

## Subject Heading searches in CINAHL Plus, MEDLINE and psycINFO

[Recorded version](#)

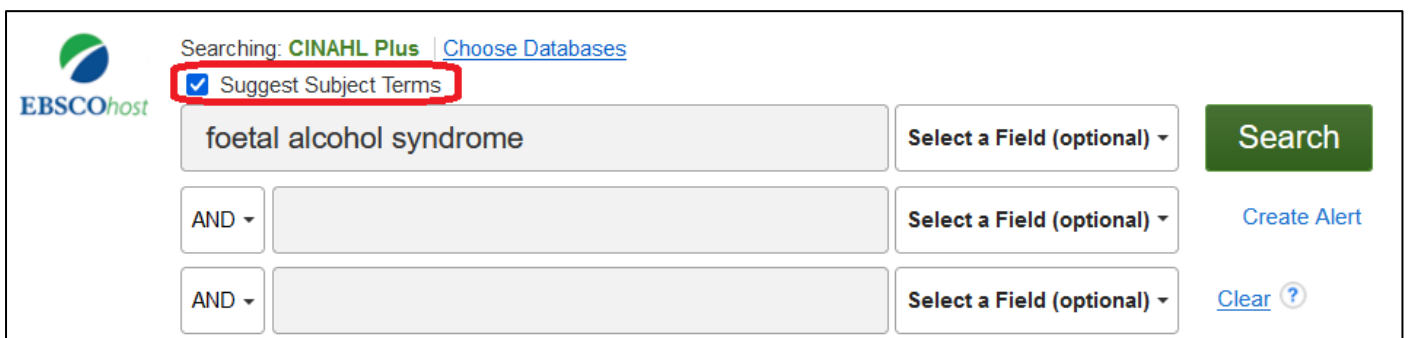
Subject headings are controlled vocabulary (words or phrases) added by Abstracting & Indexing (A&I) databases to their records to describe articles *etc* in a controlled way. They are database specific, although there may be overlap of terms in A&I databases which are covering similar areas.

An A&I database's thesaurus of subject headings can be searched and a search can be executed which returns records which have had added to them the subject headings selected.

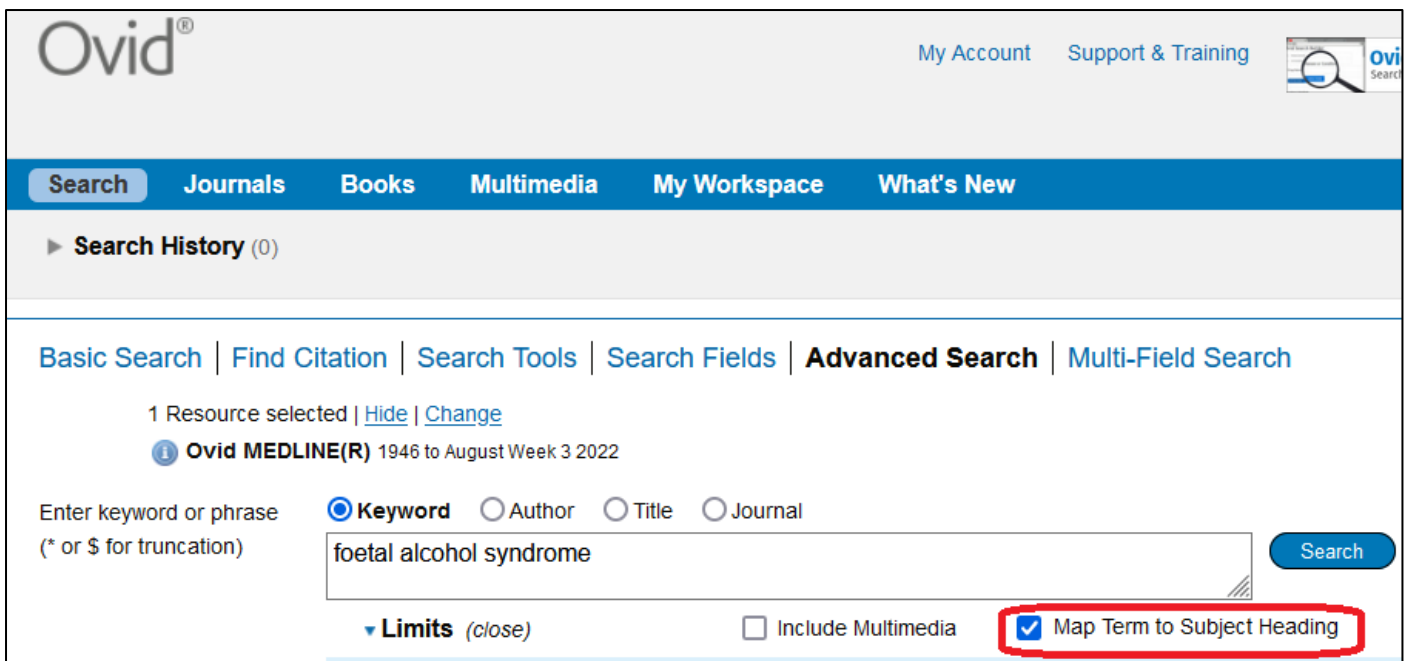
Not all records in an A&I database will have had subject headings added and these cannot be returned if the field where they would be is the only part of a record being looked in.

