Finding the Literature

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PMBH Clinical Library
In this session

- Answering your clinical question
- Search strategy - concepts and limitations
- Which database?
- Searching in Ovid Medline – including boolean operators, truncation, MeSH
- Finding the full-text
- MNCLHD Library Service
Have you formulated your clinical question?

**P - Population** (or patient, people, problem)

**I - Intervention** (test, drug, new service etc)

**C - Comparison** (status quo or alternative)

**O - Outcome** (what do you hope will happen)

Eg. Does **cranberry juice** help **prevent UTIs** in the **hospitalised elderly**?
Develop a search strategy

- From your clinical question, identify 2-4 main concepts, to become keywords in your search.
- For each concept consider synonyms that may be used in the literature, including different spellings.
- Think about broad or narrow terms – what’s your most important concept? Which one is not a deal-breaker?
- Consider limits which may restrict your search – such as English only, date of publication, type of study, age group.

Does cranberry juice help prevent UTIs in the hospitalised elderly?
Group similar concepts together. One way to do this is using your PICO:

- **Concept 1, Population**
  - Aged
  - Elderly
  - Aged care
  - Geriatric nursing

- **Concept 2, Intervention**
  - Cranberry juice
  - Cranberr*
  - Vaccinium

- **Concept 3, Outcome**
  - Urinary tract infection*
  - UTI*
**Boolean operators**

**AND** narrows your search by ensuring ALL terms are included. Where different concepts overlap.

**OR** broadens your search by combining similar concepts.
Limiting your search

Consider what limits you want to place on the information you retrieve. For example:

- English language articles
- Articles published in the last 10 years
- Aged 65+
- Peer reviewed journals
- Review articles

**Tips!**

Resist limiting by full-text – MNCLHD library can usually find the articles for you if they are not readily available via the database

And don’t overdo the limiting – you don’t want to end up with nothing!
Which database?

- **Medline** - US National Library of Medicine 23 million references in 5600 journals since 1946
- **Embase** – Biomedical & pharmaceutical literature - European
- **CINAHL** - Nursing and allied health literature (not on CIAP)
- **Informit Health Collection** – Australian, includes grey literature
- **PsychInfo** - Psychological, social, behavioural, and health sciences
- **Cochrane Library** – Systematic reviews and clinical trials
- **Joanna Briggs** - Australian based evidence, mainly nursing but broadening to allied health
Sometimes available in the database where you searched

If using CIAP you can click “request the article”

Or, try our e-journals site at http://tinyurl.com/libraryejournals

Or - just email library.pmbh@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au with your list and we’ll send what you need within a day or two –sometimes in a flash!
PMBH Clinical Library

- Will do your literature searches for clinical queries!
- Will find your full-text articles and other documents
- Will help with current awareness in your specialty
- Provides access to books, journals and databases
- Will provide training to you or your team
- Will support your research process


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