

These slides have been modified from the original webinar; for a search demonstration, contact <https://www.slsp.ca/contact>

Introduction to Searching EBSCOhost



© 2023

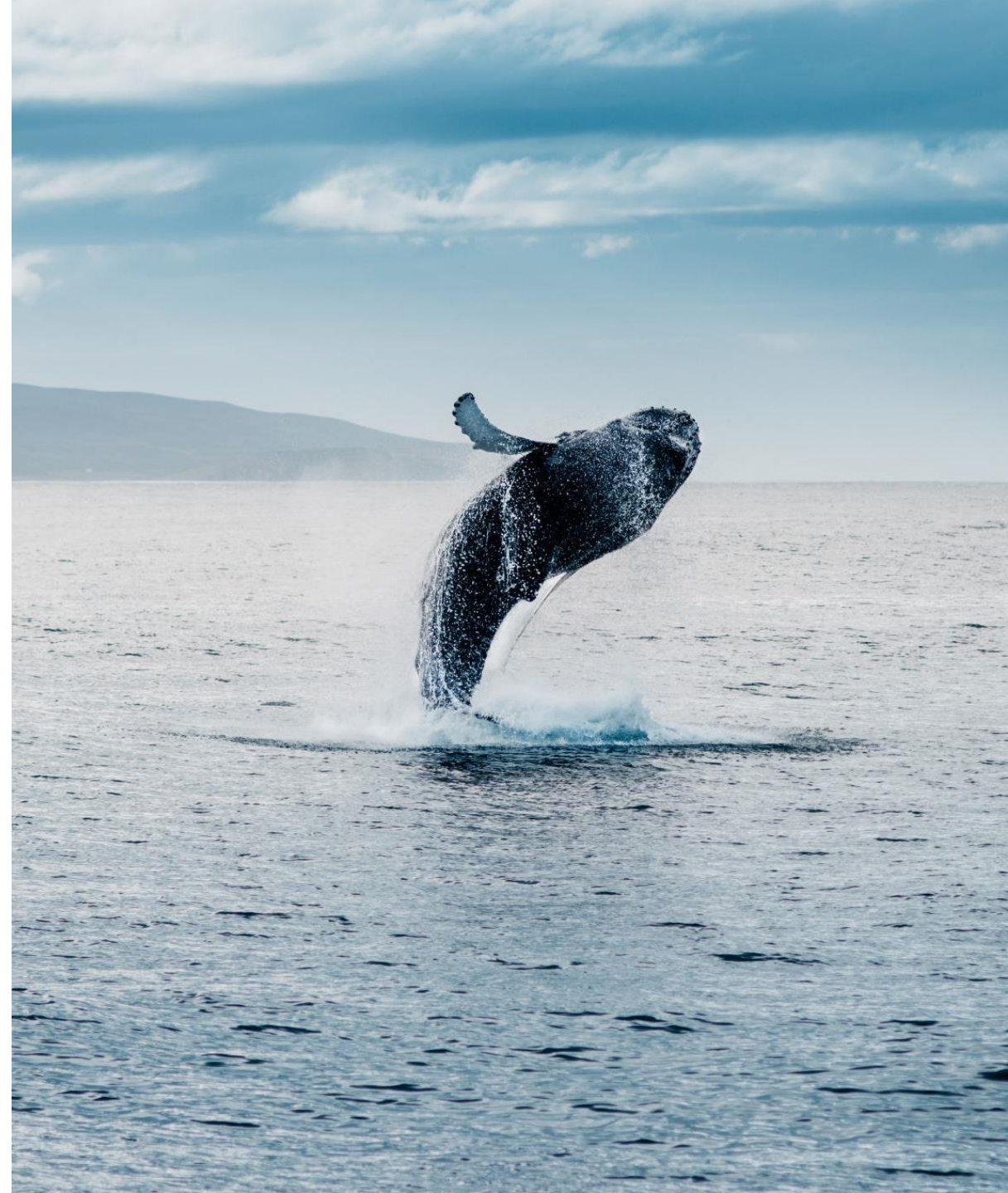


Goals

To provide you with a foundation of how library search strategies are constructed so you may:

- Introduce the Virtual Library;
- Understand keyword selection, utilizing alternate words and phrases; and
- Identify what subject headings are and why we use them

This is a preliminary training session which will help staff understand search strategies generated by their library.