The links from the University pages for CINAHL Plus (on EBSCOhost platform), MEDLINE & psycINFO (and Embase – all three on Ovid platform) all have a search of subject heading thesauri set to be the default.

Circled in the screenshots below:




The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text 'foetal alcohol syndrome'. To the right of the search bar are three dropdown menus labeled 'Select a Field (optional)'. Below the search bar are three rows, each starting with an 'AND' dropdown menu followed by an empty search field and another 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menu. On the right side, there is a green 'Search' button, a blue 'Create Alert' button, and a blue 'Clear' button with a question mark icon. At the top, it says 'Searching: CINAHL Plus' with a link to 'Choose Databases'. A red box highlights the 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox, which is checked.






The screenshot shows the Ovid search interface. At the top left is the Ovid logo. On the right, there are links for 'My Account' and 'Support & Training'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with 'Search', 'Journals', 'Books', 'Multimedia', 'My Workspace', and 'What's New'. Underneath is a 'Search History (0)' section. The main search area has tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Find Citation', 'Search Tools', 'Search Fields', 'Advanced Search', and 'Multi-Field Search'. Below the tabs, it says '1 Resource selected | Hide | Change'. There is a filter for 'Ovid MEDLINE(R) 1946 to August Week 3 2022'. The search input field contains 'foetal alcohol syndrome'. Below the input field are radio buttons for 'Keyword', 'Author', 'Title', and 'Journal', with 'Keyword' selected. There is a 'Search' button. At the bottom, there is a 'Limits (close)' section with a checkbox for 'Include Multimedia' and a red box highlighting a checked checkbox for 'Map Term to Subject Heading'.


Doing a search will indicate whether or not a particular database has a subject heading for the concept you are thinking about, eg foetal alcohol syndrome:

CINAHL Subject Headings  [View Tutorials](#)

**Results For: foetal alcohol syndrome**

Check box to view subheadings. | 
  Click linked term for tree view. | 
 Explode (+)  | 
 Major Concept | 
 Scope

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Alcohol Withdrawal Syndrome</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Persistent Fetal Circulation Syndrome</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



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**Search Journals Books Multimedia**

**Your term mapped to the following Subject Headings**  
 Click on a subject heading to view more general and more specific terms.

**Include All Subheadings**

Combine with: **OR**

Select	Subject Heading
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Humans</a>



In CINAHL and MEDLINE there are subject headings for foetal alcohol syndrome. They both use the North American spelling of foetal/fetal and subject headings are a good reminder of straight spelling differences.








MEDLINE also uses spectrum disorders rather than syndrome. This information adds to a stock of possible search terms.

