IS Skills - Literature Review Exercises



Art - ART FULL-TEXT AND ARTS ABSTRACTS and other EBSCO hosted databases.

1. Look for articles about art installations.

Use Thesaurus to get the controlled search term added to records which describe articles on these topics. Read the "scope notes" for information about when the terms are added. Check what you include if you "explode" the term used for art installations.

- 2. Look at the Help to find out what are the "Wildcard and Truncation Symbols", "Proximity searches" and how to indicate you want to look for a phrase, Egs "community engagement"; "local communit*"; local* N6 involv*
- 3. Add some references to your session Folder
- 4. **Use "Search History"** to get a set of results which are common to both searches. Note the options to save the series of commands that make up a search and to set up alerts of new records which match a search.
- 5. Add some references to your session Folder.
- 6. Go to Folder from the top menu or "Folder has items" box.
- 7. Take references to something you have control of. Use Export to add to reference management software.

Education: BRITISH, AUSTRALIAN and U.S.A. ("ERIC") EDUCATION INDEXES

- 1. Go to the British Education Index and find what there is on learning disabilities in primary school children.
- 2. Look at the Sort/Narrow Results options and use Document Type options to find a review paper.
- 3. Has anyone cited this work in their reference list?
- 4. Look at a full record to see how BEI (with its **Subject terms**) describes a work.
- 5. **Go to Advanced Search and** use the **Thesaurus** to read a description of when BEI would add the subject term "learning disabilities" rather than "learning difficulties" to a record.
- Use the Thesaurus to find the subject term for teaching English as a foreign language.
- 7. Before searching, limit by Education level or Age Group.
- Modify the search to remove all the limits.
- Do a search on terms around classroom assistants. Do another around terms for impact.
 Use the Search tips for how to search for phrases and what the truncation symbols are, Boolean proximity commands.
- 10. **Go to Recent Searches section and combine searches** to get records common to both sets. Search histories can help you see your "weak link".
- 11. Select some records and Export/Save them to the reference management tool you use.
- 12. Look at the Create alert and exporting the search history (Export all searches) options.
- 13. **Change the databases** being searched to search all the Education databases. Note the difference in the Thesaurus options.
- 14. Go to Recent Searches and select one of the searches to see the options for re-running it.
- 15. Look at My Research for Preferences setting.

Health or Medicine: Psycinfo, EMBASE or MEDLINE and other OVID hosted databases.

- 1. **Search for alzheimers** and read the definition and look at the **subject headings** around the Alzheimer's Disease heading.
 - choose Explode to search for all the narrower terms as well as the term itself. Choose Focus to search for a subset of the records but where the article is strongly about the search term.

- 2. Using the search term carers **choose from the subject headings listed** a term most suited to investigating the stresses non-professional carers experience.
- 3. Click to expand the blue Search History box to use previous searches in a way that makes best sense for what you want to read.
 - Search History is where you can Save a search strategy if it's one you're going to run a number of times (free registration required. Not transferrable between UoEd & NHS subscriptions).
- 4. Look at the complete reference of one of the records and use the Findit@Edinburgh button to see if UoEdinburgh has the full-text for you to read online.
 - Source info is what you need to check the library catalogue for print copies.
- 5. Look at the Help to find out what are the truncation and wildcard symbols and the proximity indicators if you want to make use of your own keywords rather than controlled vocabulary.
 - Eg severe ADJ6 "learning difficult*"
- 6. Open EndNote. Select some references and Export to EndNote.
- 7. Choose Additional Limits from the blue area beneath the search box to see the full range which can be applied. Like controlled vocabulary/subject headings, these are databases specific.
- 8. **Change OVID databases** from Selected Resources: OVID Resources, select search and re-run for your choice of database.
 - MEDLINE is clinical medicine produced by NLMedicine in the US. EMBASE is smaller with more of a European focus and controlled vocabulary possibly better orientated for psychiatry and psychology.
- 9. The search done will be exactly the same if you have used keywords in the previous database. Subject headings and limits may not match.
- 10. Using MEDLINE's Subject Headings (MeSH) is slightly different to EMBASE and PsycINFO. The full tree structure displays and a choice of subheadings. Scope notes are fuller too.
 - eg try sexual abuse as a search term to see the difference.

Linguistics, Sociology, Social Work - LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE BEHAVIOR ABSTRACTS, SOCIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS and other ProQuest hosted databases.

- 1. Do a search for records mentioning culture shock. From the results view look under the search box to the right and **Use "Tips"** for truncation characters and proximity indicators/Boolean operators.
- 2. Try the search again but with double quotes around the phrase ["culture shock"] and note the difference in number of results and the content of the records.
- 3. **Choose some records**/check boxes to the left of results in the list Look at the difference in "Selected items" in the very top menu.
- 4. **Go to Advanced Search, then Thesaurus.** Choose sociological thesaurus and look to see **what controlled vocabulary term is used** in Sociological Abstracts for articles dealing with **culture shock**.
 - Click on the notes icon for information about when a heading is used and ideas of others that could relevant.
- 5. Choose some records/check boxes to the left of results in the list
- 6. Clear the search from the search box and do a search with or without using Thesaurus/controlled vocabulary on food or eating practices...
- 7. **Try the findit@edinburgh** button to see if you can read any of the articles online. Source field has the journal title information which is what you use in the library catalogue.
- 8. **Go to Recent Searches [top right in the Folder icon] and combine the searches** you've done to focus in on useful references, eg what results are common to your search results of culture shock and food.

 Note the options for editing your search, saving it and/or getting alerts of new records which match it.
- 9. **Go to Selected items section and choose how you're going to keep the records**. Export for getting records into reference management software (eg EndNote).