What kind of Literature Search can I request?

All requests are welcome!

Here are some examples of the types of questions we receive:

Factual confirms a fact or answers a single question

Quick Education introduction to a topic area to get a better understanding of the research

Current Awareness automated search on a particular topic so new publications will be sent to your inbox on a topic of interest

Comprehensive determine efficiently what information is available on a predefined topic area

Large Synthesis Reviews thorough search of a broad range of sources (i.e., scoping review, systematic review, etc.)

Grey Literature Scan of unpublished literature relevant to public health



Agenda

Today we will focus on the following questions:

- 1) What it is the **Virtual Library** & where do I find it?
- 2) What is **Keyword Searching**?
 - Boolean
 - Phrase Searching
 - Truncation
 - Wildcards
 - Parentheses
- 3) What are **Subject Headings**?



Virtual Library

Platform: EBSCOhost

Purchased By: Public Health Ontario

Accessed By: Public Health Unit Staff

Contains: 19 Databases

What is the Virtual Library?

The screenshot displays the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with links for 'New Search', 'MeSH 2022', 'Publications', and 'Indexes'. Below this, the EBSCOhost logo is visible on the left. The main search area includes a search bar with the text 'Searching: MEDLINE | Choose Databases' and a 'Suggest Subject Terms' checkbox. There are three search input fields, each with a 'Select a Field (optional)' dropdown menu and a 'Search' button. The first field is empty, the second has 'AND' selected, and the third has 'AND' selected. A 'Clear' button is also present. Below the search fields, there are links for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Search History'. The 'Search Options' section is expanded, showing 'Search Modes and Expanders' with radio buttons for 'Boolean/Phrase' (selected), 'Find all my search terms', 'Find any of my search terms', and 'SmartText Searching' (with a 'Hint' link). There are also checkboxes for 'Apply related words' and 'Apply equivalent subjects'. The 'Limit your results' section is partially visible, showing checkboxes for 'Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals' and 'Linked Full Text'.

As a public health employee, you have access to online journal content through the Virtual Library.

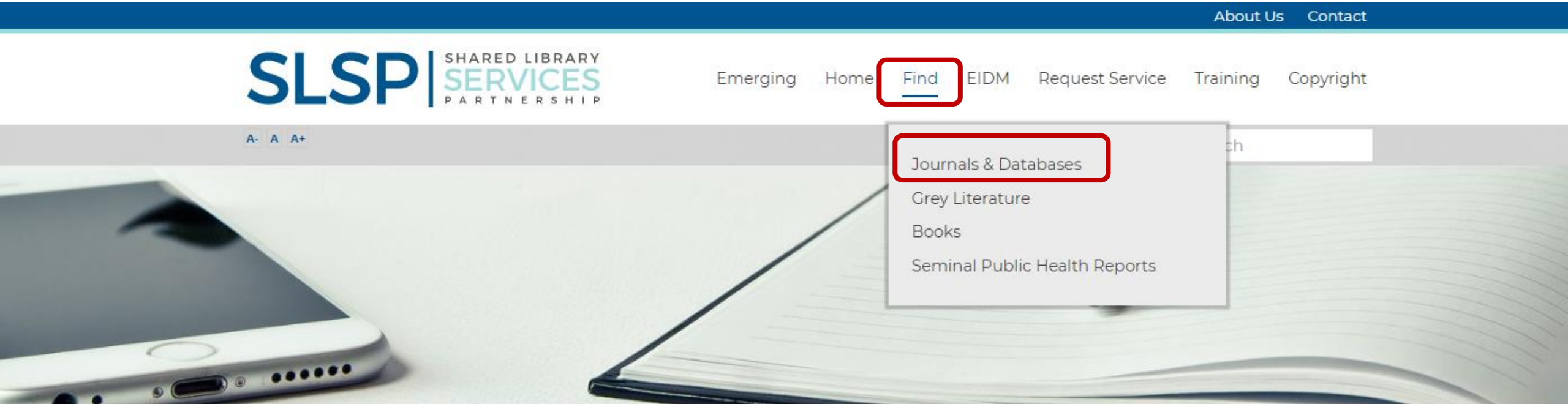
The Virtual Library includes 19 databases purchased by Public Health Ontario.