Click on the link of a subject heading which may match the concepts you are searching to see the subject heading in its classification scheme context, which may provide more search terms for your concept as well.

The classification scheme is where the concept sits. The broader terms under which the term sits as a more specific term, eg "Fetal Diseases". There may be more specific terms which come "under" the subject heading you have chosen and would be another step in on the classification scheme. These particularly may be useful search terms.

There are no more specific terms which either database lists under their foetal alcohol syndrome subject headings.

Check box to view subheadings. | Click linked term for tree view. | Explode (+) | Major Concept | **Scope**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Female Urogenital Diseases and Pregnancy Complications</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Pregnancy Complications</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fetal Diseases</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chorioamnionitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Erythroblastosis, Fetal</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ex Utero Intrapartum Treatment Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Anoxia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Distress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Growth Retardation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Macrosomia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meconium Aspiration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Congenital, Hereditary, and Neonatal Diseases and Abnormalities</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fetal Diseases</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chorioamnionitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Erythroblastosis, Fetal</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ex Utero Intrapartum Treatment Procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Scope Note:** A disorder occurring in children born to alcoholic women who continue to drink heavily during pregnancy. Common abnormalities are growth deficiency (prenatal and postnatal), altered morphogenesis, mental deficiency, and characteristic facies - small eyes and flattened nasal bridge. Fine motor dysfunction and tremulousness are observed in the newborn.

[\[ Close Window \]](#)

CINAHL puts “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome” in more than one classification scheme because it could be considered as “Female Urogenital Diseases and Pregnancy Complications”, one of “Congenital, Hereditary, and Neonatal Diseases and Abnormalities” or [out of shot] “Alcohol-Related Disorders”. The number of records to which “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome” has been added is unaffected by the classification routes which include it.

The circled icons under the “Scope” [CINAHL] or “Scope Note” [MEDLINE but out of shot] give a description of what an article has to be about for the subject heading to be added to a record. Use it to decide whether how the database “thinks about” a subject is what you are interested in.

[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Eye Diseases	38328	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[-] <input type="checkbox"/>	Urogenital Diseases	21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[-] <input type="checkbox"/>	Female Urogenital Diseases and Pregnancy Complications	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Female Urogenital Diseases	2205	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[-] <input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy Complications	96228	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Abortion, Spontaneous	21437	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abortion, Threatened	2312	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chorea Gravidarum	41	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes, Gestational	14059	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Death	24686	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[-] <input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Diseases	29887	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chorioamnionitis	3367	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Echogenic Bowel	36	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Erythroblastosis, Fetal	8679	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders	4566	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Growth Retardation	18023	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Hypoxia	3197	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Macrosomia	3111	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fetal Nutrition Disorders	289	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meconium Aspiration Syndrome	1186	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pyelectasis	32	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
[+] <input type="checkbox"/>	Hypertension, Pregnancy-Induced	4324	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maternal Death	993	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">i</a>

The number in the list of MEDLINE is the number of records for which

MEDLINE's scope note includes "Used For:" terms which again can be sources of search terms for a concept. They are typically older labels for a concept, acronyms and plurals as well as different labels for the same thing.

Search
Journals
Books
Multimedia
My Workspace
What's New

**Scope Note for:** *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*

**MeSH HEADING:** FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

**SCOPE:** An umbrella term used to describe a pattern of disabilities and abnormalities that result from fetal exposure to ETHANOL during pregnancy. It encompasses a phenotypic range that can vary greatly between individuals, but reliably includes one or more of the following: characteristic facial dysmorphism, FETAL GROWTH RETARDATION, central nervous system abnormalities, cognitive and/or behavioral dysfunction, BIRTH DEFECTS. The level of maternal alcohol consumption does not necessarily correlate directly with disease severity.

