14 – Numbers to Note

When you have made your selection of which set you want to deduplicate and you have set your preferences, and you’ve clicked on “Continue” above the Search History list, that will make the deduplication of the set happen and you will get a new set in the Search History, you will generate another search in there, which, for where we are at the moment, means we’ve got a set 11 as well as the previous ten. For this particular example, from 134 [results] the deduplication has taken us down to 117, so that gives you an idea of the number you may actually have found in this search when the duplicates are removed.

If these three databases were the only ones you were going to use, then these numbers may be the ones that would populate the PRISMA flow diagram, or any other way you are going to use to tell people about the numbers you got through your review search and screening process.

So, if these three (psycINFO, Embase and MEDLINE) were the only ones you were going to search and if this was your final search, you’d run it and you had deduplicated in Ovid, it would be that 134 (the undeduplicated set) is the number that would go in the top left box in the PRISMA flow diagram which is where the total number of records found in your database searching goes, ie “Records identified through database searching” is 134, if these three were the only databases you were going to use.

And it could be that if you had not got anything from any additional sources such as websites that were relevant or in-house reports of some sort that you had access to. Then, if these databases with their 134 records, if that was the total number of records you had got from your searching, then it could that 117 was the number that went into the next stage down on the flow diagram, so “Records after duplicates removed” would be 117.

You may, even if these three were the only databases you were going to use, still want to check for duplicates. It may be that Ovid has been conservative in how it’s decided on what are the same and there may still be duplicates within that 117, so you may want to take a quick look through.

If you are using more databases than just these Ovid hosted ones, if you’re going to add other database searches as well, then the number in both cases will go up. Therefore, the “Records identified through database searching” [box], will be a sum of the total undeduplicated set of results that you’ve got from all the different databases you have searched. So it will be 134 plus whatever else you’ve found from the other databases.

Again, there will still be records in common between the Ovid hosted databases and the others as well, so there will be some more deduplication to go through which means you should usually have more than 117 when you have deduplicated
because you have added records from other database searches. Therefore that number, that 117, may not be anything that you have to enter or to record.

However, it may be the set that you choose to take out of Ovid.

So I think that, even if these three databases were the only ones you were going to search and this was your end point. You had got to the set of records that you were going to screen (that you were going to read more and choose on the relevancy and inclusion and exclusion criteria you have set). So, even if this 117 was your final point of use within the databases, you’ve finished now needing to do anything on the Ovid interface, I think you would still want to take them out and have them somewhere else, which is under your control and which doesn’t change unless you make it.

Because, as we’ve said, if you do this exact search again on the same databases in the future, the numbers that you get will not be the same. These are dynamic resources and if you have come to the point where you are now happy with the search that you’ve done and the rest of the process will be using the records you have found, you would want to take them out and keep them somewhere that you have control over. If you are using other databases, apart from the Ovid ones, you will want to have those records out of Ovid and you will want to have them in a place that is the same for all of them.

So you would be taking the records from Ovid, from any other databases you have searched and have them all in the one place. It might be an Excel file, it might be reference management software. To do that, to take the records you have found and put them into something else, we use the “Export” function which is above the results list in Ovid.

If you wanted to take out the undeduplicated set, which was the 134 in this particular example, the results are displayed underneath the search box in Ovid but it is the most recent set that is displayed. If you want to look at a previous set’s results, you would click on the “Display Results” which are circled in the top screenshot, in the Search History on the row of the set you want to see, and that will display them in the results list and above them is where you will see the Export function and that’s what we’re going to look at next.