A. SEARCHING

1. Type in first single idea (e.g. your P concept)
   a) Subject heading searching

   A list of possible MeSH (Medical Subject Heading) terms is given.

   Before choosing check:
   - **Scope note:** click on the i for information
     - Scope: Does the definition match my meaning?
     - History note: When was this subject heading introduced? Does it cover my time period?
     - Are there any alternative suggestions? Words in CAPS are related MeSH
     - Used for: What are keyword synonyms covered by this subject heading?

   Tree: click on blue underlined word to link to the tree
     - Is this the most specific subject heading to use?
     - Is it better to go broader?
     - Should I use the Explode feature?
     - Should I use the Focus feature?

   If subject heading(s) is chosen, click **Continue**

   A list of **subheadings** that qualify the search term is given
   - Do I need just one aspect of the topic?
   - Will narrowing it down now be too soon?
   - To choose all either click on the check box or click **Continue**

   Your results will be displayed in the Search History box.

   b) Keyword searching

   No suitable subject heading? Wanting to search for material not yet indexed?
   Select **keyword.mp** and click Search

   Tools to use with **keyword searching**:
   - **Truncation:** * Variant endings after the stem:
     - child* = children, childhood, childlike, childbirth
     - Balance* = balance, balancing, balances, balanced etc.
   - **Wildcard** ? = Additional letter in Canadian spelling colo?r, pe?diatric
     - # = replaces 1 character wom#n
   - **Proximity**
     - adjn Describes the relationships of words to each other: Seat adj5
     - wheelchair = find the word “seat” within 5 words of the word “wheelchair”.
Do the same process with your second single idea (e.g. your I concept)
SEARCH RESULTS are listed by result set #

B. COMBINING results

Build your search strategy using:

OR
To combine similar concepts eg. Subject heading set OR Keyword set

AND
To combine different concepts eg results from P AND results from I

C. LIMIT or refine search results
Limits define human characteristics
Age, gender, race
Limits define publication characteristics
Language, date published, type of research

D. Review RESULTS
Look at Abstract
Click on elink to see fulltext
Print
Export to Refworks, Endnote etc.

Tip: Check the Subject headings for ideas to improve your search

E. SAVE search history to re-run your search or to set up alerts