Each database includes a mix of full text and abstracts.

If you find an article that doesn't include full text, your library can retrieve it for you 😊

Where do I find the Virtual Library?

<https://www.slsp.ca>



Journals & Databases

The **Virtual Library** is a collection of online research databases with hundreds of public health journals. Public Health Ontario funds the Virtual Library to support evidence informed public health decision-making in Ontario. *Does your health unit share an IP Address? Please use [this Link](#) to login to the Virtual Library.*

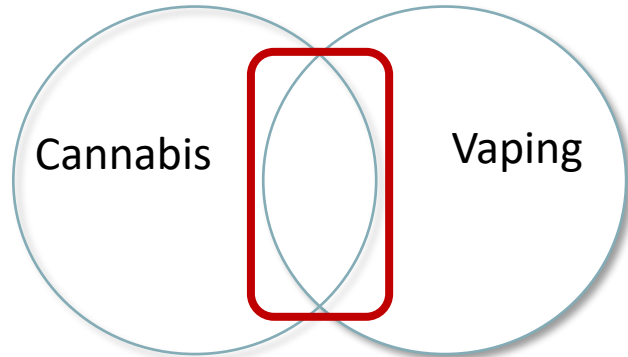
[Forgot Password?](#) | [Copyright](#)



Keyword Searching

We will be covering 5 types of keyword search functions: Boolean, Phrase Searching, Truncation, Wildcards, and Parentheses.

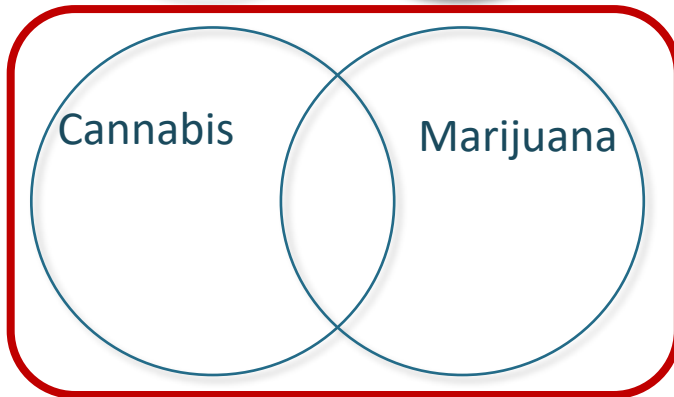
Boolean



AND combines search terms

Ex. **cannabis** AND **vaping**

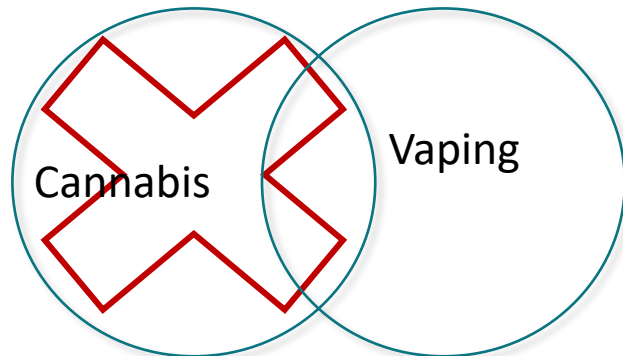
Retrieves literature containing both terms



OR expands search terms (OR=More)

Ex. **cannabis** OR **marijuana**

Retrieves literature containing at least one of the terms



NOT excludes search terms

Ex. **vaping** NOT **cannabis**

Retrieves literature containing the first term, but not the second

CAUTION: by eliminating a keyword you may exclude documents with important information on your topic

Phrase Searching

To search for an **"exact phrase"** use quotation marks

Example: **"blood test"** vs blood test

Only the *exact phrase* will be pulled from the record fields



Phrase Searching



Searching: MEDLINE | [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

"blood test"

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Search

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

[Clear](#) ?

