FINDING THE EVIDENCE REVIEW

March 18, 2019
Building Blocks

Search Terms
(MeSH & keywords) and Combinations

Patient, Population, Problem
Intervention, Issue
Comparison, Control
Outcome
Structured Search Template

1. **P** subject heading
2. **P** keyword
3. 1 or 2
4. **I** subject heading
5. **I** keyword
6. 4 or 5
7. 3 and 6
8. Limit

*See example on handout*
Twins: Subject Heading and Keyword

Hold hands with OR
Combining search sets (Boolean)

**mORE**

A  B

**AND**

A  B
Exploding the ASTHMA Tree

Asthma and the more specific concepts are all searched together with OR
1. MeSH nets specific subjects
2. Keywords unlock many results
3. OR is more; AND is less
4. Limit the Limits
5. Putting it all together in saved search
Step 1: MeSH nets specific subjects

1. Check **ON** Map to Subject heading
2. Search your P
3. How many choices did you get?

4. **Click** on the link of the **best** one
   - In the tree is there a more specific heading? Or is a broader one better?

5. **Click** on the **i** for the definition
   - Check the **used for**. What keywords might you use in your search?
MeSH nets specific subjects

Tools and techniques:

SCOPE - definition

TREE – explode

Subheadings/qualifiers
Step 2: Keywords unlock many results

1. Switch off Map to Subject Heading
2. Search your P condition
   - How many hits did you get?
   - Are there any other words to consider?
   - Are there spelling differences?
Keywords unlock many results

Finding the right words to search:

How many ways can you describe dizziness?
   Vertigo
   Giddiness
   Dizzy
   Giddy

Will you be a physiotherapist or physical therapist?
Keywords unlock many results

Tools and Techniques:
- Truncation *
- Wildcards #, ?
- Proximity Adj, N
Step 3: Combine P searches
Steps 4 and 5

Search the I concept
Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the I concept
Step 6: Combine I searches

![Venn diagram showing the combination of keywords and MeSH]
Structured Search Template

1. P keyword
2. P subject heading
3. 1 or 2
4. I subject heading
5. I keyword
6. 4 or 5
7. 3 and 6
8. Limit

See example on handout
Step 7: Combine

\[ P \text{ AND } I \]
Limit the Limits

Publication characteristics:
- language, date, type

Population characteristics:
- age, gender, ethnicity

Use with caution!

Full text
Send a search history

- Check **one** reference
  - Highest level of evidence for the exam
- Click on *Email*
- In the popup box add your *email*
- In the From box type your *email*
- In Subject line provide your *name*
- In Message box type your *PICO(T) question*
- Check **Include Search History**