RHSC 500
SEARCHING THE LITERATURE

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OVERVIEW

- Research Guides
- Review tips on accessing UBC Library resources and using Summon
- Demonstrate structured searching in Medline Ovid
  - PICO, search terms, combining, limits, accessing fulltext
- Quick look at RefWorks
- Quick look at Pubmed
- Questions
PICO FRAMEWORK

Use PICO to help break down your question into distinct concepts that you can then build into a search strategy.

**P** Patient / population / problem (who or what eg. ailment, population)

**I** Intervention / exposure (treatment, test, procedure, medication, or illness or injury if studying the effects of an illness on a population)

**C** Comparison (there aren’t always multiple alternatives, or you might be looking at something vs. nothing)

**O** Outcome (the outcome you’re looking at might be to relieve or eliminate symptoms, prevent recurrence, lower mortality, find a correct diagnosis)
IDENTIFY YOUR SEARCH TERMS

*What evidence is there that regular exercise improves the quality of life of people who have had breast cancer*

USING THE PICO FRAMEWORK

Among (P) does (I) or (C) effect (O)

Among breast cancer survivors does prescribed exercise improve quality of life
TRANSPOSE

Search terms
ACCESS TO DATABASES

UBC Library homepage

- www.library.ubc.ca then Indexes and Databases

Research Guides

- Rehabilitation Sciences
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
TIPS FOR BUILDING A SEARCH STRATEGY IN STEPS

1. Search each concept separately using
   • Subject headings
   • Keywords

2. Combine
   • Related terms (e.g. all P concepts) with OR
   • Different elements (e.g. P & I) with AND

3. Limit according to
   • Person criteria: Age, gender, ethnicity
   • Publication criteria: Date, Language, Study Type

4. Review and Refine

5. Save search history
TIPS TO IMPROVE SEARCH & BE EFFICIENT:

• Use PICO to stay structured and logical
• “Reverse engineering” for more MeSH, subject headings
• Use the thesaurii tools:
  • Trees and Scope notes
• Check the Boolean logic
• Reference chasing
ADDITIONAL DATABASES

CINAHL (EBSCO):
• Covers nursing and allied health from 1982 to present. The database has over 1,250,000 records.
• Indexes 2700+ journals, as well as selected books, pamphlets, and dissertations
• Subject headings

EMBASE (also on Ovid)
• International (more European-focused) biomedical database
• 5,000 + journals from 70 countries
• Strengths in drug-related and rehabilitation sciences subjects

Research Guide has many more resources!
CITATION MANAGEMENT USING REFWORKS

• Save your references and PDFs
• Organize into folders and subfolders
• Annotate PDFs
• Share your folders (within UBC)
• Automates in-text citations and Bibliography/Reference page

• Find RefWorks using Library Website search
• Select New RefWorks to set up an account
FURTHER HELP

Handouts:
• PICO Worksheet, Truncation and Wildcards, Search Strategy Explained

Tutorials:
• Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Tests and Measures, Pubmed

People:
Information Desk staff, Student librarians
Your librarian charlotte.beck@ubc.ca

Online Help:
• AskAway
• Access problems https://about.library.ubc.ca/contact-us/ejournal-help/
Questions?