AND ▾

Select a Field (optional) ▾

+ -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#) ▾

Blood test with quotation marks retrieves **9,491** results

Search History/Alerts

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all	Search with AND	Search with OR	Delete Searches
Search ID# ▾	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1 "blood test"	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (9,491)

Refine Results

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:
"blood test"

Limit To

- Linked Full Text
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals
- Abstract Available

From: To:

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 9,491 Relevance ▾ Page Options ▾ Sh

- Consumers Can Now Buy a Blood Test to Evaluate Their Alzheimer Disease Risk, but Should They?**
(English) By: Rubin R, JAMA [JAMA], ISSN: 1538-3598, 2023 Oct 03; Vol. 330 (13), pp. 1214-1216; Publisher: American Medical Association; PMID: 37702998
Subjects: Alzheimer Disease **blood**; Alzheimer Disease diagnosis; Alzheimer Disease epidemiology; Hematologic Tests methods; Self-Testing; Humans; Consumer Behavior; Disease Susceptibility **blood**; Disease Susceptibility diagnosis; Disease Susceptibility epidemiology; Risk
Academic Journal
- Blood test result communication in primary care: mixed-methods systematic review protocol.**
(English) By: Nankervis H; Huntley A; Whiting P; Hamilton W; Singh H; Dawson S; Sprackman J; Ferguson Montague A; Watson J, BJGP open [BJGP Open], ISSN: 2398-3795, 2023 Oct 03; Publisher: Royal Col of General Practitioners; PMID: 37407088;

Phrase Searching

EBSCOhost Searching: MEDLINE | [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

AND

AND

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Blood test without quotations retrieves 51,363 results

Search History/Alerts

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

Select / deselect all

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> S2	blood test	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (51,363)
<input type="checkbox"/> S1	"blood test"	Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (9,491)

Refine Results

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:
blood test

Limit To

- Linked Full Text
- Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals
- Abstract Available

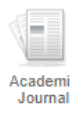
From: To:
Publication Date

[Show More](#)

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 51,363

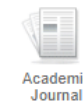
Source Page Options Share

1. Glucose biosensor based on screen-printed electrode modified with silicone sol-gel conducting matrix containing carbon nanotubes.



(English) By: Kamanina OA; Kamanin SS; Kharkova AS; Arlyapov VA, 3 Biotech [3 Biotech], ISSN: 2190-572X, 2019 Jul; Vol. 9 (7), pp. 290; Publisher: Springer; PMID: 31328078;

This research shows that high-performance biosensors can be produced by modification of screen-printed electrodes with enzymes and conducting hydrogel based on sol-gel matrix and single-walled carbon nanotubes. Tetraethoxysilane, dimethyldiethoxysilane and polyvinyl alcohol were used as the sol-gel matrix basis. Modified SWCNT provide direct electron transfer during glucose oxidation, as confirmed by cyclic voltammetry. The developed conducting sol-gel screen-printed electrodes can determine glucose within the concentration range 0.04-1.04 mM. The developed biosensor is not only in pace with its world analogues but even exceeds them by some analytical and metrological properties. The developed conducting sol-gel biosensor was used to measure the concentration of glucose in blood. The test results differed only insignificantly from those received with the help of standard glucose meter.



2. Favorable outcome of rivaroxaban-associated intracerebral hemorrhage reversed by 4-factor prothrombin complex concentrate: impact on thrombin generation.

(English) By: Kauffmann S; Chabanne R; Coste A; Longeras F; Sinegre T; Schmidt J; Samama CM; Constant JM; Lebreton A, A & A case reports [A A Case Rep], ISSN: 2325-7237, 2015 Jun 01; Vol. 4 (11), pp. 151-4; Publisher: Wolters Kluwer Health / OvidSP; PMID: 260352

The management of life-threatening bleeding associated with rivaroxaban remains a challenge for physicians due to the lack of evidence about clinically effective options for anticoagulation reversal. We report a favorable outcome in a patient receiving rivaroxaban prophylaxis, who developed a spontaneous subdural hematoma treated by a surgical evacuation and administration of 4-factor prothrombin complex concentrate. Classical coagulation variables were associated with impaired thrombin generation. Reversal with prothrombin complex concentrates improved all thrombin generation measures. Thrombin generation tests may be suitable for assessing the clinical utility of reversal drugs on rivaroxaban-induced coagulopathy.

