1 SUBJECT/ RESEARCH QUESTION

E.g. How to prevent pressure ulcers for residences in nursing homes?

2 IDENTIFYING TOPICS FOR YOUR SEARCH

Structure the topics on your subject into facets. These facets will form a starting point for the composition of your search. You can use a search concept tool such as PICO (Patient/population – Intervention – Comparison – Outcome) to identify the evidence on your clinical question. Use dictionaries, handbooks and bibliographies and use relevant articles to generate relevant search terms, matching your research question.

Some databases allocate subject headings, and these might be useful in your search. E.g. MeSH-terms in PubMed and Cinahl headings in Cinahl. Divide your subject into facets, and use a scheme (as below) to insert your search terms. If you have different terms, describing the same topic, just add these into the same facet. Remember to use both the singular and plural forms of the terms.

When searching for the subject above, the scheme, could look like below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facet 1</th>
<th>Facet 2</th>
<th>Facet 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pressure ulcers</td>
<td>Nursing home</td>
<td>Prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressure ulcer</td>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed sore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed sores</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Divide your subject/ research question into search terms in the scheme below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facet 1</th>
<th>Facet 2</th>
<th>Facet 3</th>
<th>Facet 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 WHICH DATABASES?

Use the list on databases relevant for health sciences: https://sdu-dk-en.libguides.com/HealthSciences/databases
or find some inspiration in the "Read more" list. In the Libguide for health sciences, you will find guidance's on the most popular health science databases.

4 YOUR SEARCH

When searching the databases, you can combine the facets into combined search strings. You combine with the Boolean operators **AND / OR**. Search terms within the same facet will be combined with OR, and if combining in-between facets use AND. Remember to use parenthesis around every facet, in that way, the system will know in which order the search has to be conducted. The example on "prevention on pressure ulcers" must be combined like this:

(pressure ulcers OR pressure ulcer OR bed sore OR bed sores) AND (nursing home OR nursing homes) AND (prevention)

Combine your own search string:

5 EVALUATING SEARCH RESULTS

Don’t forget: the important thing is not getting as many results as possible but finding the best documents for your purpose. The aim of searching is to get relevant and accurate results. Look at the results of your search, does it contain several relevant references, or do you only have few which is useful? If the latter is the case, you must consider, if you have conducted an exhaustive search. Have you, missed any search terms, or did you use search terms, you should have skipped? Take a step back in your search process and find more useful search terms. Read the abstracts and keywords in the relevant articles. You might find some inspiration for some new search terms.


https://mitsdu.dk/-/media/files/bibliotek/bliv_informationskompetent_eng.pdf

Need any help to your search, contact us:

The University Library of Southern Denmark

Phone. +45 6550 2622
E-mail: infosal@bib.sdu.dk
https://www.sdu.dk/en/bibliotek

Access to E-resources:

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