

# Can I run the same search on more than one database?

## A guide to transferring your search

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This guide gives brief information on how to transfer your search between databases. There is more help on the Library webpages at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/help/help.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/help/help.html).

### Running a search in another database

Once you have compiled a search which you are happy with, you can use this as the basis of a search on another resource. Unfortunately you cannot re-run the same search as each database allows varying search options.

### Transferring between databases on the same system

If your first search is run in an Ovid database, it is relatively easy to re-run your search in another Ovid database. Each Ovid database allows the same search options and uses the same punctuation. However, the subject headings used in each database are different. Therefore, you will have to re-enter the subject headings search.

#### Example:

Here are the subject headings for inflammatory bowel disease from Medline and Global Health

Medline	Global Health
Gastrointestinal diseases	Intestinal Diseases
Gastroenteritis	appendicitis
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases	blind loop syndrome
Colitis, Ulcerative	celiac syndrome
Crohn Disease	colitis
	colorectal cancer
	Crohn's disease
	diverticulosis
	dysentery
	enteritis
	irritable colon
	megacolon
	proctitis
	short bowel syndrome
	tropical sprue
	typhlitis

To run a search on IBD in Medline, we can explode the Inflammatory Bowel Diseases subject heading. To run the same search in Global Health, we



have to search for the headings colitis and Crohn's disease separately.  
Therefore our searches for IBD would look like:

Medline	Global Health
1. inflammatory bowel disease* OR ibd OR colitis OR crohn*	1. inflammatory bowel disease* OR ibd OR colitis OR crohn*
2. exp Inflammatory Bowel Diseases/	2. colitis/
3. 1 OR 2	3. Crohn's disease/
	4. OR/1-3

## Transferring to a database on a different system

Each database has a variety of different search options. How this affects your search depends on the database you are re-running your search on.

Many of the non-medical databases do not have a subject headings search option (eg the Web of Science) so you must rely on your title/abstract search to find all relevant items.

Some databases only allow simple title/abstract searches, with the use of truncation (adding an asterisk to the root of a word) as the only option. If you have used other options such as the use of a wildcard (# or ?), you will have to type in all options to your title/abstract search.

Some databases only allow AND or OR between words and do not support adjacency searching. If you have used the adj option, you will have to type in all options to your title/abstract search.

Some of the databases have very basic search options and these only allow you to enter one search string at a time. You cannot combine searches together. Thus, you must enter your search in one string, using parentheses to ensure the logic is completed in the correct order.

### Example

A search for information on inflammatory bowel disease

Search on Ovid Medline

1. (inflammatory bowel disease\* OR ibd OR colitis OR crohn\*).mp.
2. exp Inflammatory Bowel Diseases/
3. 1 OR 2

Search on Global Health

1. (inflammatory bowel disease\* OR ibd OR colitis OR crohn\*).mp.
2. colitis/
3. Crohn's Disease/
4. 1 OR 2 OR 3

Search on Web of Science

1. "inflammatory bowel disease\*" OR ibd OR colitis OR crohn\*

Each database has a series of help screens which will help you to put together a search using all of the available options.