Subjects: Blood Coagulation Factors therapeutic use; Cerebral Hemorrhage drug therapy; Factor Xa Inhibitors adverse effects; Rivaroxaban adverse effects; Aged; Anticoagulants administration & dosage; Blood Coagulation drug effects; Blood Coagulation Tests; Cerebral Hemorrhage chemically induced; Hematoma, Subdural chemically induced; Hematoma, Subdural therapy; Humans; Male; Thrombin biosynthesis

Truncation

Add an asterisk * to retrieve variant endings

Example:

Clinic* will retrieve: clinic, clinician, clinicians, clinical, clinically

Health* will retrieve: healthcare, healthy, healthier, healthiest

Always search one term at a time



Wildcards

Add a hashtag to replace 1 or Ø characters

Example:

behavio#r retrieves behavior or behaviour

immuni#ation retrieves immunization or immunisation

p#ediatric retrieves pediatric or paediatric

Add a question mark to replace 1 character

Example:

m?n retrieves **men** or **man** or **min**

ne?t retrieves **neat** or **nest** or **next**



Parenthesis/Brackets

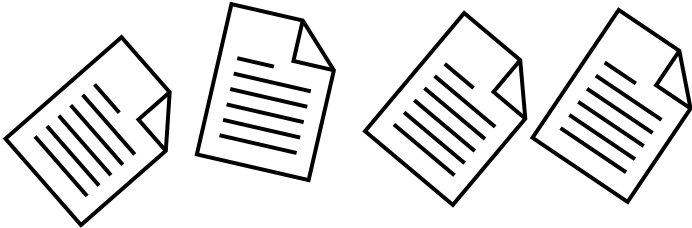
Ask: I am looking for articles on consuming cannabis or marijuana via edibles or smoking

If you type: ((cannabis OR marijuana) AND (edibles OR smoking)) into the search bar with brackets:

The search engine first finds every article in the database with the word (cannabis OR marijuana)



From the cannabis OR marijuana result set, it selects articles with the words (edibles OR smoking)



Retrieving a final list of articles that mention ((cannabis OR marijuana) AND (edibles OR smoking))



Adjacency & Proximity

Near Operator (N): is used when you want two words to appear close together in any order

Example: ([newborn](#) N2 [weight](#))

newborn must be within 2 words of weight

[New Search](#) [MeSH 2023](#) [Publications](#) [Indexes](#)



Searching: [MEDLINE](#) | [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

(newborn N2 weight)

AND ▾

AND ▾

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)



Adjacency & Proximity

Near Operator (N): is used when you want two words to appear close together in any order

Example: (**newborn** N2 **weight**)

newborn *must* be within \emptyset -2 words of weight

- ✓ Baby-friendly practices minimize **newborn** infants¹ **weight** loss
- ✓ Drug use and dosage in very-low-birth-weight newborns ^{\emptyset}
- ✗ Predictive factors of **weight**¹ at birth of newborns² of adult women³



Adjacency & Proximity

Within Operator (W): is used when you want to find two words close together in the exact order they appear

Example: (**newborn** W2 **weight**)

newborn must be within 2 words of weight in that exact order

- ✓ **newborn** **weight** ...
- ✓ **newborn** whose **weight** is ...
- ✗ **weight** of infant **newborns** will impact...





Subject Headings

As you can imagine, figuring out all possible synonyms for a concept may be difficult. If you accidentally leave out a synonym, you may exclude important articles on your topic.

Subject Headings can help save time and give you more confidence when completing a comprehensive scan of the literature.

Subject Headings

What do they do?

Group articles on the same topic under the same subject heading, making it easier to find relevant material

Challenges?

There are different subject headings for each database

Medical Subject Headings or 'MeSH' are used in Medline; CINHAL Headings are used in CINHAL

