When you have selected your databases from the Ovid menu and when you have clicked on Run Search you will go back into the Advanced Search you have come from and under the Change link or function which we chose to get to the menu, instead of telling us that we are just looking in psycINFO it now shows all of the databases you are looking at, and any search will be run in. That’s why we now see in the top screenshot, circled in yellow again, is the APA PsycINFO, the Embase Classic and Embase and the Ovid MEDLINE and all the other bits of MEDLINE that we selected.

The other difference that you can see under the search box, there’s no option to “Map term to subject heading”. That disappears if you’re looking at more than one database at once. If you found looking up the subject headings in one database useful and you want to see how other databases deal with them, or see if you can get any more ideas from them, then, instead of choosing three like we did this time, you might just choose one, MEDLINE if you’d already looked at psycINFO perhaps, and the Map term to subject heading would be there and you could look up MEDLINE’s thesaurus.

Above the search box, where the Search History is and which is shown in the screenshot at the bottom of this slide. As we said, the numbers will usually or should usually go up, because you are searching more than one database. What will also happen, because these databases are very often in the same subject area, there will be journals which are core to all of them. Therefore, you will find out about the existence of articles more than once.

It’s very likely that all of these particular databases will tell you about the contents of the BMJ or The Lancet or similar and you will find out about an article more than once if it is has appeared in those core journals.

This is why, when you are in the Search History area, one of the new things which appears when you are looking at more than one database at once on Ovid, is a “Deduplicate” function underneath the Results number column.

This will let you get part of the way down, or perhaps all the way down, your PRISMA diagram stages, and it will do some deduplication for you. If you are only looking at these three databases, then it may get you all of the way down to that particular stage or it might get you only part of the way down if you’re also going to look at databases which are not hosted on the Ovid interface.

The other thing it lets you do is, you look at search 10, you can see that we’ve now got 134 from that particular search. It was 112 when we just looked at psycINFO. Deduplicating will tell you how many you may actually have to screen. If you went with a particular search and there were a few thousand [results], if you deduplicate that, it gives you more of an idea of the actual number you might actually have to screen [read].