

Ovid Databases: General Help

The Ovid databases are **CINAHL**, **ERIC**, **Health and Psychosocial Instruments**, **Journals@Ovid**, **MEDLINE**, **Philosopher's Index**, **PsycINFO**, and **SocioFile**.

These databases cover scholarly materials in different disciplines.

Map Term to Subject Heading

- All of the Ovid databases have an established list of subject headings, called a thesaurus. When you check Map Term to Subject Heading, the Ovid software tries to match the words you type to the most similar subject heading.
- This can be a good way to make sure that you are using the most appropriate terminology for your subject. For example, if you map the term "**sociopath**", PsycINFO will tell you that the current psychological term you should use is "**antisocial personality**".
- Some of the Ovid thesauri provide a great deal of detail about their subjects. **PsycINFO**, **ERIC**, and **SocioFile**, for example, will show you the subject headings which are broader, narrower, or related to the one you type.

Syntax

- When you type a phrase, Ovid looks for those words next to each other. For example, if you type **insomnia in the aged**, it finds that exact phrase.
- Use the dollar sign \$ to search for multiple word endings. For example, **disease\$** would retrieve the word "disease," as well as the words "diseases," "diseased," and others.

Search History

- The Ovid databases keep track of the searches you have performed earlier in the session.

- You can go back to an earlier set of results with the Display button:

Display

- You can refer to earlier searches by number instead of retyping the whole search. For example, in the picture below, the patron searched for "insomnia", then "sleep disorder", and then found all the "sleep disorder" records which don't mention "insomnia" by typing "2 not 1":

#	Search History	Results	Display
1	insomnia.mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key phrase identifiers]	2553	Display
2	exp Sleep Disorders/	3054	Display
3	2 not 1	1726	Display

 Run Saved Search
  Save Search History
  Delete Searches

Questions? For assistance with any of the Libraries' databases, please contact Reference & Instructional Services (202-319-5070; second floor, Mullen Library).