13 – Deduplication

When you choose the deduplication option from the Search History, when you’ve got more than one database a search has been done on, it will take you into the area you can see here on the screenshot, where you can choose the set you want to deduplicate.

As you can see, the selection happens off to the left of the different searches and there are only three of our ten which are able to be selected for deduplication and that’s because, as circled in the information at the top of the screenshot, Ovid cannot cope with more than 6,000 records. All the sets, except 4, 7 and 10 have more than 6,000 results in them and therefore the option to deduplicate them doesn’t appear. But, for our final one, if that was the final search we’d come up with, set number 10, search number 10, that would be fine. There’s only 134, so Ovid will be able to deduplicate amongst those.

At the bottom of the screen there are preferences which you can set.

You probably want to leave them as default because, by default, if there are three records [for the same article] and one of them has an abstract that is the record which will be selected. That’s what the Field Preferences option means. The choice will be over [existence of] an abstract rather than anything else. The full text option there relates to fulltext which Ovid provides and which is not comprehensive enough. We have much more than just what Ovid can provide. For your particular exercise here, it is more important that a record has an abstract, so that would be your first choice.

If, for example, there were three records [for the same article], one from each database and they all had an abstract, there has to be some other way of choosing between these three. Which one do you want Ovid to keep? That’s what the Databases Preferences lets you select. You may end up having a preference for records from Embase over psycINFO or the other way round and that’s where you would set those options.