5 – Subject headings – default setting (psycINFO)

As I mentioned, the supplier we have for psycINFO, MEDLINE and EMBASE is the same and its Ovid which means you can search those three databases at the same time and you can also make use of the deduplication function that Ovid offers for searches done over more than one database that Ovid provides.

It also means that the interface is the same for each of the When you go into one of these, and psycINFO is the example in the screenshot here, when you go from our databases pages, it will look like this. You will be in the Ovid interface and it will be this blue, white and grey interface. You will come into the “Advanced Search” option and underneath the search box there will be a “Map term to subject heading” and it will be ticked, so it will be on by default.

What that tick means is that if you do a search you will not get back records with the particular search term you have entered, as in the screenshot here “intellectual disorders”. What it will do, is that it will tell you about the subject headings that, in this case psycINFO uses, to describe the content of articles and it will tell you about those subject headings which it thinks matches the concepts you've put in. So it will tell you about the subject headings that maybe match intellectual disorders.

The other thing to note from this interface is that when you are reporting your systematic review, you wouldn’t tell people that you had used Ovid as a resource. Other institutions may buy different things through Ovid so the search that their members do, their staff and students do, wouldn’t be the same [on the same databases]. Or, also what may happen is that institutions buy access to psycINFO but they don’t do it through Ovid. They maybe get it through a different supplier.

What your readers need to know is that you have used psycINFO so that they can then go away and do the same search that you’ve done and see if they get the same results. The aspect of a systematic review when you’re reporting what you have done, the idea is, that somebody can reproduce that, just as they would if it was an experimental paper.

The next slides are a bit more about the subject heading terminology though.