**YEAR of ENTRY:** 2014

**PREVIOUS INDEXING:** Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (1979-2013)

**REFERENCES:**

**See Related:**

- ALCOHOLISM

**Used For:**

- alcohol related birth defects
- alcohol related neurodevelopmental disorder
- alcohol-related birth defects
- birth defects, alcohol-related
- fae (fetal alcohol effects)
- faes (fetal alcohol effects)
- fasd
- fasds
- fetal alcohol spectrum disorder
- fetal alcohol spectrum disorders
- fetal alcohol syndrome
- growth retardation, facial abnormalities, and central nervous system dysfunction
- partial fetal alcohol syndrome
- syndrome, fetal alcohol

To get similar “Used for” information in CINAHL, select the subject heading and scroll to the bottom of the blue panel which appears to the right.

The screenshot shows a list of subject headings in a table. The heading 'Fetal Alcohol Syndrome' is selected, indicated by a red box around its checkbox. To the right, a blue panel displays related information. A callout box explains that two-letter codes represent subheadings, with 'AN' as an example for 'Analysis'. A red box highlights the 'Related Headings' and 'Used For' sections. The 'Used For' section lists 'Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders'.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Alcoholic Intoxication</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alcoholism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cardiomyopathy, Alcoholic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Liver Diseases, Alcoholic</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Psychoses, Alcoholic</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wernicke's Encephalopathy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Each two letter code represents a subheading, e.g. AN represents Analysis

Related Headings:  
[Alcoholism](#)  
[Infant, Drug-Exposed](#)

Used For:  
 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Most of the blue panel is a list of sub-headings which have been used in CINAHL records with the subject heading. Selecting individual ones, return a subset of the records which have the subject heading plus the sub-heading added.

PsycINFO, although being searched in the Ovid platform like MEDLINE, displays its subject headings thesaurus differently.

The subject heading appears in its alphabetical place with the higher, lower and related terms listed under headings [Broader Terms], “[Narrower Terms]” of which, as in CINAHL and MEDLINE, there are none, and “[Related Terms]”.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fertilization</a>	498	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fetal Alcohol Syndrome</b>	2010	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	[Broader Terms]				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Drug Induced Congenital Disorders</a>	111	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Syndromes</a>	16639	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	[Related Terms]				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Alcoholism [+NT]</a>	30744	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Ethanol</a>	11663	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Intellectual Development Disorder [+NT]</a>	41495	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Prenatal Development [+NT]</a>	4162	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<a href="#">Fetal Exposure</a>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Fetishism</a>	527	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

For all the records with a particular subject heading, in this case “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome” [CINAHL] “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders” [MEDLINE], regardless of sub heading, tick to “Include All Subheadings” or leave blank.

CINAHL Subject Headings [View Tutorials](#)

[Back to Term List](#) **Tree View For: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome** **Subheadings for: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome** [Search Database](#)

Check box to view subheadings. Click linked term for tree view.

Explore (+) Major Concept Scope

**Include All Subheadings**  
Or select one or more subheadings to restrict your search

Blood/BL  Cerebrospinal Fluid/CF

Search Term: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

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Subheadings for: **Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**

Combine with: [OR](#) [Continue](#)

**Include All Subheadings (4566)**

-- or choose one or more of these subheadings --

/bl - Blood (81)

The results returned all have the fields “Major Subjects”, “Minor Subjects” [CINAHL] or “Subject Headings” [MEDLINE] added to their records (which, as mentioned above, not all records do – typically the most newly added records). And, in one of that field(s) is the subject heading selected.

**Language:** English

**Major Subjects:** [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome](#)  
[Growth Disorders](#) -- [Risk Factors](#)  
[Gestational Weight Gain](#)  
[Food Intake](#)  
[Choline](#)  
[Iron](#)  
[Energy Intake](#)

**Minor Subjects:** [South Africa](#); [Human](#); [Female](#); [Prospective Studies](#); [Interviews](#); [Substance Abuse](#); [Regression](#); [Prenatal Exposure Delayed Effects](#); [Nutrition](#); [Fetal Growth Retardation](#)

**Abstract:** Background Animal models have demonstrated that maternal nutrition can alter fetal vulnerability to prenatal alcohol exposure (PAE). Few human

The MEDLINE record below has three entries of its subject heading “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders” as the article recorded is strongly on this topic (the \*starred entry indicates this) and also covers both “Diagnosis”

and "Epidemiology" of this spectrum of disorders. Selection of sub-heading Epidemiology as outlined above would return this record.

