How to do an Advanced Search (Focus and Explode) in Ovid Medline

By Anna Do, June 2019

Ovid is a medical information company which hosts access to several databases, including Medline. Medline is produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine and includes biomedical content from more than 5,000 journals. This tutorial can also be used in Ovid PsycINFO.

1. Visit the advanced search page in Ovid Medline (access through the library website https://library.mghihp.edu). Press “Map Term to Subject Heading,” and type in your keyword(s), and click “Search.”

2. Select the box for the subject heading that best matches your search. Press “Focus” to limit results to articles in which your concept is the main subject. Click “Continue.”
3. Press “Continue” again. (Subheadings are not relevant for this tutorial.)

4. Scroll down or press “Display Results” to see your list of results. The search has yielded articles with your search term as the main topic for each article.
5. Return to your search bar, and search your term again.

6. To find out what concepts are covered by the subheading, click on an an underlined subject heading. You will see a “tree structure” of terms, which means that the terms are displayed in a hierarchy showing all the terms that are broader or more narrow than your topic. All the topics to the right of your topic will be included in your search when you select “Explode.”
7. Click “Continue” twice.

8. You can retrieve many more results using the “explode” function than the “focus” function. The search has yielded articles where your keyword is not a subject heading for the article, but a related term will be listed.
9. You can also search using “focus” and “explode” at the same time. Using both functions allows you to retrieve articles in which your keyword or related terms are the main subjects.

For a step-by-step tutorial on how to do an advanced search in Ovid Medline, check out this video on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/h4O_jeUt3Lc](https://youtu.be/h4O_jeUt3Lc)

For more help visit [https://library.mghihp.edu](https://library.mghihp.edu)