As I’ve mentioned, it is possible to search more than one database at the same time, if we [UoEdinburgh Library] have bought more than one from the same interface, the same supplier.

The ones that you can search at the same time on Ovid include psycINFO, EMBASE and MEDLINE and those are probably three decent choices for any topics you are interested in.

When you’ve gone in from the Library webpages to one particular database, like we have been so far, we went into psycINFO, to change and add more databases to search, or to look at different one if you want to do it one at a time, you would look for the “Change” option, which is above the search box...

...Above the search box are the radio buttons, the circular buttons, beside Keyword, Author, Title for if you want to do a search in those particular fields. Above that is the information symbol (a white “i” against a blue circular background) which tells you want you are searching at the moment, so in the screenshot at the top, this is before changing to other databases and therefore it’s telling us that the searching at the moment is on psycINFO. Above that it tells you how many resources you are searching, so “1 Resource selected” at the moment, there’s a “Hide” option and beside that there is the “Change” option.

When you click on Change it takes you to the Ovid menu, the resources we buy through Ovid, which you can then choose to search.

The second screenshot is of part of the menu (there’s more above this of the Ovid menu) but at the top of this particular screenshot you can see the entry for “APA psycINFO”. There’s only one entry for psycINFO so that’s a nice and easy selection to make.

There are then lots of other entries but they are the same databases but for different year chunks, in most cases. (You can see beneath psycINFO, two entries for CAB Abstracts that start at different points. The top one is for 1984 to 2020, the second is 1910 to 1989).

Of the Embases that follow, they all go up to 2020 but the first two they both start in 1974. The 2020 – I don’t think it really matters which one you pick, so whether it is Week 17 or April 27th when this screenshot was taken, up to the current day. The Embases that start in 1974 might be good enough for you or you may prefer to go back further than that to 1947 which is the one that’s been selected on the screenshot, so “Embase Classic + Embase”. There is another further up the menu which starts in 1980, so you have that option too.

You can always change the date limits on the interface if that seems sensible.

Of all the MEDLINES, there are more above the psycINFO entry in the top half of the menu that isn’t in the screenshot. You'll see more individual entries for different
bits of MEDLINE. The one selected which is, at the moment on the Ovid menu, the second one down in the groupings of MEDLINE, or fifth from the bottom of the menu is “Ovid MEDLINE” and that’s the bulk of MEDLINE. The “Epub Ahead of Print” so that’s articles which have been selected for publication but for which the issue hasn’t been published yet. Citations, or Records, which are “In-Process” and perhaps not indexed quite fully yet, but also the “Daily” update. I think all of those are a useful selection, are the best ones to tick, and you can do that in this grouping here, second from the top of the groupings/fifth from the bottom of the menu.

Beneath that is the same selection but from 2016 to April 28, in this particular time. The one I’ve ticked, does further back, goes as far back as it is possible to go. 2016 might do you well or it might be a little too recent.

When you’ve made whatever selections you would like to make, you have the options at the bottom, in the blue buttons.

“Cancel” will just take you back to the search interface and back to what you had selected previously.

“OK” will take you back to the search interface but searching through your new selections (so psycINFO, Emabse and MEDLINE selections in this example) but it will clear the Search History. So you would start again from scratch.

“Run Search” will take you to the search interface with your new database selections and it will also keep the Search History and run it against those database selections. This is therefore probably the one you want to go for if you have put together a search in psycINFO, or another single database, that you are happy with or you want to add to, then you would probably choose to run it again on the new selections and to do that without having to type it all out again, you would go for the “Run Search” option.