Database syntax and field searching

Note: Ovid includes Medline, PsycINFO and Emcare

	OVID	PubMed	Cochrane	CINAHL	Scopus	Web of Science	Informit	ProQuest
Default search	Phrase search	All words, anywhere	All words, anywhere	All words, anywhere	All words, anywhere	All words, anywhere	All words, anywhere	All words, anywhere
Find all words	and	AND	and	and	AND	and	AND	and
Find any words	or	OR	or	or	OR	or	OR	or
Exclude words	not	NOT	not	not	AND NOT	not	NOT	not
Find an exact phrase	[defaults to phrase search]	" " Turns off PubMed's automatic term mapping and automatic explosion of MeSH terms.	" " Truncation does not work within quotation marks.	" " Automatically includes hyphenated and non–hyphenated forms. Ignores stop words (e.g. on).	" " Automatically includes plural and possessive forms, and hyphenated and non–hyphenated forms.	" " Only works in Topic and Title searches. If stop words are used, it will search for phrases containing any word in the stop word position.	" "	" "

	OVID	PubMed	Cochrane	CINAHL	Scopus	Web of Science	Informit	ProQuest
Proximity Any order Words occur within a specified number (x) of words from each other, **in any order.**	adjx	Proximity searching is not supported.	NEAR/x	Nx	W/x	NEAR/x	" "~n	Near/x
Proximity Specific order Words occur within a specified number (x) of words from each other, **in the order entered.**				Wx	PRE/x			PRE/x

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Truncation Automatic					Automated singular, plural, and possessive searching.			Automated singular, plural, and possessive searching.
Truncation End, unlimited gene* finds *gene, genes, genetics, generation*	*	* Truncation turns off PubMed's automatic term mapping and automatic explosion of MESH terms.	*	*	*	*	*	*
Truncation End, limited	$ dog$2 finds *dog, dogs, dogma*, not *dogmatic*.						? Represents one character	
Truncation Beginning, unlimited *glycemia finds *hyperglycemia hypoglycaemia*			*		*			*

	OVID	PubMed	Cochrane	CINAHL	Scopus	Web of Science	Informit	ProQuest
Wildcards		Wildcards are not supported.					Wildcards don't work within quotation marks.	
Wildcards One character only wom#n finds *woman* and *women*	#		?	?	?	?	?	?
Wildcards Zero or one character colo?r finds *colour* and *color*	?			#		$		*
Wildcards One or more leuk*mia finds *leukemia or leukaemia*			*		*			

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Controlled vocabulary (subject headings)	Yes.	Yes.	Yes. If you have searched medline with mesh terms there is no need to do mesh searching in cochrane.	Yes.	No.	No.	No.	No.

	Medline	PsycINFO	AgeLine	PubMed	Cochrane	CINAHL	Scopus	Web of Science	Informit	ProQuest
Recommended for systematic searching	.tw,kf	.ti,ab,id		TI OR AB	Title Abstract Keyword	TI Title OR AB Abstract	TITLE-ABS - KEY	TOPIC (TS= in advanced search)		NOFT
Title	.ti	.ti	TI	[TI]	Record Title	TI	TITLE	TI	Title	TI
Abstract	.ab	.ab	AB		Abstract	AB	ABS		Abstract	AB
Title and abstract	.tw	.ti,ab		[TIAB]	Record Title OR Abstract fields	TI Title OR AB Abstract	TITLE-ABS	TOPIC		NOFT
Author keyword	.kf	.id			All Text				Author	
Multi-purpose	.mp	.mp		[TW]	TX	TX	ALL	ALL	ALL fields and Full text	ANYWHERE
Publication type	.pt	.dt		[PT]	Only in Clinical Trials	PT		Document Type		Document type
All text	.af					ALL All text			a* all records in a field	ANYWHERE