Glossary of Subject Searching

- **Article index/database**
  A tool for locating journal article, book, or theses citations on a subject.

- **Database record**
  The complete set of information about an item arranged in fields. In an article index the **fields** include citation details such as title, author, date as well as additional information such as abstract, subject headings, date added etc.

Example from Medline (OvidSP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Owner</th>
<th>From MEDLINE, a database of the U.S. National Library of Medicine.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>MEDLINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Lindquist J., Engqvist M., Richardson B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors Full Name</td>
<td>Lindquist, Ingrid, Engqvist, Margareta, Richardson, Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
<td>Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Division of Physiotherapy, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. <a href="mailto:Ingrid.Lindquist@ki.se">Ingrid.Lindquist@ki.se</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Title         | Learning to be a physiotherapist: a metasynthesis of qualitative studies. |
| NLM Journal Name | Physiotherapy research international: the journal for researchers and clinicians in physical therapy |
| Publishing Model | Journal available in: Print Citation processed from Internet |
| NLM Journal Code | 9512022, CWS |
| Journal Subset | IM |
| Country of Publication | United States |
| MeSH Subject Headings | *Health Education / ad. Education*  *
Attitude of Health Personnel*  *
Cohort Studies*  *
Humans*  *
Longitudinal Studies*  *
*Physical Therapy (Specialty) / ad. Education*  *
*Physical Therapy Modalities / ad. Education* |

**Abstract**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE.** The health system is increasingly engaging in a wider concept of health which includes lifestyle conditions and wellbeing as well as disease. This challenges physiotherapy educators to take an active role in preparing students for modern healthcare. Few studies have explored the experience of learning to be a physiotherapist from the student perspective to help illuminate the learning process. The aim of this study was to gain a higher level of theoretical understanding of the longitudinal process of students’ learning to be a physiotherapist across the curriculum.

**METHODS:** A metasynthesis design was used to analyse the findings of four individual research studies, based on interviews with a cohort of 18 physiotherapy students. A qualitative phenomenographic approach to analysis was adopted within the metasynthesis.

**RESULTS:** Three patterns of learning, described as ‘learning to care about structure’, ‘learning to educate about movement problems’ and ‘learning to manage people’s health’ indicate differences in the focus of learning: the ways in which learning occurs, the learning partners and the context of learning.

**CONCLUSION:** A variation in patterns of learning identified in student’s experience of learning to be a physiotherapist reflects different views of knowledge and learning throughout the education programme which prefigures the theoretical basis on which models of education can be developed. (c) 2010 John Wiley

- **Keywords**
  These are any combination of characters that are searched as free text within the record, citation and abstract or (sometimes) the fulltext. There is no meaning attached to keywords; searches can pick up irrelevant results. E.g. Searching for *carpal tunnel syndrome* as keyword will pick up "The study group excluded *carpal tunnel syndrome". Keyword searching uses truncation and wildcard symbols.

- **Subject headings** (also called MeSH, Cinahl headings, Emtree, thesaurus)
Known as controlled vocabulary these words are added to records to describe what is covered in the article. They standardize synonyms and variant spellings to provide consistency and better retrieval. The hierarchical organization of these words in the **tree structures** assists with developing the search strategy.

- **Tree**
The ordered list of subject headings arranged in a hierarchy from broader to narrower terms. Use the **Explode** feature to search the broader subject headings and all headings indented beneath it.

- **Subheading**
Qualifying words which can be added to make subject headings more specific (for example, the subheading rehabilitation can be added to the MeSH heading Carpal Tunnel Syndrome to pick up only those articles on rehabilitative therapy)

- **Boolean operators**
Connectors used to combine search terms to retrieve relevant results

**A AND B**

**A OR B (mORE)**

- **Search strategy**
List of search commands for finding information in a database.
E.g. Medline (ovidsp) search strategy

1. exp “dementia vascular”/
2. dementia.ti,ab.
4. 1 or 2 or 3
5. exp “exercise”/
6. exp “sports”/
7. exercise*.ti,ab.
8. sport*.ti,ab.
9. physical activit*.ti,ab.
10. or /5-9
11. 4 and 10
12. Limit 11 to Aged 80 and over

- **Systematic Reviews**
Find systematic reviews in databases such as CINAHL, Pubmed, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, DARE. IMPORTANT: Get the full text of Cochrane Systematic Reviews from Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews by clicking on the Full Text Review link or [UBC eLink](#).