database (again, just one). Click "Run Search". **DO NOT CLICK "OK"**.

If you do, it will wipe your strategy. If you click back in your browser, it should return to the last step, but don't rely on it. You can save before this step if you think it's a risk.



Your final line will now show 0 results – do not panic! This is because it is ‘fixed’ to database 1 and you’ve just run it in database 2. It will come back in a few steps.

6. Translate the search for the second database below the existing search lines. You can copy and paste the keyword lines as they are, **but you will need to search for subject headings again**. This is because different databases use different subject headings (the only exception is Embase and Emcare).

<input type="checkbox"/>	12	[11 use medall]	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	13	chocolate*.ti,ab.	7655
<input type="checkbox"/>	14	cacao.ti,ab.	1320
<input type="checkbox"/>	15	cocoa.ti,ab.	3967
<input type="checkbox"/>	16	chocolate/	1945
<input type="checkbox"/>	17	cocoa bean/	132
<input type="checkbox"/>	18	exp cocoa beverage/	120
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	cacao/	6852
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19	12929
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	happy.ti,ab.	14823
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	happiness.ti,ab.	9426
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	happiness/	10566
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	21 or 22 or 23	25958

7. Repeat step 3, but for the second strategy in database 2. In this case we are using Embase (1974 to yesterday), but remember to change the code as needed in the line ‘**X use oomezd**’.

<input type="checkbox"/>	23	happiness/	10566
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	21 or 22 or 23	25958
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	20 and 24	35
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	25 use oomezd	35

8. Create one final OR line, which combines the final line from both strategies (**the lines starting 'use'**).

<input type="checkbox"/>	23	happiness/	10566
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	21 or 22 or 23	25958
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	20 and 24	35
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	25 use oomezd	35
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	12 or 26	35

9. Go to the search bar again and click **“Change”** (as in step 4). Select **both** databases you have searched. Click **“Run Search”**. **DO NOT CLICK ‘OK’**.

10. Your search will now run on both databases, and some arrows will appear next to each search line. A deduplicate link will also appear. Click **“Deduplicate”**.

<input type="checkbox"/>	18	▶ exp cocoa beverage/	120	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	19	▶ cacao/	10325	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	20	▶ 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19	22471	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	21	▶ happy.ti,ab.	25486	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	22	▶ happiness.ti,ab.	17434	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	23	▶ happiness/	15516	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	24	▶ 21 or 22 or 23	45214	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	25	▶ 20 and 24	60	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	26	▶ 25 use oomezd	35	Advanced
<input type="checkbox"/>	27	▶ 12 or 26	60	Advanced

Combine with:

Scroll to the bottom of the new screen and **select your final OR line**. It defaults to preferring records with an abstract, and the last database searched. You can change this if you want at the bottom of the screen.

-	24	21 or 22 or 23	45214	Advanced
<input type="radio"/>	25	20 and 24	60	Advanced
<input type="radio"/>	26	25 use oomezd	35	Advanced
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	27	12 or 26	60	Advanced

Edit Deduping Preferences

Field Preferences	Database Preferences
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Has Abstract	1. <input type="text" value="Embase"/>
<input type="radio"/> Has Full Text	2. <input type="text" value="Ovid MEDLINE(R)"/>
<input type="radio"/> Has Index Terms	
<input type="radio"/> No Field Preference	
<input type="radio"/> Has Abstract	
<input type="radio"/> Has Full Text	
<input type="radio"/> Has Index Terms	

12. Scroll to the top and click “Continue”. It will show a new deduplicated line.

<input type="checkbox"/>	27	▶ 12 or 26	60
<input type="checkbox"/>	28	▶ remove duplicates from 27	40

Ovid Database Codes

Medline ALL (1046 to daily update)	MEDALL
Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process, In-Data-Review & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily (1946 to present)	PPEZ
Embase (1974 to yesterday)	OEMEZD
AMED (1985 to present)	AMED
HMIC 1979	HMIC
Social Policy and Practice	SOPP

Contact the libraries

If you have any questions on anything contained in this guide, specific queries on the individual databases, or anything else on searching for information or using our resources, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the libraries.

LRI Library

Odames Library, Level 1, Victoria Building
Email: lri.library@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Phone: 0116 258 5558

Glenfield Library

Ground floor, Education Centre
Email: ggh.library@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Phone: 0116 256 3672

LGH Library

First floor, Education Centre
Email: leicslib@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Phone: 0116 258 8124

Training courses, guides and e-learning can also be found on our website, which is available from home, work or on mobile: www.uhl-library.nhs.uk/training