<b>Journal Subset:</b>	Index Medicus
<b>Country of Publication:</b>	Ireland
<b>MeSH Subject</b>	<a href="#">Child</a>
<b>Headings:</b>	<a href="#">Child Development</a>
	<a href="#">Cohort Studies</a>
	<a href="#">Female</a>
	<a href="#">Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders / di [Diagnosis]</a>
	<a href="#">Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders / ep [Epidemiology]</a>
	<a href="#">*Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders</a>
	<a href="#">Humans</a>
	<a href="#">Mass Screening</a>
	<a href="#">Pregnancy</a>
	<a href="#">Prenatal Exposure Delayed Effects / di [Diagnosis]</a>
	<a href="#">Prenatal Exposure Delayed Effects / ep [Epidemiology]</a>
	<a href="#">*Prenatal Exposure Delayed Effects</a>
	<a href="#">Young Adult</a>
<b>Keyword Heading:</b>	<a href="#">*Alcohol</a>
	<a href="#">*Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder</a>
	<a href="#">*Neurobehavioral Screening Tool</a>
	<a href="#">*Pregnancy</a>
	<a href="#">*Prenatal alcohol exposure</a>
<b>Abstract:</b>	<b>BACKGROUND:</b> Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD)

Remove the ticks/Deselect the "Suggest Subject Terms", "Map term to subject heading" and the search defaults to a keyword search. The results returned can include the terms entered in the Major/Minor Subjects or Subject Headings fields but also Title, Abstract, Author keywords (if entered), etc.

As shown below, with the Search History sections opened to allow comparison, this increases the number of results whilst including all the records found in the Subject term/heading search described above.

The subject heading search in the subject heading field searches are S1 (MH "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome") and 1 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders/.

The keyword searches are  
S2 "fetal alcohol syndrome"

2 "fetal alcohol spectrum disorders".mp. [mp=title, book title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]

The fields searched in the MEDLINE keyword search are given in the square brackets

EBSCOhost Searching: **CINAHL Plus** [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

"fetal alcohol syndrome" Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ Clear ?







AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ + -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) **Search History** ▾

### Search History/Alerts

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches Refre

<a href="#">Search ID#</a> ▾	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	 "fetal alcohol syndrome"	<b>Expanders</b> - Apply equivalent subjects <b>Search modes</b> - Find all my search terms	 <a href="#">View Results</a> (2,110)  <a href="#">View Details</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	 (MH "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome")	<b>Expanders</b> - Apply equivalent subjects <b>Search modes</b> - Find all my search	 <a href="#">View Results</a> (2,005)  <a href="#">View Details</a>

“Phrase marks” mean results have to have the phrase rather than the just all the words. More and still relevant results can be returned by use of truncation and synonyms.

A larger set of MEDLINE sections has been selected to search which is why the number of results returned for the subject heading search in the subject heading field shown below is higher than shown in the search images above.



Search History (2)

<input type="checkbox"/>	# ▲	Searches	Results	Type	Ac
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders/	4570	Advanced	<a href="#">Display Res</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	"fetal alcohol spectrum disorders".mp. [mp=title, book title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms]	5006	Advanced	<a href="#">Display Res</a>

Combine with:

[View Saved](#)

[Basic Search](#) | [Find Citation](#) | [Search Tools](#) | [Search Fields](#) | **Advanced Search** | [Multi-Field Search](#)

1 Resource selected | [Hide](#) | [Change](#)

**i** Ovid MEDLINE(R) and Epub Ahead of Print, In-Process, In-Data-Review & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Daily 19

Enter keyword or phrase  
(\* or \$ for truncation)

**Keyword**  Author  Title  Journal

"fetal alcohol spectrum disorders"

▼ **Limits** *(close)*

Include Multimedia

Map Term to Subject Heading