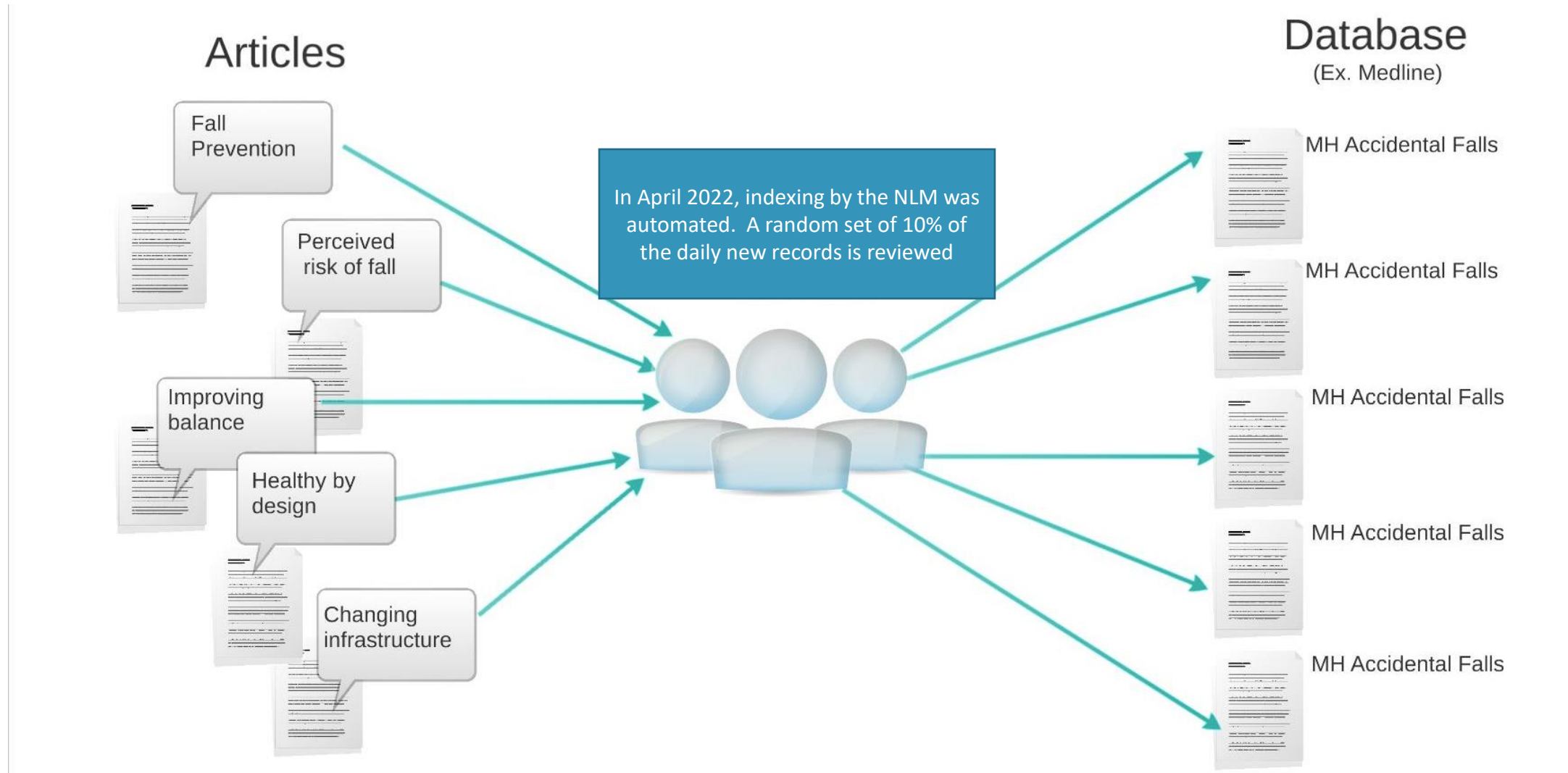
If Subject Headings are so great, why use Keywords?

Not all databases have subject headings

Sometimes a subject heading doesn't exist yet (e.g., COVID-19 was only added as a subject heading in 2021)

Most strategies use a combination of both keywords and indexed language when possible

How are MeSH Assigned?



Where do I find Subject Headings?

Two databases in the Virtual Library allow you to search for subject headings:

Medline & CINAHL

(just click on 'MeSH 2024' or 'CINAHL Subject Headings' to search)



New Search MeSH 2024 Publications Indexes

 EBSCOhost

Searching: MEDLINE | [Choose Databases](#)

Suggest Subject Terms

Select a Field (optional) ▼

Search

Note: You can also search the [National Library of Medicine 'MeSH Browser'](#)



Need Help?

Contact the library anytime with questions or for support <https://www.slsp.ca/contact>